

Minutes

2021 Ordinary Congress

6 November 2021



2021 World Rowing Ordinary Congress
Virtual from Lausanne, Switzerland
Saturday, 6 November 2021

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1. Opening of the session

World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland declared the Congress open and greeted the delegates to the Congress. He also welcomed the Honorary President Denis Oswald, the Council members and the IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell.

The President explained that due to the current pandemic situation it has been decided to hold the Congress virtually for the second time. An online electronic voting service was provided by Lumi AGM UK Ltd, to enable secure, secret voting for the delegates in the virtual environment. The means to operate the video conferencing and online electronic voting platform was explained to the delegates. A test vote was then carried out.

The President provided general information about the organisation of the Congress. He reminded the delegates that the Congress was being live streamed on the internet and being recorded, that they should feel free to speak but asked that they be as concise as possible. There were no questions regarding the course of the Congress or the Agenda for the Congress.

The Executive Director Matt Smith introduced the Council members to the delegates. The President informed the Congress that Paola Grizzetti (ITA), Chair of the Para Rowing Commission, recently stepped down from her position and, according to the World Rowing Statutes, the Executive Committee appointed Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN) to fill the casual vacancy.

As a tradition at the Congress, the President then asked the delegates to observe a moment of silence in the memory of recently deceased rowing friends and colleagues.

2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority

The Executive Director made the roll call of the Member Federations (MFs) that had registered to attend the Congress. He then informed the delegates that there were 61 MFs which registered in advance to attend the Congress. There were 48 MFs on line at the time of the roll call, 35 entitled to three votes and 11 to one vote making a total of 116 votes (there were two MFs participating which were not entitled to vote). The above stated numbers were the status at the time of the roll call. A list of delegates who connected to the Congress, based on the attendance report of the online voting platform, is annexed to these minutes.

The President showed that the percent of female delegates attending the 2021 Congress has significantly increased

The President also welcomed the Recognised Continental Rowing Confederations and the Recognised Groupings of Member Federations to the Congress, participating in the Congress in accordance with Articles 18 and 19.

3. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress

The President explained that scrutineers were not necessary for this virtual congress nor possible in the same way as in an in-person Congress. The voting system of Lumi is secure and independent and will act as the independent scrutineers for the period of the congress and manage the voting. No one from World Rowing will have vision on the actual voting, and the result of the voting will be provided by Lumi to the President. There were no questions.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses

The Minutes of the above-mentioned congresses were posted on the website on 6 September 2021 along with the Agenda Papers. The President reminded the delegates that they were asked in the circular to submit any comments to the above-mentioned minutes in advance of this Congress. One remark was submitted by New Zealand MF regarding the 2020 Ordinary Congress participation list, and an amended version of the Ordinary Congress minutes was published.

There were no additional remarks or questions from the delegates. The Executive Director held the vote to accept the Ordinary Congress minutes as submitted by the Council. The delegates voted: Yes 106, No 0 with no abstentions. The 2020 Ordinary Congress minutes were approved.

The Executive Director held the vote to accept the Extraordinary Congress minutes as submitted by the Council. The delegates voted: Yes 106, No 0 with no abstentions. The 2020 Extraordinary Congress minutes were approved.

5. President's report and reports of the Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Director

The President had a few additional remarks to complement his report for the year 2020. The complete text of his additional remarks is found in attachment 1 to these minutes.

The IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell gave a debrief of the Olympic Games held in Tokyo and thanked World Rowing for the great collaboration with the IOC.

The Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Director had no additional comments to their 2020 reports, and there were no questions about their reports. The President proposed one vote for all four reports and there were no objections. The delegates voted to approve these four reports: Yes 101, No 0 with no abstentions.

6. Reports of the Chairs of the Specialist Commissions

The Chairs of the Commissions had no additional comments to add to their 2020 reports. There were no other comments or questions. The delegates voted to approve these 2020 reports in one block vote: Yes 105, No 0 with no abstentions.

7. Reports of the Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members

The President announced that the Continental Representatives and the Co-opted Council Members had no additional comments to their 2020 reports. The delegates had no questions. The delegates voted to approve the reports in block: Yes 102, No 0 with 3 abstentions.

