



# **69. FIL-Kongress**

**Salzburg / AUT  
24.-25. September 2021**

# **69<sup>th</sup> Congress of the FIL**

**Salzburg / AUT  
September 24-25, 2020**

## **Protokoll / Minutes**

**Erstellt und übersetzt durch das FIL-Büro in Berchtesgaden, Deutschland.  
Prepared and translated by the FIL Office in Berchtesgaden, Germany.**

<b>Friday, September 24, 2021</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
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## 1. Opening and welcome

**FIL President Einars Fogelis welcomes** the participants of the congress and **officially opens the 69<sup>th</sup> FIL Congress 2021**. He is glad to be able to personally welcome the delegates. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the congress is taking place in Salzburg/AUT instead of Beijing/CHN.

He informs the Congress that an executive meeting has already taken place yesterday and points out that the Congress will take place in its original scope of 2 days.

Many thanks go to Philipp Trattner, Section Head at the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Public Service, and Sports, who has been an extraordinary help to us in the last years, but unfortunately cannot personally attend the Congress today. He addresses special greetings to **FIL Honorary President Josef Fendt** and the two **FIL Honorary Members Hartmut Kardaetz and Svein Romstad**, to the representatives of the National Federations from 25 countries, to the representatives of the agencies Infront, Stefan Kraus and RGS, Rudi Größwang, and SportA, Erik Posten, as well as to all other Congress participants. He congratulates the newly elected Presidents, Alex Gough (CAN) and Eirik Lundemo (NOR), as well as Secretary General Aashild Hoeva Sporsheim (NOR), on their new positions. He also welcomes the representatives of the applicants and event organizers, as well as the commissions.

A minute of silence follows in **silent remembrance of the luge officials and former athletes who died last year**.

Representatively, President E. Fogelis names:

- **Jan Blonski/POL**  
*Longtime president of the Polish luge federation.  
Passed away on December 15, 2020 at the age of 71.*
- **Sepp Benz/SUI**  
*Chairman of the Sport Commission and FIL Executive Board member from 2007 to 2014, many years chairman of the FIL Youth Commission, “inventor” of the Benz machine, initiator of the U23 World Championships Artificial Track and the Sprint competition, recipient of the FIL medal of honor in gold, Olympic gold, 2x Olympic silver, Olympic bronze in bobsled.  
Died on February 5, 2021 at the age of 77.*
- **Joachim “Achim” Mätzel/GER**  
*Long time, well-known judge in Oberhof.  
Died on April 12, 2021 at the age of 77.*
- **Alexander Starkov/KAZ**  
*President of Kazakhstan’s luge federation for many years.  
Died on May 10, 2021 at the age of 75.*

- **Josef Thaler/ITA**  
*Former member of the FIL Natural Track Commission  
Died on May 17, 2021 at the age of 82.*
- **Norbert Gatz/GER**  
*Long time race director in Königssee (recently at the 2021 WCh).  
Died on May 12, 2021 at the age of 77,*
- **Florian Ticu/ROU**  
*Long time Secretary General of the Romanian Bobsleigh and Luge Federation  
Died on July 2, 2021 at the age of 65*

### ***Moment of remembrance***

**President E. Fogelis** explains, that the invitations and the agenda were sent to the NFs on time and, as there are no comments, establishes the regularity of the convocation of the 69th FIL Congress.

### **2. Determining attendance and right to vote**

The **Secretary General Dwight Bell** welcomes the congress participants and checks attendance. At the time of the opening of the congress there are **25 members/NFs with a seat and voting rights** in the meeting room.

**At the 69<sup>th</sup> FIL congress are participating the following:**

<b>25</b>	<b>National federations <u>with seat and vote</u></b>
<b>0</b>	<b><u>provisional members</u></b>
<b>Simple majority</b>	<b>= 13</b>
<b>2/3 majority</b>	<b>= 17</b>

### **3. Approval of the minutes from the last congress**

#### **Congress resolution 01/21**

**The minutes from the 68<sup>th</sup> FIL Congress 2020 in Großgmain/AUT are approved.**

**-unanimous-**

#### 4. Honors

President E. Fogelis und Secretary General D. Bell award the following honors:

##### ➤ Honors 2020:

which should have been given last year at the **2020 Congress** (unfortunately not possible due to COVID-19 as the Congress only took place online):

##### FIL Medal of Honor in Bronze:

- Hans Jürgen Köhne/GER
- Wolfgang Ros/GER

##### FIL Medal of Honor in Silver:

- Gerhard Kirchner/GER
- Wolfgang Harder/GER

##### ➤ Honors 2021

##### FIL Medal of Honor in Gold:

- Karl Flacher /AUT

##### FIL Medal of Honor in Silber:

- Vlasta Vavruskova/CZE
- Petr Kinzel/CZE
- Bruno Kammerlander/AUT

##### FIL Medal of Honor in Bronze:

- Senad Omanovic/BIH
- Markus Prock/AUT
- Markus Schmidt/AUT
- Sandra Lembergt/AUT
- Hubert Götschl/AUT
- Erich Batkowski/AUT

**For his 25 years as FIL treasurer, President E. Fogelis presents VP H. Steyrer with a certificate of honor and a gift.**

**VP H. Steyrer** thanks the FIL Presidium, the FIL Executive Board and the national federations for the very good, friendly, and sincere cooperation in the past quarter of a century.

**VP P. Knauseder** thanks **K. Flacher** on behalf of the entire FIL family for his many years of work, his patience, and his dedication and presents him with a gift on behalf of the FIL.

## 5. Admission of new members

Ireland has submitted a written application for full membership.

**Secretary General D. Bell** informs that the executive board admitted Ireland to the FIL as a provisional member.

The requirements as per the statutes have been fulfilled.

### Congress resolution 02/21

**Ireland is admitted to the FIL as an ordinary member.**

**-unanimous-**

Ireland is not personally represented by a delegate at the FIL Congress.

