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To: FIS President, Johan Eliasch  
CC: FIS Council Members

Oslo, 03.10.2022

## **RE: Exclusion of Russian/Belarusian athletes and representatives**

*Dear Johan Eliasch,*

Per our statement as of September 28<sup>th</sup> 2022, the Board of the Norwegian Ski Federation decided to strongly condemn Russian and Belarusian participation at the FIS Technical Committee Meetings being held in Zurich, and to withdraw all Norwegian representatives from meetings where Russian or Belarusian representatives was present.

On behalf of the Board of Norwegian Ski Federation, we would like to take this opportunity to request that the FIS Council decides to continue the exclusion of Russian and Belarusian athletes from international FIS competitions, and to also request the exclusion of Russian and Belarusian representatives at political and administrative levels. The exclusion must also include officials and personnel in all functions related to sports and competitions, such as technical delegates and judges. The current exclusion of athletes – and a future exclusion of representatives - should be in effect as long as Russia and its partner Belarus continue the brutal, inhuman and meaningless war.

The Board of the Norwegian Ski Federation unites with FIS in the continued work towards an ideal that skiing – and sports in general – can unite all nations of the world, despite our differences and beyond all political disputes. At the same time, the attack on Ukraine by Russia, the well documented war crimes, and the latest escalation of the conflict by Russia, puts us in a position where upholding this ideal in these extraordinary circumstances threatens to destroy the very fundament and the values on which this ideal is built. Most Ukrainian athletes and representatives are prevented from participating in competitions and meetings due to the war, as one of several examples.

In Russia, sports, politics, the government, and the military, are to a large extent interconnected. Athletes and representatives may in many cases have strong bonds with the government and its institutions, and are used as part of state propaganda, especially in this time of war. Russia must continue to face all possible consequences and punishments - also within sports - for its aggression that threatens the world peace we depend on to be able to practice sport at all.



According to the vision of FIS, applying ethical values is a core principle. In the best interest of skiing, and in line with the demands of athletes, national ski associations, organizers and sponsors, we trust that FIS will uphold the exclusion of Russian and Belarusian athletes, and also extend this exclusion to include its representatives.

Our thoughts are with our Ukrainian colleagues and athletes in these extremely difficult times.

Sincerely,

Tove Moe Dyrhaug  
President

Ingvild Bretten Berg  
General secretary