8. Presentation of the financial statements, 2020

The Treasurer, Gerritjan Eggenkamp, presented the accounts including the financial report and the audit report of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the independent auditors. The Treasurer directed the delegates to the detailed explanations in the Agenda Papers and reiterated that, due to very careful cost reductions during the pandemic, the 2020 financial result is a surplus of CHF 1'303'008 based on expenditures of CHF 4'616'271 (budget

was CHF 5'538'001) and income of CHF 5'919'280 (budget was CHF 5'538'001). The final result was CHF 996'164 after reductions due to exchange rate loss and a provision to adjust the value of securities portfolio to the lower of market value or purchase price. The total reserve stands at CHF 5'280'150 at the end of the 2017-2020 four-year plan. The details of the finances are found in the financial report of the Agenda Papers.

The President asked if there were any questions for the Treasurer. There were none.

9. Auditors' report

The 2020 accounts were presented to the Congress.

10. Approval of the financial statements, 2020

The delegates voted to approve the 2020 financial statements: Yes 104, No 0 with no abstentions.

11. Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription

No changes were proposed by the Council and the delegates did not disagree.

12. Budget for the following year, 2022

The Treasurer presented the revised budget for 2022 which had been included in the 6 October 2021 Circular. This budget had been reviewed and updated to reflect the continuing policy of only essential travel and virtual meetings as there is continued uncertainty of income in the post-covid19 world and World Rowing does not want to work in deficit budgets. The revised 2022 budget showed estimated expenditures of CHF 6'621'845 with estimated income of CHF 6'621'845 resulting in an estimated zero result for 2022.

This was presented in a four-year plan, which is annexed to these minutes

The President asked if there were any questions and there were none. He then asked for a vote of the delegates. The result of voting was Yes 105, No 0 with 3 abstentions. The 2022 budget was approved.

13. Appointment of the external auditors

The President presented the Executive Committee recommendation, in accordance with Art. 33, to appoint PriceWaterhouseCoopers as the external auditors for the 2021 accounts. He then asked for a vote of the delegates: Yes 110, No 0 with 1abstention. PriceWaterhouseCoopers were appointed as the external auditors for the 2021 accounts.

14. Reports on future World Rowing events and Olympic and Paralympic regattas

The Executive Director provided updates on the plan for 2022 World Rowing Events, dates and locations, as follows:

- World Rowing Indoor Championships (Hamburg, GER) 25-26 February 2022
- World Rowing Cup I (Belgrade, SRB) 27-29 May 2022

- World Rowing Cup II (Poznan, POL) 17-19 June 2022
- World Rowing Cup II (Lucerne, SUI) 8-10 July 2022
- World Rowing Under 19 & Under 23 Championships (Varese, ITA) 27-31 July 2022
- World Rowing Masters Regatta (Libourne, FRA) 7-11 September 2022
- World Rowing Championships (Racice, CZE) 18-25 September 2022
- A video clip was shown
- World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships (Saundersfoot, GBR) 14-16 October 2022

The delegates were informed that all the information provided by the Organising Committee for each event can be found on the website.

The Executive Director explained that given the uncertainty due to the pandemic, the World Rowing Event Decision making Policy used in 2021 will be applied for the confirmation of the 2022 events.

15. Place and date of the next Congress

The Council proposed that the 2022 World Rowing Ordinary Congress be held on Monday, 26 September 2022 in Racice, CZE.

There were no other proposals and the President considered this to be approved by the delegates.

16. Attribution of future World Rowing Championships in accordance with Rule 5

No event attributions were proposed.

The delegates were presented with the 2022 World Rowing Strategic Event Attribution Process (SEAP). The Executive Director presented the time frame of the process. The attribution by the Congress of the 2025 and 2026 World Rowing Championships will take place at the 2022 Ordinary Congress.