**Therefore, the following are participating in the 69th FIL Congress:**

**25 National Federations with seat and right to vote**

**0 provisionary members**

**Simple majority = 13**

**2/3 majority = 17**

## 6. Reports from the members of the executive board

**President E. Fogelis und Secretary General D. Bell** present their reports to the congress.

All other reports from the executive board members and officials can be found in the congress dossier. The dossier was made available in advance and in due time to the national federations per email / FTP server.

### 6.1 President (enclosure 1)

In his **congress report**, **President Einars Fogelis** addresses the following topics among others:

- Newly elected executive board members

#### COVID-19

- ZOOM system for meetings
- Despite everything, the athletes should be given the opportunity to achieve their athletic goals on the way to the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing
- Development of the FIL hygiene concept, rescheduling of the schedule of competitions, reorganization of the competences and responsibilities of all involved parties
- The 2020/2021 event schedule had to be changed due to governmental restrictions in Asia and North America and youth and junior races AT had to be cancelled

Thanks go to

- all athletes and national federations for their high professionalism and discipline
- the outstanding FIL team: Marie Luise Rainer, Christian Eigentler, Christoph Schweiger, Peter Knauseder, Andreas Castiglioni, Herbert Schwarz
- the competition organizers of the last season for their great work

2021/2022 season:

- The races in youth and juniors must take place this season

Anti-Doping

- There was no positive doping case in the FIL, even though many tests were done during and outside of competition
- The tasks and work in this area are continuously increasing
- Good and close cooperation with the ITA (International Testing Agency)

IOC Session on March 12, 2021:

- Adoption of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5
- The 15 recommendations included will have a great impact on the development of sports worldwide in the near future.

FIL Strategic Plan SLIDE 2026:

- Is fully consistent with the core values of the Olympic Agenda
- The working groups will work on the implementation
- Popular sport in luge has increased due to COVID-19, this will continue to be a topic in the FIL strategic plan "SLIDE 2026"

Social Media:

- Information field for the promotion of the sport of luge has significantly expanded
- Very intensive work is currently being done in the area of social media (thanks to M. Dengler-Paar)
- Cooperation with our long-term partner Sport A very successful
- Olympic Channel, NBC, live streaming

Partner RGS, 'Infront' und 'UVEX': excellent cooperation

Youth

- Lausanne 2020: introduction of women's doubles, also to guarantee gender equality
- YOG 2024 in Gangwon: building a strong team within the FIL, taking into account gender equity and continental representation.
- Joint promotion program in Asia
- Development of programs for young athletes from the Central European region in Bludenz/AUT and for athletes from Eastern Europe and Scandinavia in Sigulda/LAT
- In America there is a lot of room for possibilities by using the potential of the USA Luge Training Center in Lake Placid.

Milano-Cortina 2026:

- Functional track in Cortina d'Ampezzo would be of great benefit

- Gender equality, compliance with the IOC's athlete quota of 2,900 athletes and support for the principles of sustainability and legacy are top priorities in sport
- Women's doubles discipline: FIL is currently preparing a proposal to the IOC for inclusion in the 2026 Olympic Winter Games
  - Under observation of the current fundamental principles of the IOC:
    - 2900 athletes at the winter games
    - No additional sport venues
- Natural track application: additional athlete quota above the 2900 limit set by the IOC would be needed

## 6.2 **Secretary General (enclosure 2)**

**Secretary General Dwight Bell** emphasizes the following points among others in his speech to the FIL Congress:

- Thanks go to the entire executive board for their perfect cooperation
- The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge for all sports last season, but the FIL was able to hold all competitions in the general class
- The FIL has a very good protection and hygiene concept, a big thank you goes to VP Th. Schwab.
- Thanks to ML Rainer, Ch. Eigentler and Ch. Schweiger the protection and hygiene concept could be implemented and a "shelter" could be formed
- The cancellation of the competitions in the junior/youth area was a big sacrifice, this must change in the coming season
- OWG Beijing 2022:
  - The ITW and the 1<sup>st</sup> World Cup in the 2021/2022 season are taking place in the Sliding Center in Yanqing, China soon
  - BOCOG is very well prepared for the Olympic Winter Games
- 2021/2022 season:
  - Due to the pandemic, World Cups have already needed to be rescheduled
  - A charter flight to China has already been organized
- The implementation of the strategic plan SLIDE 2026 has already begun and the working groups continue to work on it
- The IOC approved the implementation of the Agenda 2020+5 at the beginning of the year; one of the most important goals is gender equality at the 2026 OWG

**E. Fogelis** thanks **D. Bell** for his report as Secretary General as asks the executive board for any additions.

**VP P. Knauseder adds** that all natural track World Cup races were able to be held properly, also for juniors.

## 7. **Discussion to the reports**

**E. Fogelis** gives the executive board and the congress participants the opportunity to ask questions about the reports.

**E. Warren/USA:**

- Congratulations to the executive board for the good leadership in these difficult times
- What are the most important What are the key lessons that COVID-19 has forced us to learn and that we want to continue in a post-pandemic world?

**President E. Fogelis:** a vaccinations is mandatory for all those wanting to travel to China (ITW, WC, OWG); The 2G rule applies for the general class, the 3G rule applies for youth and juniors.

**Secretary General D. Bell:** FIL very quickly established comprehensive protocols, policies and procedures, some of which will certainly be retained.

**Executive Director Ch. Schweiger:** The COVID-19 working group with VP Th. Schwab is already working on a new protection and hygiene concept for the coming season. Last season it was easier because everyone was tested. Now everyone is vaccinated, recovered, or tested, it will be a new challenge. The details for the 2021/2022 season will be sent out to everyone very soon.

He expresses the request to all to maintain discipline to continue to protect themselves and all others!

The congress participants have no other comments on the reports.

### **30 MINUTES BREAK**

## **8. Prediscussion about the motions**

*(Immediate vote on the motions which do not require a lot of discussion)*

### **8.1 Motions to the statutes**

- **Motion 1** (applicant Norway) regarding **inclusion of gender equality in the FIL statutes**

**Eirik Lundemo /NOR** explains the changes to be made to the FIL statutes.

The goal of this motion is a minimum number of 2 persons of each gender in the case of committees of more than 3 persons or gender equality in the case of the election of more than 1 deputy.

