



Mannheim, 1 February 2016

## **President's Activity Report** **(for the period from 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2015)**

Dear Sir or Madam,

After the World Championships 2016, I welcome you to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Congress 2016 in Klobenstein, Italy.

This time, too, you will find below the written reports of the President and the Vice President for Sport, both of whom will provide further explanations or additional information at the Congress if necessary.

I would like to start with a pleasing observation. The atmosphere in our Federation during the period under report, by which I mean the cooperation among the individual Member Associations as well as between them and the IFI Executive, have been good.

The participation of athletes from 24 nations (from all continents) in this year's World Championships is proof that Icestocksport is truly played around the world! Members that have joined for the first time or have rejoined are France, India and Lithuania. It is particularly pleasing to see the participation of young people from 11 nations (!) in our youth championships.

Following this introduction, I will move on to the individual focal areas during the period under report:

### **IFI – Office:**

There has been a further increase in the workload of the office. The work continues to be done on a voluntary basis by Ms Margit Wojcik. It is hardly possible to do the work for a world federation with 42 members on a voluntary basis, however. We must continue to seek further financial resources in order to employ a paid member of staff so as to be able to take the burden of administrative work off the President. Particularly in recent weeks, it has been almost impossible to manage the work, fulfil members' wishes and deal with their enquiries. All the following events had to be prepared at the same time: Open European Youth Championship, Junior World Championship, Women's and Men's World Championships, the Congress 2016 and in particular the participation in the Second Youth Olympic Games 2016 (YOG 2016).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Minister of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany who awarded an unreduced grant for our office in the reporting period. The City of Mannheim has also continued to allow us to rent our office at reduced rates in spite of the ever scarcer resources in local government.

## **IFI – Events:**

As we have heard from the Vice President for Sport, all the cups and championships in the reporting period took place to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The European Men's and Women's Championships 2015 in Pisek, Czech Republic were particularly pleasing. Cordial thanks go to the Head of the Organising Committee Václav Pártl who very successfully put every effort into proving that even within a short period of time, European Championships can be excellently organised.

Something that I would also like to particularly mention, however is that the Youth Grand Prix is becoming a firm fixture in our programme of events. And the number of participants is rising. A new record was reached in 2015, with young people (U16) from 12 countries taking part in in Terespol, Poland. It was particularly pleasing that the IFI was able, as an exception, to make an extraordinary contribution towards travel expenses.

The two European Cups for Men and Women, held in November 2015 in Brest, Belarus deserve special mention. Many people approached them with great scepticism. Afterwards, however, they received excellent evaluations and praise. What the Organising Committee achieved here with Udo Reichenecker, our Supervisor for Eastern Europe, is unparalleled in Central Europe. The IFI has become larger, also with regard to the number of its venues.

Although I have only mentioned three events, my thanks go equally to all the other organisational teams that have helped us to present Icestocksport adequately during the period under report.

Once again, I would like to express my cordial thanks to everyone in the IFI who cooperated to organise IFI events.

## **IFI – Contracting partners:**

Cooperation with the contracting partners is good. The head of our Technical Examination Office is the contact person for partners. It lies in the nature of the matter that there is sometimes a clash of interests.

## **SportAccord and our efforts to become part of the Olympic movement:**

Our contact to **SportAccord** is good. It is here that we find support for our relations with WADA and the IOC. Unfortunately, the term of office of the new president during the last period under report was short-lived. For a while, differences of opinion between top officials led to SportAccord's very existence being shaken.

Be that as it may, we would like to take this opportunity of expressing our cordial thanks for the support granted to us by SportAccord.

Our greatest objective remains to be included in the Olympic programme. Unfortunately, we have not made (much) progress due to the delays of the competent administrator in the IOC Sports Department. The application process for Icestocksport to be included in the Olympic Movement has been under way since the end of September 2013. Meanwhile, we have been asked to make some supplements and improvements.

Of course, we have fulfilled these requests. We continue to make every effort to make full use of every opportunity to make contacts.

At this point, however, my request of previous years has to be repeated. A very close network of contacts has to be made in order to be successful! What I mean by that is first and foremost the support of each and every one of our members! It is not just a matter of the Executive Board filling in an application form and handing it in in Lausanne! No, everyone on the ground should present themselves personally, particularly to their National Olympic Committee, and demand support in the relevant international bodies.

We have taken a small step forwards, however. It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that the IOC Coordination Commission chaired by Ms Angela Ruggiero agreed that Icestocksport should take part as a “new sport” in the demonstration programme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Olympic Winter Games (YOG 2016) in Lillehammer, Norway. Is this a step towards achieving IOC recognition as part of the Olympic movement?

### **Doping:**

This subject has once again been a central issue for us during the period under report. Our necessary membership of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) continues to place a disproportionate burden on our budget. The requirement that federations accept the World Anti-Doping Code as the basis of their fight against doping has led the World Anti-Doping Agency Foundation Board, with its monopoly status, to be unreasonable in its setting of excessive fees for non-Olympic federations. Above all, we have been forced to perform out-of-competition tests! We have also had to change some passages of our anti-doping code. Otherwise we would have been placed on the blacklist of non-compliant members. I would like to thank the Vice-President for International Affairs, Peter Longo, and our Anti-Doping Commissioner, Dr Eberhardt Anke, for the efforts in this connection.

### **Closing remarks:**

As mentioned in previous years: the fact that the IFI has grown naturally requires more financial resources on the one hand and savings measures on the other. In this situation, the demands of some small federations for travel grants to attend European and World Championships are entirely out of place.

Of course, the tasks of members of the Executive Board have become even more comprehensive as a result of our globalisation!

Finally, it is my pleasant duty to thank you for the good cooperation and to thank the members of the Executive Board, the head of the Technical Examination Office, the Technical Committee, our Anti-Doping Commissioner and our Supervisor for Eastern Europe. I would like to also thank everyone who has supported us in the past.



**Manfred Schäfer, President**