17. Reports of Continental Rowing Confederations and other Member Groupings

Reports were received from World Rowing recognised Continental Rowing Confederations:

- FASA, Africa;
- COPARE, the Americas;
- ERC, Europe;
- ORCON, Oceania;

and the following Member Groupings:

- Arab Rowing Confederation;
- Balkan Rowing Association;
- Coupe de la Jeunesse;

- Commonwealth Rowing Federation;
- South American Rowing Confederation - CSAR.

These reports were included in the Agenda Papers. There were no questions or comments. The President considered the reports to be approved.

18. Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon

No applications were received. World Rowing continues with 156 affiliated Member Federations.

19. Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions (ref. Art. 30) taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of Art. 32 and paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 of Art. 45 or by the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3.4 of Art.51

No requests had been received at the deadline.

20. Council and Executive Committee elections in accordance with Articles 39 and 49

1. President

There was one candidate for the position: Jean-Christophe Rolland (nominated by FRA). He was introduced by the President of the French MF. Voting then took place with LUMI and the result was: Yes 105, No 0 with no abstentions. Jean-Christophe Rolland was elected.

Denis Oswald congratulated the President for the election and thanked him for his great contribution and dedication to World Rowing.

2. Vice President

There was one candidate for the position: Tricia Smith (nominated by CAN). She was introduced by the President of the Canadian MF. Voting then took place with LUMI and the result was: Yes 108, No 0 with no abstentions.

Tricia Smith was elected.

3. Treasurer

There was one candidate for the position: Gerritjan Eggenkamp (nominated by NED). He was introduced by the President of the Netherlands MF. Voting then took place using LUMI and the result was: Yes 108, No 0 with no abstentions.

Gerritjan Eggenkamp was elected.

4. Chair of the Coastal Rowing Commission (term until 31 December 2023)

There was one candidate for the position: Guin Batten (nominated by GBR). Guin was introduced by the Chairman of the British MF. Voting then took place using LUMI and the result was: Yes 108, No 0 with no abstentions.

Guin Batten was elected.

5. Chair of the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission (replacing the Women's Commission, term until 31 December 2023)

There was one candidate for the position: Jacomine Ravensbergen (nominated by NED). Jacomine was introduced to the delegates by the President of the Netherlands MF. Voting then took place using LUMI and the result was: Yes 99, No 0 with 9 abstentions.

Jacomine Ravensbergen was elected.

6. Chair of the Indoor Rowing Commission (term until 31 December 2023)

There was one candidate for the position: Filip Ljubcic (nominated by SRB). Filip was introduced to the delegates by the President of the Serbian MF. The voting then took place using LUMI and the result was: Yes 105, No 0 with 3 abstentions.

Filip Ljubcic was elected.

The Council proposal for the three Council members to serve on the Executive Committee were Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Rosie Mayglothling (GBR) and Eva Szanto (HUN). The voting then took place using LUMI and the result was as follows:

Patrick Rombaut: Yes 102, No 6 with 3 abstentions.

Rosie Mayglothling: Yes 103, No 3 with 3 abstentions.

Eva Szanto: Yes 107, No 0 with no abstentions.

Patrick Rombaut, Rosie Mayglothling and Eva Szanto were elected to serve on the Executive Committee until 31 December 2025 or until their Council membership ends, if before 31 December 2025.

21. Specific Proposals to an existing agenda item from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee

No proposals were received by the due date.

22. Other additional agenda items proposed by Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee

1. 2024 Olympic Qualification System proposal

A roadmap for the 2024 Olympic Qualification System was circulated on 6 October 2021 based on comments received from Member Federations. A final proposal will be published by the end of the year. The deadline to submit the Olympic Qualification System is on 1 February 2022

2. 2025 to 2028 Voting Rights Determination and Membership

In 2020 because of the cancellation of the season, the Council proposed a revised voting approach for the voting rights determination in line with the Covid-19 context.

Based on the current situation and hoping that in 2022 the events will take place as scheduled the Council will work on a new proposal along with the Governance Working Group to be presented at the 2022 Congress.

3. Other issues raised at the 2020 Congress

- World Championship Programme
- Lightweight issue
- Advertising on Decks
- Innovations

The Executive Director reminded that the points above were discussed at the 2020 Congress and should have been addressed at the 2021 Congress. Due to the pandemic, it has been proposed to delay these discussions to the 2022 Ordinary Congress, following further analysis during 2022.