**President E. Fogelis** presents a proposal to the congress:

Gender equality is also part of the Strategic Plan and thus also part of the work of the FIL Statutes WG in implementing the Strategic Plan. This proposal should therefore be included in the considerations of this working group and discussed at the 2022 Congress as part of a more comprehensive package of amendments to the statutes.

**Dr. Ch. Krähe**, Chairman of the FIL Legal Committee, recommends to the Congress to reject Norway's motion. The corresponding positions should be filled with consideration of competences and genders. He also recommends that the proposal be dealt with at the next congress in a package of amendments to the statutes.



**E. Lundemo/NOR** tells Congress they are withdrawing the request and deferring it until next year.

**President E. Fogelis** notes that the proposal is withdrawn for the time being and next year it will be dealt with again as part of an elaborated concept from the WG Statutes.

## **8.2 Other motions**

*No general motion has been submitted to the congress.*

## **9. Finances**

### **9.1 Approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts (01 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)**

**Vice President Harald Steyrer** explains the **2020/21 annual statement of accounts** and points out the reasons for shortfalls in income and expenses in his explanations to the 2020/21 annual statement of accounts, which are included in the dossier.

He informs that the FIL Audit Commission met from September 3-5, 2021 in Reichenau an der Rax. The report on the audit carried out was sent to the Congress in due time.

The external audit of FIL assets also took place in the period May - August 2021. The corresponding audit report is available on request both as a print form and as a PDF document.

VP H. Steyrer gives the congress participants the opportunity to ask questions about the annual statement of accounts.

#### **Congress resolution 03/21**

**The 2020/21 annual statement of accounts is approved.**

**-unanimous-**

Afterwards, **VP H. Steyrer** presents the financial status of the FIL as of March 31, 2021 and thanks the members of the executive board and others responsible at the FIL for their high financial discipline.

### **9.2 Approval of the budget proposal (01 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)**

In his explanations to the **2021/2022 budget estimate**, VP H. Steyrer firmly points out that at the time of preparation, this estimate takes into account all revenues and expenses of a regular sports year. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot yet be foreseen at the time of preparation and therefore cannot be taken into account.

He points out again that if the FIL continues its generous financial policy, it will not be able to finance the sports operations in the same form with its own funds in the foreseeable future. VP H. Steyrer already presented the preview of the development of the FIL finances until 2025/2026 with unchanged revenues and with retention of all subsidies and support at the 2019 Congress. He explains this again to the Congress in relation to the current figures.

The present 2021/2022 budget had to be decided by the FIL Executive Board already in June 2021, because otherwise, due to the COVID-19 related postponement of the FIL Congress from June to September, there would have been no basis for a proper management in this period.

VP H. Steyrer asks for the approval of the Congress for the present 2021/2022 budget, taking into account the constantly changing COVID-19 situation and the associated risks.

**Congress resolution 04/21**

**The 2021/2022 budget is approved in the presented form.**

**-unanimous-**

**VP H. Steyrer** thanks all colleagues for the work together this past year.

**President E. Fogelis** thanks **VP H. Steyrer** for his **conscientious management of the finances** for the financial benefit of the FIL **for now 25 years**.

***VP Th. Schwab** again informs the congress that the goal must be to build up reserves. For the future this means that we have to reduce expenses also within the framework of the strategic plan.*

***M. Prock/AUT** agrees with Th. Schwab that we have to think about where to save in the future. However, he has concerns from the point of view of the national federations, how all this should be financed and how each individual federation can afford it. One should also consider in terms of marketing how to sell luge better.*

***E. Warren/USA** asks a question to VP Th. Schwab: Looking ahead to SLIDE 2026, do you see any areas where we need to focus our investments to implement this new strategic plan?*

***VP Th. Schwab** informs that also in WG Marketing the marketing concept is being revised and that they are trying to increase the revenues for the future. Nevertheless, in his opinion, drastic savings will be necessary in the future.*

**10. Report from the Control Commission and release of the executive board**

The chairperson of the Control Commission **V. Vavruskova** presents the audit report, in which the professional and prudent management of finances by VP H. Steyrer is emphasized.

She thanks for the good cooperation and proposes to the Congress to discharge the Vice President for Finance, the Presidium, the entire Executive Board and the Control Commission.

**Congress resolution 05/21**

**The FIL executive board is discharged at the recommendation of the Control Commission.**

**-unanimous-**

## 11. Setting the membership fees

### Congress resolution 06/21

The annual membership fee is set to € 100 as previous.

-unanimous-

**President E. Fogelis closes the first day of meetings** and wishes all congress participants and nice afternoon and evening.

**Saturday, September 25, 2021**

**9:00 am**

**President E. Fogelis** opens the second meeting day and welcomes all congress participants.

He gives special greetings to the long-time partner Sport A, Erik Posten.

He informs the congress that there is a change in the agenda. Agenda item 12 (Strategic Plan "SLIDE 2026") will be discussed after agenda item 16.

**Executive Director Ch. Schweiger** informs the Congress that a bid for the 2025 World Championships is missing in the dossier. St. Moritz is also applying for the World Championships 2025, the application was received on time and was also already dealt with in the spring meeting of the Sport Commission Artificial Track. **VP C. DelNegro** confirms this to the Congress.

Further information on the daily schedule as well as on the festive evening in honor of FIL Honorary President Josef Fendt will follow.

### Determining attendance and right to vote 2<sup>nd</sup> day of congress

**Secretary General D. Bell** takes attendance. At the time of the opening of the congress there are **25 member NFs with seat and right to vote** in the meeting room.

