

Februari 7, 2023

Dear Mr. President, dear members of Council,

In view of the recent withdrawal by the IOC of its recommendation not to permit athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in international competitions, we would like to make it clear that our position on the subject matter, as communicated to you on numerous occasions since Russia attacked Ukraine on 24 February 2022, remains the same, and for the same reasons, or even more compelling reasons.

We have noted with satisfaction that FIS, through its General Secretary, has recently clarified that the position of FIS in relation to Russian and Belarussian athletes remains the same for the time being, and that it will remain unchanged during the remaining 2023 season. We wish to underline that this position, as long as it remains unchanged, will minimize the risk that athletes from the Nordic countries will refuse to take part in events where Russian or Belarussian athletes are permitted to start. It will also minimize the risk that sponsors of such events in the Nordic countries and elsewhere will withdraw their support and terminate their sponsor agreements. There have been several communications from athletes and sponsors in recent weeks that have made it abundantly clear that both these risks are very real.

Sincerely,

*Karin Mattsson*  
President Swedish Ski Association

*Markku Haapasalmi*  
President Finnish Ski Association

*Tove Moe Dyrhaug*  
President Norwegian Ski Association