23. Any other business

The following point was addressed:

1. World Rowing Membership Survey

The delegates were kindly requested to complete the Survey to collect important information for further strategy decision moving forward by 30 November 2021.

2. Safeguarding

Council member Lenka Dienstbach-Wech provided with summary of the 2021 activities and the focus for 2022

3. Athletes Commission Elections

The Athletes' Commission Regulation and Election Procedures approved at the 2020 Extraordinary Congress are now in place. The Nomination process will be launched in March 2022 and the elections will take place at the World Rowing Championships in Racice, CZE and at the Coastal Championships in Wales, GBR. Council member & Athletes Commission Chair Frida Svensson presented the process to the Congress.

4. Upcoming Conferences

The 2021 World Rowing Awards Ceremony will be held virtually on 29 January 2021 at 12:00 CET followed by the 2021 World Rowing Coaches Conference.

The President thanked the Council members Ryszard Stadniuk Lee Spear who have reached the end of their mandate and thanked them for their great contribution to the sport of rowing.

The President introduced the newly appointed Executive Director Vincent Gaillard who said a few words to the delegates.

The President took the opportunity to thank Executive Director Matt Smith, during his last congress in his role, for his tremendous contribution to World Rowing in the past 26 years. A video clip featuring comments from current and former Council members as well as members of the Olympic movement was shown as a surprise to Matt.

Closing

The President thanked the delegates for their excellent co-operation during this virtual Congress. He also expressed his gratitude to the World Rowing staff for their preparation of the Congress and the Agenda Papers, and Lumi for the voting platform. He also thanked the interpreters for their excellent work.

The President declared the 2021 World Rowing Ordinary Congress closed.



Jean-Christophe ROLLAND, President



Matt SMITH, Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 1

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESIDENT’S REPORT – ADDITIONAL REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear delegates,

The report you have in the Agenda Papers reflects mainly the year 2020 and the very beginning of 2021. I will not make any further remarks about that period, but allow me to take the opportunity today to add a short update on some items as a lot has happened since I wrote the report.

COVID-19 Global Pandemic

As we speak today, **the global pandemic** is not yet under control and in many regions of the world the situation is still a major concern.

2020 was a terrible year and we were all hoping for a return to normal in 2021, but this has unfortunately not been the case with the continuous spread of the pandemic and the mutation of the virus.

Nevertheless, the tremendous efforts from scientists all around the world have considerably increased the knowledge of both the virus and its behaviour. In addition, the widely adopted counter-measures and most importantly the vaccines have jointly lowered the pressure on the healthcare, and the health systems in many countries.

This has not allowed a full return to normality, certainly not, but at least it has allowed a way to ease the terrible and unsustainable lockdown options.

What did that mean for us?

Despite the adverse context, despite the challenges and difficulties, we managed to navigate reasonably well and in light of the context the outcome can today be described as positive.

2021 Season

Indeed, except for the 2021 World Championships in Shanghai (which we had initially maintained and rescheduled to late October but eventually cancelled,) and the Master Regatta planned for Linz Ottensheim, we were able to stage all our 2021 events, and contrary to last year, the international season was saved. Unfortunately some teams were not able to travel to several events due to local COVID-19 measures.

Allow me to say again that in such a context this is certainly a great outcome!

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all the contributors who have made this possible.

- To the Organising Committees of the respective events and the authorities of the countries, local and national, who have continued to support the staging of the competitions. To organise an event is quite complex, but on top of that to organise an event during a global pandemic is definitely more complicated.
- To you, the MFs who have entered the regattas despite the obstacles like travel restrictions, and additional costs. I am conscious of the huge impacts, both direct and indirect... on your organisation and your teams, but you made it.

- To our technical team and the staff, for whom it has meant additional workload and complexity, not to mention the uncertainties and the lack of visibility.
- To the Executive and the Council, who had the heavy responsibility of taking the "go" decisions

I have repeated on several occasions my motto: *"As long as it is not impossible, it is possible..."*

And *"We have to do whatever possible, of course reasonably possible, to offer the athletes the opportunities to compete"*.