**At the 69<sup>th</sup> FIL Congress (2<sup>nd</sup> congress day on 09/25/2021) are participating the following:**

<b>25</b>	<b>National federations <u>with seat and vote</u></b>
<b>0</b>	<b><u>provisional members</u></b>
<b>Simple majority</b>	<b>= 13</b>
<b>2/3 majority</b>	<b>= 17</b>

Secretary General D. Bell proposes the following to count the votes:

- Vlasta Vavruskova (Control Commission)
- Dr. Christian Krähe (Chair of the Legal Committee)
- Norbert Hiedl (Ethics Authority)

The congress approves this proposal unanimously.

## **12. Information on the preparation of the 2022 Olympic luge competitions in Beijing/CHN**

A video presentation is played. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, no representative from BOCOG can be present in person.

**Jim Leahy/USA:** *In November, a stadium will be available where dozens of athletes/athletes can train. Will the situation be similar during the Games?*

**Executive Director Ch. Schweiger:** *At the moment we don't know anything, not even with regard to the Olympic Village. We are still waiting for the PlayBook. This should reach us by mid-October, then we will have more information.*

## **13. Presentations from the OC of 2022 FIL Championships**

*No presentations from the OCs of the 2022 FIL Championships take place..*

ECh 2022 Artificial Track in St. Moritz /SUI

ECh 2022 Natural Track in Laas/ITA

JWCh 2022 Artificial Track in Winterberg/GER

JWCh 2022 Natural Track in Jaufental/ITA

## **14. Voting on the motions**

### **14.1 Motions to the statutes**

*This agenda item was already dealt with under agenda item 8.*

### **14.2 Other motions**

*No other motions have been submitted to the congress.*

## **15. Voting on the motions (if motions are still open)**

This agenda item is cancelled.

## **16. Awarding of FIL Championships through 2025**

Applicants for the staging of FIL championships through 2025 are:

### **ARTIFICIAL TRACK:**

- **WCh Artificial Track 2025:**
  - Lake Placid / USA
  - St. Moritz / SUI
  - Sigulda / LAT
  - Whistler / CAN
  
- **JWCh Artificial Track 2024**
  - Lillehammer / NOR

### **NATURAL TRACK:**

- **WCh NT 2023**
  - Moscow / RUS
  
- **JWCh NT 2024**
  - Winterleiten / AUT

### **16.1 Applicant presentations (if desired)**

The following event organizers of championships prepared impressive presentations:

- Lake Placid – J. Leahy/USA withdraws application
- St. Moritz – G. Stähli/SUI, report and presentation
- Sigulda – A. Strenga/LAT withdraws application
- Whistler – T. Farstad/CAN, report and presentation
  
- Lillehammer – no presentation
- Moscow – no presentation
- Winterleiten – no presentation

### **16.2 Vote**

#### **Congress resolution 07/21**

**The congress awards the 2025 FIL Championships Artificial Track the event organizer Whistler/CAN.**

**-St. Moritz/SUI: 11 votes-  
-Whistler/CAN: 14 votes-  
- 0 abstentions-**

**Congress resolution 08/21**

The congress awards the 2024 FIL Junior World Championships Artificial Track to the event organizer Lillehammer/NOR.

-unanimous-

**Congress resolution 09/21**

The congress awards the 2023 FIL Championships on Natural Track to Moscow/RUS.

- 24 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention-

Immediately after the Congress, the FIL Executive Board cancelled the awarding of the 2023 World Championships in Natural Track to Moscow/RUS by means of an emergency decision and with the assistance of the Chairman of the FIL Legal Commission, Dr. Christian Krähe, in order to prevent damage to the FIL: The awarding of the 2023 Natural Track World Championships to Moscow would mean a violation of a CAS decision against Russia. No World Championships may be awarded to Russia until December 2022, even if they take place afterwards.

**Congress resolution 10/21**

The congress awards the 2024 FIL Junior World Championships on Natural Track to the event organizer Winterleiten/AUT.

-unanimous-

**17. Awarding 2034 Congress**

– Ukraine/Lviv – T. Hartsula/UKR give a short presentation.

**Congress resolution 11/21**

The 2023 FIL Congress is awarded to Ukraine with Lviv as the congress city.

-unanimous-

## **18. Strategic Plan “SLIDE 2026”**

**President E. Fogelis** informs the Congress that the FIL Strategic Plan "SLIDE 2026" was adopted at the 2020 online Congress. On the part of the executive board, different working groups have now been formed, which deal with implementation proposals on the different topics. The chairs of the working groups are now provide information about their activities. Initial congress resolutions can very likely be passed at the next FIL Congress in 2022.

### Sport Artificial Track (VP C. DeINegro)

- Improve sport presentation and operations to bring our sport closer to the global audience.
- Recommendation to the Technical Commission to consider some very specific equipment to improve the appearance of our athletes
- Recommendation to the Sport Commission to change the format (test in sprint format already planned for the coming season)
- Modification of the program procedure
- Transportation costs need to be rethought in the youth division

### Technic Artificial Track (VP A. Zöggeler)

- Standardization of racing sleds and other equipment
- Find companies that implement and build the specified components
- Production should be possible by 2-3 different manufacturers, of course only with appropriate certification; All nations should have the possibility to acquire the standardized sled parts.
- The prototype parts should be finished by Christmas, in order to be able to test these and still make changes before the series production.

