

Dear friends and colleagues,

When we adopted our SLIDE-2026 strategy two years ago, we spoke clearly about our goals in the context of global activities to develop luge sport around the world. We were clearly aware that the world was changing rapidly - generations, technology, behavior. In the virtual world, our habits change every day. Faster than we are sometimes able to integrate it all into our daily lives.

We need to lead sport to people and people to sport.

We have a clear process for planning our strategy and a clear vision for putting it into practice.

I have devoted both, my time and my efforts, together with you, into planning. But it must be said that the real "World Order" over the past years has been and still is a serious challenge in achieving the goals of our Federation.

The public was hit by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. It made us look at the existing order differently. Introduced new regulated daily life, additional strength to PR sessions and searching for solutions to develop our new way of life. Especially, when it came to our overall health and safety.

Under these circumstances, we paved the qualifying path in preparation for the Olympic Games - Beijing 2022. This, once-in-four-year high in two seasons, was achieved thanks to united team work - 106 of our athletes achieved their goals in the world's largest sports event - the Olympic Games. Of course, sports can be cruel, but also beautiful and interesting. Probably not everyone from Beijing returned with full satisfaction, but together we - athletes, coaches, organizers, FIL team, all our supporters - managed to give a great performance to fans from all over the world. We demonstrated that we are not only the fastest sport on ice, but also one of the most intriguing. This is clearly shown by the growing number on TV and social media.

We could certainly continue on this positive note. Especially at the end of the Olympic Games, at the invitation of IOC President Thomas Bach to the political leaders of the countries, clearly outlining our mission in relation to sport and the Olympic spirit – “Give peace a chance”

Life has introduced new adjustments to the order of our globe since February 24, when a brutal military attack in Ukraine was launched under the leadership of Russia's political leaders. It is clear that what has happened has affected more than just the current political and economic order in the world's regions. This war has affected and is affecting the international sports movement. It cannot be questioned or ignored. Our Federation, its Board, following its conscience, as well as our colleagues in other sports organizations, have clearly expressed our opposition to such aggression, in clear solidarity with the Ukrainian people, with all democratic people around the world and, in particular, with our colleagues at the Ukrainian Federation. Thank you to everyone who provided both moral and material support. This once again demonstrates the strength and cohesion of our Federation outside the sports arenas.

FIL expressed a clear position on the future organizational policy of the competition, thinking about a safe future of our sport, its people and events. Sports relevance in society today has grown so much that we cannot escape our duty and our responsibility. A unifying factor for all of us – sports movement has always built bridges between different worldviews, always standing for peace. It is clear today that there is no place among us for those who support aggression in any form and glorify war.

After the election, this will be the first job of the new FIL Ethics Commission. To address with full sternness those individuals whose activities we have seen on the mass and social media recently, supporting violence and deviating from the basic principles and values of sport.

Over the past period, we have worked very intensively with the FIL Legal Commission and the additional legal forces involved, to prepare the amendments and additions to the FIL Statutes. They were previously submitted to you, in order to respond

as quickly and efficiently as possible to our members and to implement our SLIDE -2026” Objectives.

We are responsible for the security of our sport and for the protection and safe development of our sporting members at the start of the new Olympic cycle.

We are currently actively working with the IOC and the organizing committee "Milano - Cortina 2026" and the joint cooperation of seven international winter sports federations (AIOWF) which is very important in this work. Issues that affect us all are actively discussed with our colleagues –

- Future for Olympic Games, Agenda 2020+5
- Quotas for participants and development for our sports;
- Obligations and rights of the IF;
- Funding cooperation between IF AND IOC;
- Policy in the media space, in particular the expansion of TV and live streaming.

It is in this area that a very heavy workload falls on the shoulders of my colleagues in FIL Presidium Dwight Bell, Harald Steyrer, Christoph Schweiger and I would like to thank them very much for the excellent teamwork.

Strategically, it is very important for us to strengthen and expand our presence in the Olympic Artificial Track program. It is currently undergoing intensive work on gender equality, while presenting possible new disciplines that would allow our athletes to compete not only for new sets of medals, but also for additional time in the media room. In the coming days, we will receive IOC approval for the new Olympic program. I hope that our sport will have addition by at least one set of medals at the world's largest sports event. At the same time, after receiving signals about the possible support from Milano-Cortina 2026, we are resuming the discussion with my IOC colleagues, sending all the necessary documentation regarding the Natural Track and the venue for the Olympic Games.

In this section, seeing our strategy, we must definitely take the next steps in the direction of Public Sledging. Increasing the number of people involved, while thinking about the attractiveness of sports. Accessibility among young people is vital. Together with the IBSF and the IBU, we launched research into e-sports, which, in a balanced way, is another tool for attracting audiences, but not a substitute for real sports.

I am pleased that the set course on WADA policy has been adhered to. In the context of the ITA, our Federation is undergoing a thorough audit of this activity. I thank all the National Federations for their professional work in this field. We have not had any positive cases in recent years, and especially at the Olympics! I wish that the principles of fair play will continue to be held in such high regard!

One of the most important points of our support is to ensure a stable income flow through our company partners IOC, event organizers, TV contracts signed SPORT-A, Olympic Channel, our supporters and sponsors Hargassner, Eberspächer, BMW, Infront, RGS, UVEX. Without you, dear friends, we would not have achieved so much. We would not be able to shape our future development.

In order to balance everything with our needs and annual budget, a big thank you goes to our colleagues in FIL Executive Board. Thanks to their work, we have created a solid foundation for support programs in preparation for the next Olympic period.

Today, however, the venue Cortina, work planning schedules at our disposal are a concern. I hope that the recent involvement and active contribution of our colleagues on the part of the Milan Cortina Organization Committee will bring positive results in the near future. For our part, we have provided our partners with all the necessary information to ensure the long-term sustainability and legacy plan of this Olympic facility. It is strategically important for our federation to acquire another sports facility in central Europe, enabling it to attract additional young people, especially from nearby regions. We are seeing the success of such projects on the track commissioned last year in Bludenz (Austria). Certainly, the involvement of our federation in this project is highly valued.

A very important part of this plan are our development programs. They will give an actual support to you - NF's. They are being actively developed in the new work cycle in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee. I am convinced that this cooperation will succeed at the forthcoming Youth Olympics in Gangwon 2024 Korea.

At Commissions meetings, we have taken a broad step in this direction by discussing how to make sport more available, more financially accessible and more convincing, following our strategy "Slide 2026"

I am certain that the reports, prepared by the FIL commissions and working groups, will be a good basis for the development of our sport, especially in terms of our place and role in the Olympic Movement.

I hope that, once life becomes active again, we will be able to become more involved in regional programs. The development there has been severely restricted in the last two years due to circumstances beyond our control. It is very important for us to keep all the regions active, including the great and interesting sports complex Yanjing, where the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games were held until recently.

Together we can achieve a lot in this difficult world. We need to show a strong stance in the interests of sport and society. Only together we can learn the right lessons for the future.

We can clearly see that sport is not always and everywhere separated from politics today, but unfortunately it is increasingly being used as a political tool. We will do our utmost to join forces for a better future society.

"Faster, higher, stronger - together"

Thank you, colleagues, for your contribution and cooperation!

Respectfully, Einars Fogelis

Thank you to each and every one of you for your contribution to a better society.