This has been possible because of a strict application of the Covid19 protocol.

I'd like to take the opportunity to also thank:

- The Sport Medicine Commission for their valuable inputs and great work to develop the protocol which has proved its efficiency.

And finally, thank you

- To all participants: athletes, teams, volunteers... for having respected the Covid counter-measures. I appreciate that it was quite restrictive, sometimes perceived as too restrictive even... but as you and I knew, this was the price to pay.

One of our major concerns was to complete the qualifications for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I remind you that only the African Continental regatta had taken place in 2019.

I must say that we can be collectively very proud that ultimately the athletes were given the chance to qualify **on the water** based on a sport performance.

This has not been simple at all and some teams had quarantines upon return home..

Here again, I would like to express my gratitude to all involved from Rio, to Tokyo and Lucerne.

Let me say a special thanks to our Council colleague, Mr Hosobuchi Masakuni (Buchi), to JARA, the Japanese Rowing Federation, to TMG, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and JSA, the Japanese Sport Agency for their valuable support to stage the Asian and Oceanian Qualification regatta on the SFW Olympic rowing course as we had lost the initial option in Chungju without alternative.

Tokyo2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Talking about the Olympics, let's now move to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the first ever postponed Games.

I will start by echoing IOC President Thomas Bach.

"We did it... We did it together" these are his words after the closing of the Games and on several occasions since.

Indeed you all know the very challenging context.

- First I can refer to the huge amount of work and the complexity to move the Games by one year.
- But on the top of that, then, with the pandemic still active around the world, the massive implication on how to deliver such a big event in a safe environment both for the participants coming from all over the world and for the citizens of Japan.

Despite the massive pressure from the media largely conveying negative voices, which resulted in a quite negative trend in the public opinion about the Games, we can simply

commend and acknowledge the resilience and commitment from the key decision makers to keep faith and determination and at the top, the IOC President Bach and the Japanese Prime minister Suga.

The support, first from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and its experts, and also from the Sport community, the IFs, the NOCs and the athletes, cooperating together to make everything possible to stage the Games, has been pivotal.

The risk assessment and mitigation plans resulted in the application of very strict and restrictive counter-measures, in the introduction of mass testing to immediately manage the positive cases, as it was clear that there would be positive cases.

No spectators on the grandstands, strict limits on the duration of the athlete's stay based on their competition schedule, no access for non-accredited people, no guests, no social events.... a strict 'bubbles' concept... and many more restrictions.

I have a thought for the large number of people who were excited to attend the Games as spectators but were not authorised to come to Japan, and notably the families of the athletes.

The anticipated catastrophe that some had announced did not happen.

More than 1'000'000 tests were carried out and 0,03% resulted in positive cases –0,03% **only** , I should say. This is far from the potential expectation up to 2%.

As for the Olympics, 67 OLV residents tested positive: 34 officials and 33 athletes of which 22 had to withdraw from the competition, including 2 rowers.

We indeed faced the unwanted but anticipated sensitive situation.

One of them was even trickier, quite dramatic as it happened at the morning of the finals, certainly not ideal at all. Nevertheless, "we" – I mean the OC, the IOC, the authorities and World Rowing - we were prepared and we managed to deal with these sensitive situations.

We can conclude now that the Japanese organisers have delivered a safe and very successful Games.

For us, at the end, if I consider the two main "clients" of the Olympic and Paralympic rowing regattas, namely (1) the athletes and (2) the rest of the world: the fans, and all the people behind their screens... we can consider the Tokyo 2020 Games as **fantastic and extremely successful**.

The feedback from the athletes has been excellent, again despite the particular conditions linked with the pandemic and the related restrictions. They have expressed their great satisfaction.

- On the sport side, we had excellent and exciting racing.

Congratulations to all the athletes for their performances. I am sure that you will have appreciated the images produced by OBS, the excellent shots.

- On the organisation side, we faced some challenges as for any event organisation.

We were concerned - but prepared - for potential difficult weather conditions, because of the heat and the wind. We have been served... well served!