### Natural track, popular sport (VP P. Knauseder, N. Gart)

#### Natural track luge (VP P. Knauseder)

- Exchange of ideas on sled material and equipment.
- Equipment: development of a very good racing shoe, in which the ankle protection is already integrated (this can already be purchased)
- Racing sleds: due to the COVID-19 situation no multi-national tests on the tracks were possible

#### Popular sport (N. Gart) – Film clip and presentation

- The main goal is to recognize public luge as part of the luge family in order to increase the popularity of the sport of luge
- Analysis of which kinds of sleds there are and what equipment is needed
- Explanations about the different types of tracks, the safety, the position on the sled and the inspection of the sled will be done
- VP P. Knauseder adds that in November the working group will reconsider and elaborate the preparation of the luge track

*VP P. Knauseder: It is anchored in the 2026 Strategic Plan that we should strive for the inclusion of natural track sports in the Olympic program. We have been working very hard to create the conditions to be included in the Olympic program for the 2026 Games in Milan-Cortina. Fortunately, there was also a decision on the part of the FIL Congress in favor of the strategy paper. This project was and is also being worked on very intensively in our working group. Due to current events, the FIL Executive Board has deliberated and has come to the conclusion that the candidature of natural track luge for the 2026 Games should not be pursued any further. From my point of view, it would have been an important signal at the right time for the FIL to present the sport of natural track luge, with its broad popular appeal, its ecological and economical DNA, to the Olympic family. Nevertheless, we will continue to work very intensively in order to have the possibility to be included in the Olympic program.*

Comments

**M. Prock/AUT:** Surprised that the FIL is not applying for the inclusion of natural track in the 2026 Olympic program, even though it is known that this would not be easy. Asks for a statement on why not to apply.

**President E. Fogelis:** There is now a clear statement from the IOC that they have already adopted their decisions, we should accept them, we are an independent federation, and of course we can adopt our own decisions.

The guidelines are: Gender Equality, athlete quota 2,900, no new venues.

This is the main reason that we can no longer continue to apply for natural track to be included in the Olympic program.

**Secretary General D. Bell** confirms this and adds that we need to continue working with natural track and can steer in a direction that can be reconciled with the IOC specifications.

**J. Leahy/USA:** With the introduction of Ski Mountaineering and 48 additional slots and no increase in the athlete quota of 2,900, are we in any danger of losing our 106 slots?

**President E. Fogelis:** Ski Mountaineering will get those 48 spots within the 2,900. We hope to have some bigger sports with starting places, like luge, where we only have 106. The signals and the information from the IOC are about gender equality and the fact that we need additional starting places for our sport. We will most likely have the discussions on this next year.

**Secretary General D. Bell:** Our 106 spots are not guaranteed. That's the reason why we have to push the program and fight to keep at least our 106 spots and of course we would like to get more spots for women's doubles.

**K. Damian/ITA:**

The FIL is going in the wrong direction. The strategic plan was decided by the Congress a year ago, with the clear mandate to implement it.

How do you explain that this decision is overruled by the executive board?

Natural track has been rejected, but paradoxically we are applying for the Olympics with women's doubles, a discipline for which no WC has been held in the general class to date. In addition, the word women's doubles is nowhere to be found in the strategic plan in the area of artificial track. Regarding the finances, a maximum self-financing of the luge on natural track is possible. A sponsor was gained thanks to the fact that we are applying for the Olympic program, with the prospect of generating funds for the future. Another note is that the FIL logo does not include NT or AT and both belong to this "family". It is also noticeable that natural track itself is often only rudimentarily considered or simply forgotten in reports, etc.

He also asks Dr. Ch. Krähe to comment on whether Congress resolutions can really simply be ignored by the executive board.

**President E. Fogelis:**

- Strategic Plan: the FIL is not refusing to go together with natural track towards the Olympics. The IOC decision was not yet available last year and the situation has now changed. Our decisions have to be adapted to this decision.
- Finances: In the natural track area there has been almost no sponsor in the last years. Artificial track, on the other hand, generates about 5 million a year just from the IOC for our sport. The support and development of the natural track sport is also financed with these funds.
- Since last year there are no positive signals and no support from Italy, CONI, etc.; Even after several letters and meetings nothing has reached us up to today.
- We should think about how to proceed in the future and what we can do to advance the natural track sport together.

**K. Damian/ITA:**

- Disappointment about the statement from E. Fogelis
- He has information that the FIL does not want natural track luge to apply for the 2026 Olympic program at all
- What is the exact definition of a "new venue"?
- Is the overruling of a Congress resolution by the executive board possible?

**Dr. Ch. Krähe/Chairman Legal Committee:**

- In principle, it is not possible for the executive board to overrule the Congress resolution.
- Check, what was the content of the Congress resolution? If I remember correctly, the resolution was passed to the effect that efforts would be made to apply for and attempt to admit natural track luge as a new discipline to the Olympic Games.



- However, if the basis for the decision for the admission to the Olympic Games has changed, then the basis of the Congress resolution no longer exists and then it would also be the responsibility of the executive board to first ensure a resolution.
- To be fair, the Congress resolution would then have to be adapted to the new situation, which would no longer be possible at this Congress due to the deadlines.

**K. Damian/ITA:** agrees that the resolution would need to be submitted to the congress for approval.

**Secretary General D. Bell:** Asks the Congress if there are any further questions or comments.

**S. Keshavan/IND:** Natural track luge is a possibility also in his country (IND) to set up a program to develop the sport, also for children as young as 6 years old. Natural track luge and artificial track luge should go hand in hand and also in the strategic plan a committee should be set up to look at how the sport can be promoted in the future, also with regard to popular sports.

**K. Damian/ITA:** During the preparation of the application documents, it was always clear that an application would not be claimed at the expense of interventions in the artificial track disciplines. He wishes that also within the FIL future-oriented work will be continued and that natural track luge will be granted its right and that the FIL will also stand by this.

**President E. Fogelis:** Natural track will always have his support. If at some point the athlete quota increases or if at some point we can get more starting places, then the situation will be different. Currently, a bid for the natural track would definitely be at the expense of artificial track.

**VP Th. Schwab:** Finds the contribution of S. Keshavan very good, that one has to connect the two sports better. He informs the congress that unfortunately an alternative to the IOC specifications was missing. The basis for discussion or a concept of natural track unfortunately does not exist.

**K. Damian/ITA:** There is a natural track bible in which all contents from A-Z are exactly recorded. Among other things also popular sports, venues, sports equipment, energy, etc..

**VP P. Knauseder:** A representative from Italy already announced 2 years ago that natural track luge should never be at the expense of artificial track luge, so the scope for a concept within the existing athlete quota is very small.

**J. Leahy/USA:** Thank you for the difficult decision, which was made in the sense of keeping the sport of luge in the Olympic program.