There were some tough conditions during the Olympics because of both the wind and the heat.

It was a difficult exercise for the fairness committee, and my gratitude goes to its members who had the responsibility to assess in real time the conditions, and to take decisions or to make recommendations to the Executive where there could be severe implications.

It has certainly been a team effort involving many stakeholders.

To conclude on this topic, let me once again express our sincere gratitude and thanks:

- To the Japanese hosts, the TOCOG, the authorities, TMG and its governor Koike...
- To the IOC,
 - Especially, to President Thomas Bach,
 - And to John Coates,

John chaired the Coordination Commission.

He has been pivotal in addressing the many challenges all along the long and not easy preparation journey of the Games, he has always been very supportive in helping to address the challenges, obstacles and difficulties we had to face from the very beginning: you certainly remember the episode with TMG pushing us to Naganuma 400km away from Tokyo!

- Let me express a huge thanks to all the contributors who have delivered great regattas. All the volunteers at the venue were fantastic.
- It has been a genuine team effort. I would like to thank and pay tribute to the Rowing team in the OC, led by Nathalie Philips, the competition manager. They really did an excellent job...
- And finally to Buchi, Masakuni Hosobuchi who has had the crucial role of liaison with the Japanese.

The next chapter, and I have to say that it is another important one, is about legacy.

It is indeed essential that in the future we make the most of this high international standard rowing course and the excellent associated facilities. We have to support and ensure the return on such an investment.

Olympic Strategy

You have in my report in the agenda papers the details of our Olympic strategy until the final decision from the IOC EB in December last year which was to keep the same Olympic Rowing Programme for Paris 2024 as it was in Tokyo 2020, with a reduction of the athletes' quota by 24 to 502.

I reiterate that in view of the wider context we can be truly satisfied with such a decision.

As for now and the future, let me be clear again.

The discussions with the IOC, interrupted because of the pandemic context and the postponement of the Games, will resume. In fact, I can say that it has already restarted. On our side, we haven't changed our vision, nor has the IOC moved from their position on the weight category. We will continue discussions based on the programme that the Congress approved last year, with three coastal events including a mixed 2x.

The IOC EB shall decide the final event programme in Dec 2024. We will keep you updated throughout the process as we expect to have clear guidance before then.

Let me highlight in that respect the great success of the WRBSF and WRCC in Oeiras (POR).

We had exciting racing, great performances and fantastic shots and images. If we still have to continue to work on some aspects, it confirms again the immense potential of the discipline.

I remind you that for the Rowing competition at the 2026 YOG in Dakar we will have the Beach Sprint format.

As for the venue, you know well the context. I have shared with you, the MFs, from the very beginning the discussions with the OC on a possible alternative to Lake Perris in Long Beach, the 1932 Olympic course, in line with the New Norm and the Olympic Agenda 2020 to reduce cost and complexity of the staging, and to ensure the best legacy. Marine Stadium would be a spectacular athlete and fan experience.

We have been working very hard with LA28 on the feasibility and carried out studies to address the challenges. As you know the maximum possible length for racing is 1500m and the connection with the ocean generates a tide. We have largely discussed the first aspect, I won't come back on this today, and as for the tide the outcomes of the last study regarding the impact on the fairness between the lines are very positive.

I am pleased to inform the Congress that the Council has finalised its analysis and has concluded to accept the proposal from LA28.

The LA28 organizing committee will now continue to work with the City of Long Beach and the relevant stakeholders on formal applications and approvals. The ball is now in their court.

Brisbane 32

Still on the Olympic Games, but the 2032 edition, let me also mention that we have been contributing with the Brisbane bidding committee on the possible options for rowing. We will continue to work with the Organising Committee now as they have been officially awarded with the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games by the IOC Session.

Olympic Movement

Reaching the finalisation of Olympic 2020 Agenda, the IOC has pursued its strategy moving to Agenda 2020+5 which was adopted at the IOC Session in March.

The 15 recommendations aim at continuing to adapt to the fast-changing environment and address the key challenges of the Olympic movement. They relate to Solidarity, Digitalisation, Sustainable Development, Credibility and Economic and financial resilience.