**M. Prock/AUT:** Is the goal still to make the Sprint an Olympic event? Another goal was to be more in the media at a World Championships or WCs, this is of course difficult because of the broadcasting times, but is there any news in this regard?

**VP C. DeINegro:** Discussion about Sprint is ongoing, no bid for Olympics at this time. A test for a new sprint format will be done next year. TV times are difficult, but it is being worked on. Sprint is going in the right direction, also with regard to the Olympics, but the acceptance is still too low even within the luge family.

**Ch. Mazdzer:** Some athletes like the sprint, others don't. Sprint has to be explained better to the public and the acceptance within the luge family has to grow even more.

**M. Prock/AUT:** Is of the opinion that one should not "try" too long. With the Team Relay it took 25 years until this competition became Olympic. He hopes that this will happen faster in the sprint competition and that the sport can develop further.

**K. Damian/ITA:** Will women's doubles be part of the team relay in the future?

**Executive Director Ch. Schweiger:** This has not yet to be decided and also depends on how high the athlete quota will be for the FIL. It will also be difficult because athletes from all 4 disciplines from one nation would then have to qualify for the Olympic Games in order to be able to compete in Team Relay.

**Secretary General D. Bell:** Thanks the Congress participants for the important discussions.

### Marketing, TV, Social Media, Digital Media (Th. Schwab)

- Marketing of the sport of luge is not possible without the natural track
- FIL has a very good cooperation with Infront
- Thanks to RGS for the new sponsor Hargassner
- Very long partnership with Sport A; more streaming rights were negotiated; Olympic Channel is being pushed forward, the contract with Eurosport was dropped for this purpose
- Sustainability must be taken into account more and more in the future
- New marketing concept is being developed

- Currently 4 partners - in future 5 partners+tourism region, new advertising distribution
- The new concept should come into effect in 2022/2023
- Digital + social media by M. Dengler-Paar - distribution
- TV production: optimization for the future is necessary

#### E-sport (Ch. Mazdzer)

- There are very few video games with tobogganing
- We need to teach people/children about the versatile factors in sledding and get them to try it out
- A lot of different data needs to be collected to be able to use it for the development of the video games

#### Sustainability (GS D. Bell)

- The IBSF is integrated in this working group (same venue)
- the ice sports center is the most criticized venue in the press
- the rink is constantly booked up during OWS
- some data needs to be collected and reviewed to further improve sustainability in the future

#### Restructuring FIL (Pres. E. Fogelis)

- Work has been and is being done, the FIL is on the right track

#### Safeguarding Athletes, Olympic Movement (Pres. E. Fogelis)

- Sexual Harassment is an important topic here (S. Harris does much for this cause)

#### FIL Statutes, Rules of Procedure, Good Governance (Pres. E. Fogelis)

- 2022 IRO und Statutes changes
- Concrete results from the working groups will be presented at the next congress

### **19. Miscellaneous**

- A video message from **K. Caithness**, President of the World Curling Federation, for **Honorary President J. Fendt** is played.

**President E. Fogelis** thanks all congress participants for their discipline so that this FIL Congress could take place. He wishes everyone a good start into the new season and above all good health.

He thanks all congress participants, E. Votz and the FIL office for the good organization and the interpreters for their flawless work. He also thanks the technical company VTG. A bouquet of flowers to E. Votz and the presents to the interpreters are handed over.

**President E. Fogelis** officially ends the 69th FIL Congress in Salzburg/AUT.

**We look forward to seeing you again at the 70<sup>th</sup> Congress in Riga/LAT on June 18-19, 2022!**

Writing the minutes: Diana Springl / FIL office

For the content of the minutes:



Christoph Schweiger  
Executive Director of the FIL

The President



Einars Fogelis

**2 enclosures**

69<sup>th</sup> FIL Congress  
Salzburg  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear friends and colleagues,

On November 20 last year, you entrusted our federations management to a renewed and expanded team by electing a new president, Secretary General Dwight Bell, and board member Sorin Buta. During this time much was unknown, and many things happened for the first time.

The world was heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the current routine came to a standstill, new ways were found to achieve the set goals, and we were unfortunately forced to make this historic turning point by using the opportunities offered by modern technology, like ZOOM- system to hold most of our meetings.

At this point, our priorities were clear:

- In the short term, we should provide an opportunity for athletes to achieve their athletic goals on the way to the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games;
  - o It's the FIL's leadership obligation to do everything, that all athletes can take part at the Olympic qualification process, without any entry restrictions by Government Authorities, as long they're vaccinated against COVID-19.
- In the long term, we should ensure strength and sustainability of the historical values of our FIL federation in the general society, as well as in the Olympic movement.

The beginning of last season was like a dark tunnel with many unknown factors waiting for us on the way. The easiest way – to wait, to cancel the planned competition, only to prolong the uncertainty. The more difficult way - to find immediate solutions for implementing upcoming seasons plan that was previously approved. Thanks to a team work, the FIL Hygiene concept was developed, the course of the competition was re-planned, and the competencies and responsibilities of all stakeholders were re-regulated.

Today, I can only thank all the athletes and national federations for their high professionalism and discipline, our excellent FIL team - Marie Luise Rainer, Christian Eigentler, Christoph Schweiger, Peter Knauseder, Andreas Costiglioni, Herbert Schwarz – who, by taking on new responsibilities, successfully ensured the coordination of the FIL plan and the complex compliance with the COVID-19 procedure and seasonal testing.

I would also like to recognize our partners - competition organizers in Germany, Austria, Italy, Latvia and Swiss where, in cooperation with government bodies, a safe way was found to ensure full range of competitions of our calendars in Artificial Track and Natural Track, including junior class in Natural track.

Unfortunately, we faced a number of setbacks and losses. Due to government restrictions in Asia and America, FIL was forced to reschedule its race calendar to

Europe only, and youth and junior races in the Artificial Track had to be cancelled. Regarding youth and juniors, undeniably, we need to fill this gap in the upcoming 2021-2022 season.

However, in general, the past year and the newly established system allows us to look towards the future with much more hope, especially concerning the development of luge sports. I can safely say that the light is at the end of the dark tunnel. Things that had never been on FIL's agenda before, were done and have left their mark on our development forever.

There's a reason why all of the organizers of the competition last season received the highest rating - Category 1. They all did a fantastic job, despite the difficulties they had to deal with.

FIL once again had no positive Doping case in 2020/21 season, although a lot of in- and out of competition tests were carried out. Nevertheless, our responsibilities and the work load we have to deal with, in anti-doping matters, is increasing year by year. Especially anti-doping education will play a more important role. We're working very closely with International Testing Agency (ITA) to implement such seminars for our luge athletes and coaches.

Most of the anti-doping work is going on "behind-the-scenes" because of data protection requirements. I explicitly would like to thank Diana Springl, Dr. Christian Krähe and Christoph Schweiger. It requires constant hard work to keep the status FIL has.

Looking back over the past year, it must be said that FIL was not the only one that had to implement changes, for example, with a new strategic plan "SLIDE 2026". The entire world changed during this pandemic, and is still adjusting people's sports and leisure habits.

During the season, especially in the Alps region, with most ski resorts closed to public access, we saw an increase in luge activities in the society.

We must take this into consideration, especially when thinking about broadening the base of our sport by involving a wider range of people, in particular younger generations.

Luge has been just one small part of everything that has been happening in the global community and, in our case, particularly in sport.

On March 12, 2021, the IOC session approved the Olympic Agenda 2020 + 5 prepared by the IOC Executive Board. The 15 recommendations that contain in this document will have a major impact on the development of sport worldwide in the near future.

The strategic plan SLIDE 2026 adopted by our Federation in 2020 is fully in line with the core values included in the Olympic Agenda:

- Strengthening Olympic ideals, sustainability, role of athletes, rights and responsibilities, involvement of the best athletes in society, safe sport and

protection of athletes, digital connection to society, development of virtual sport, good governance, and gender equality.

These are the main areas in which our colleagues are currently engaged in working groups, organically developing and synchronizing our 'luge' policy with the common sports policy and the Olympic philosophy around the world.

I am certain that the reports prepared by the 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.

In 2022, during our Congress in Latvia, we will have to make decisions on a lot of recommendations, of the proposals that are made by our working groups. This will lead in IRO changes and changes of the FIL statutes. I kindly ask you to be open minded and support the working groups – recommending changes is not always an easy- going process.

Having said that – we shouldn't lose the sight of the stability of FIL finances. That could lead into a step - by step implementation of working groups recommendations. Everything must be financially justified and covered before we start an implementation or changing process.

Work has already begun successfully in the field of technology, working on technical solutions to make the luge sport more learnable, more available material and financially accessible, and, of course, easier.

In the field of sport, attractiveness and the development of new competition formats, especially those that are attractive to young people, are certainly important.

In the digital environment, we have taken a big step forward, significantly expanding the field of information for the promotion of luge sport. Here I would like to say a big thank you to Margit Dengler-Paar. Very intensive work is currently taking place in the field of visual media, and thanks to the contribution of colleagues Dwight Bell, Britta Semmler-Dzoesch, Thomas Schwab, and FIL office, cooperation with our long-term partner 'Sport A' is developing successfully. As well as new projects for luge sport coverage on Olympic Channel and NBC, which will positively affect sport live-streaming around the world and will make reports from our events much more widely available than ever before, while supporting the development of new marketing directions and attracting sponsors.

I would like to note the tremendous cooperation with our long-term partners RGS, 'Infront' and 'UVEX'. Without you, we would not have achieved so much, and without your participation, we would not be able to shape our future development.

Today, the youth phase is very important, as it is being successfully developed in cooperation with the IOC, especially during the previous Youth Olympics Games in Lausanne 2020. Luge sport has shown its ability to react to the introduction of new disciplines in the Olympic program - in this case, Women's Doubles, ensuring gender equality in our sport.

At the moment, the road to YOG 2024 Gangwon, January 19 to February 4, is very important. Building a strong youth team within our Federation, with strong principles of gender equality and continental representation. In terms of development, I think it would be imperative to have a joint support program in Asia, cooperating with the potential of Japan, Korea, China and countries of Oceania. In Europe, the newly opened center in Bludenz, Austria is significant to us, where, thanks to the successful cooperation of the Austrian federation, local government and municipalities, we now have a center for successful development of programs for young athletes from the Central European region. Base for such a development, when considering Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, has been created in Sigulda, Latvia. In America, I see lots of space for opportunities by utilizing the potential of the USA luge training center in Lake Placid.

Certainly, the team that will start in Gangwon 2024 will form a large part of our future potential, including the representation in Milan-Cortina 2026. Active work is currently underway in cooperation with both the 2026 Olympic Organizing Committee and the IOC, the local provinces of Veneto / South Tyrol / and two federations FIL and IBSF. I hope that in the near future Milano 2026 will be able to present a structured development plan, which refers specifically to our sports – luge, bobsleigh, and skeleton.

From the point of view of FIL, I can surely say that having a operational track in Cortina d'Ampezzo will be of great benefit to all sports, especially in terms of future development. At the same time, we must realize that our federation, like other Olympic luge sports, will have a responsibility to uphold the principles of sustainability and legacy.

With regard to the Milano-Cortina 2026 Games, the main priority in terms of sport is gender equality, compliance with the IOC-defined athlete quota of 2,900 athletes, and endorse the principles of sustainability and legacy.

FIL is currently preparing a proposal to IOC for the discipline of Women's Doubles being part of the Winter Olympic Games 2026.

However, we must consider the current basic principles set out by the IOC:

- 2900 athletes in winter games;
- No new additional sports venues.

This means that, with respect to what our colleagues have achieved so far, the main pre-requisite, which will be stated in the application for Natural luge, is to have additional athletes' quotas, exceeding the 2900 limit set out by IOC.