As I have mentioned to you on several occasions and reports, the IOC's challenges are our challenges and we will continue to contribute. More broadly, the sport and sport organisations have to play their role and to take part in the challenges of Society.

I would like to highlight the work that we have been doing in Safeguarding and the fight against harassment and abuse in sport. We have progressed in this very important matter. I understand that we cannot all be at the same level but it is important – and we expect - that our MF take on board such an important topic.

Another key challenge for society is the climate change and its many impacts.

Here as well, the world of sport and sport organisations have also to take their part in addressing this challenge, as the world will ultimately succeed in this fight if and only if all, everybody contributes.

One of the recommendations relates to **virtual sport**.

I am pleased to say that in that domain we are quite in the front line. With the indoor rowing machine combined with the technology, the potential is simply immense. We have some experience, having delivered a successful virtual 2021 WR Indoor Championships. Rowing was one of the 5 sports to be part of the first ever Olympic Virtual Series (OVS). This is a first step, we know that there is much room for improvement, we have some ideas... Again the high potential of the concept of connecting people is a tremendous opportunity for our discipline.

Developing our new disciplines is clearly our strategy to grow our sport in all its dimension and enlarge the community of rowers in the world and the people connected to us. Especially in a very competitive world of sport with a very large offering in terms of events.

Let me mention on the particular point that we fully support the IOC and many sport federations and organisations in expressing concerns in FIFA's intention to stage a biennial World Cup. In a very busy sport calendar, such a major event would attract and concentrate even more resources to football and to the detriment of the other sports.

I met last month with IOC President TB, Director General Christophe de Kepper and IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell. We covered and discussed most of the points I have covered. Let me share with you an interesting proposal that we will certainly progress: the use of the Olympic brand in the qualification process to the Olympic Games. It will certainly benefit our sport and its promotion.

Finance

Moving from the Olympic movement update on to finance.

I will not anticipate the report of the Treasurer on the situation of our accounts and the perspective for the future but want to simply and briefly add to what I wrote at the time in my report about our financial situation. The completion and success of the Games have resulted in securing the Olympic revenues. This is really great news. The final amount is not yet finalised, but this major uncertainty has disappeared.

This is a significant element and the Treasurer will come back to the details.

Governance

- **RWG & GWG**

I have reported the success of the 2020 Extraordinary Congress and the key evolutions in the statutes and rules that you, the Member Federations, have adopted. As we are in a continuous improvement mode, I expect the next quadrennial Congress, as it is named now, to consider changes and evolution for the future. This exercise will never end, and to ensure that we will be well prepared and that we can catch all aspects by then, we have relaunched the RWG and the GWG. As we did in the past, we will share with you, the MFs, the discussions and the proposals all along this journey, so that you can take part in the exercise.

- **Coastal, Indoor and GEDI commissions**

Regarding the new Commissions - the Coastal Rowing Commission, the Indoor Rowing Commission and the newly formed Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Cross-Commission - I am pleased to report that the Council has now approved their proposed strategies and duty statements which were circulated on 6 October with the Circular. We have added a GEDI Advisory Panel which will be experts in the fields who can be called upon for specific advice, and we will soon call for nominations for this. We can now move to the proper election of the Chairs of these three Commissions later on in this Congress and then the appointment of the members of the Commissions by the Council.

Executive Director

Let me also briefly report that we have completed our recruitment process for the position of Executive Director. You will recall that at the Congress last year we announced Matt Smith's decision to step down from the position in the near future.

It has been a long but I believe fair and appropriate process. I will not go into the details, but I'd like to take the opportunity to express my personal gratitude to my fellow members of the so-called "Search Committee" which was responsible for running the process: thank you to our Vice-President TS and EC member GE. It has been quite demanding but was an interesting exercise.

We will come back later in the Congress today on this subject, but based on the analysis of the Search Committee, the EC has rendered its decision to appoint **Vincent Gaillard** to start this role on 1st Jan 2022.

Vincent is with us today as an observer.

We will come back to this later.

Closing

This concludes the additional updates I wanted to make today.