In conclusion, I am certain that the experience we have gained with our summer IF colleagues in the outstanding games of Tokyo 2020 will allow us to successfully create a playbook for Beijing 2022 and share rewarding games with our partners this season. Our main goal - to ensure maximum safety in these difficult circumstances, taking into account the interests of athletes, and demonstrating the unity of sports to society.

Together, we can learn the right lessons for our future. There is a reason that the Olympic motto today reads:

'Faster, higher, stronger – together'

We will do our utmost to join forces for a better future society.

Thank you, colleagues, for your cooperation and contribution.

Respectfully, E.F.





## Report of the FIL General Secretary

August 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, I wanted to thank you once again for the honor you have entrusted in me as the General Secretary of the FIL. I have enjoyed working along side our new President Einars Fogelis. We have spent a lot of time together representing the FIL both virtually and in person since the time of our election last November. I am also very appreciative for the collaboration with our Executive Board and our Executive Director, Christoph Schweiger. Together, we have faced many tough decisions, and have steadfastly done what we believe to be in the best interest of the FIL.

This past season has been perhaps the most challenging in the history of our sport. Never has the sporting world been so disrupted as it has been during the Covid-19 Pandemic around the World. The sport was not alone during this difficult time as ALL sports were impaired. And the unfortunate fact is that we are still dealing with it as we enter the pre-Olympic season leading up to the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, China.

As challenging as the upcoming season is, I am confident we are prepared. This past season, a detailed and comprehensive Hygiene protocol had to be developed from scratch. Last summer, when the Pandemic was ravaging the world, the Executive Board went to work along with our Executive Director and Senior Staff to develop a plan to institute a sweeping series of countermeasures against Covid-19 in order that we

could hold ALL of our World Cups and World Championships. I want to thank VP Thomas Schwab for generating our first draft of the Hygiene plan. This plan including having to make painful decisions, such as relocating World Cups from Korea and the United States, along with the World Championships from Canada, to tracks in Europe. This enabled the FIL to create a bubble environment to protect the athletes, coaches, officials, and other key personnel from the virus with regular testing continuously. To institute this plan, our Executive Director assumed the role of Hygiene Manager and stayed with the Luge Bubble the entire season, our Directors of Sport and Technology, Marie-Luise, and Christian worked tirelessly to set up and implement new protocols through out the season. Over 4000 covid tests were administered with less than 10 coming back positive. This is a tribute to the planning and the execution by the all the people that I have mentioned. In the end, all World Cups and the World Championships were held successfully.

We can now say that the season was a success and quite an achievement, especially under the circumstances, but it would not have happened without the complete cooperation and compliance with the plan, from ALL of you, the National Federations. It was with your essential support of this plan that it worked, and I thank you for that. I would also be remiss if I didn't thank you sponsors, TV partners, agencies and supporters for the unwavering support this last season and now turning toward this upcoming season.

As we now look to the future, the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games are now in our sights now less than 5 months out, and importantly, we have now finally been able to schedule our International Training Weeks and a World Cup race this coming November. By all reports, the sliding center in Yanqing, China is spectacular and the Organizing Committee-BOCOG is well-prepared to host and execute the Games. We have had numerous virtual meetings with BOCOG and the IOC in preparation of these Games. We were able to send a delegation to include our Executive Director, Sports Director, Technical Director, TV Coordinator and other key figures for an on-site inspection and meetings with our BOCOG Counterparts to begin making final preparations for the training and actual competition for the 2022 Games.

In July, by an invitation from the IOC, President Fogelis and I traveled to the 2020 Tokyo Summer Games. We were there for 8 days, and it was an excellent opportunity to observe all the comprehensive countermeasures that were put in place by the Japanese Organizers and the IOC. I want to congratulate Tokyo 2020, the IOC, and our Summer IF counterparts for a successful and inspiring Games.

This coming important season has also required comprehensive planning due the on-going pandemic. Once again, the FIL has had to re-direct World Cups from North America and Asia to Europe. As you all know, the Fil has secured a Charter flight to get our Luge family in and out of China working closely with our BOCOG colleagues. Leading up to and through the Olympic Games in Beijing, the FIL will do everything we can to keep our Luge Family safe and a successful season, culminating with the Olympic competition in February of 2022. This also means continuing the close cooperation with our colleagues and friends at the IOC. They have been side by side with us throughout this pandemic and will continue as such through the Games.

This coming Olympic Season will undoubtedly require the tremendous focus and resources of the FIL. But we must also keep our eye on the future. President Fogelis has continued to press forward with our Strategic Plan-Slide 2026. Since the new strategic plan was approved last November thanks to all of you, we have started its implementation. The Executive Board has now approved working groups to begin implementing the Plan, many of you are involved with those working groups. Major themes such growing our footprint more globally, implementing a new media strategy, connecting with the general public, working with the IBSF to make our venue more sustainable, are some of the important tasks that are underway.

Earlier this year, at the IOC Session, the IOC voted overwhelmingly to implement Agenda 2020+5. I encourage all of you to familiarize your self with this initiative for the next 5 years, as the FIL will be working hard to achieve these important objectives. One of these objectives is now a requirement-that all sports must be gender equal by the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympic Winter Games. Thanks to all of you, the implementation of Women's Doubles is underway, and for the first time ever, women's

Doubles with race in the General Class this coming season. President Fogelis has commissioned a Working Group to prepare an application for the IOC for inclusion of Women's Doubles on the program for the 2026 OWG in Milan-Cortina.

In addition, for many years, the FIL has applied to the IOC to place Natural Track Luge on the Olympic Program. We must analyze the previous applications and determine why it has not been accepted on the Program and develop a fresh strategy and application going forward. To that end, President Fogelis has also commissioned a Working Group for that purpose.

Dear Colleagues, this season will have its challenges, but after witnessing the resiliency, determination, and teamwork within the FIL during this past season, I am optimistic that the FIL will have a successful season and Olympic Games coupled with planning for our future. We must stand together and work hard. Thank you all for your support!