To a certain extent it concludes also the mandate that you have given me in Sarasota in 2017. It has been a very challenging period of time... certainly not an easy journey, but at the same time I have enjoyed the mission and the team work with Matt, the Executive Committee, the Council and all stakeholders.

I believe that some achievements and progress in the development of our sport have been reached, in line with the vision we share for the future of our sport, while adapting also to the fast-moving environment,

As we will soon enter the post-covid era, this will certainly not be a return to what it was before.

Let's take the best of the lessons learnt and look forward to a great future for our sport.

Jean-Christophe Rolland
06 November 2021

2021 WORLD ROWING CONGRESS - ATTENDANCE REPORT 06.11.2021 (SOURCE LUMI & ZOOM'S ATTENDANCE REPORT)

MFs	Name	Last Name	Capacity	Votes
ALG	Chaouki	Dries	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
ANG	Alexandre	Lages	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
ARM	Paylak	Mirzoyan	Voting Member - 0 Votes	0
AUS	Robert	Scott	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
AUS	Sarah	Cook	Other Delegate	0
AUS	Flavia	Gobbo	Other Delegate	0
AUT	Norbert	Lambing	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
AZE	Leyla	Aliyeva	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
BAH	Jason	Williams	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
BEL	Gwenda	Stevens	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
BLR	Olga	Tarasova	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
CAN	Carol	Purcer	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
CAN	Terry	Dillon	Other Delegate	0
CHN	Chunxin	Chen	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
CRO	ZORAN	Emersic	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
CRO	Goran	Fruk	Other Delegate	0
CZE	Ondrej	Sebek	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
DEN	Conny	Sørensen	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
EGY	Mohamed	Amr EInoury	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
ESP	Asunción	Loriente	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
EST	Robert	Vali	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
FRA	Christian	VANDENBERGHE	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
FRA	Myriam	GOUDET	Other Delegate	0
FRA	Sebastien	VIEILLEDENT	Other Delegate	0
GBR	Mark	Davies	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
GBR	Louise	Kingsley	Other Delegate	0
GBR	Jennifer	Thomson	Other Delegate	0
GER	Moritz	Petri	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
GER	Katharina	von Kodolitsch	Other Delegate	0
GER	Mario	Woldt	Other Delegate	0
GRE	IOANNIS	VRAMPAS	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
HKG	Kong Wan	Ng	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
HKG	Chris	Perry	Other Delegate	0
HUN	Otto	CSEH	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
HUN	Gergely	VANCAZAK	Other Delegate	0
HUN	Borbala	PIGNITZKY	Other Delegate	0
INA	Alia	Maedina	Other Delegate	0
INA	Brata Tryana	Harjosubroto	Other Delegate	0
IND	Sriram	Venkatramanan	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
IND	RAJLAXMI	SINGH DEO	Other Delegate	0
IRL	Michelle	Carpenter	Other Delegate	0
ISR	Eli	Szabo	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
ITA	Giuseppe	Abbagnale	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
ITA	Michelangelo	Crispi	Other Delegate	0
ITA	Ambra	Di Miceli	Other Delegate	0
JPN	Takao	Senda	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3

MFs	Name	Last Name	Capacity	Votes
JPN	Toichi	Sakata	Other Delegate	0
JPN	Naomi	Kato	Other Delegate	0
LES	Letsatsi	NTSIBOLANE	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
LES	Nthabiseng	TOLOFI	Other Delegate	0
LTU	Saulius	Ritter	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
LTU	Inga	Daukantiene	Other Delegate	0
MAL	Joseph	Grima	Voting Member - 0 Votes	0
MEX	ARGE	DIEZ	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
NED	Rutger	Arisz	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
NOR	Hans Jørgen	Arvesen	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
NOR	Anniken	Ellingsen	Other Delegate	0
NOR	Are	Berset	Other Delegate	0
NZL	Judith	Hamilton	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
POL	Adam	Korol	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
RSA	Sean	Kerr	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
RUS	Alexey	Svirin	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
RUS	Anton	Zarutskiy	Other Delegate	0
RUS	Alla	Tarasova	Other Delegate	0
SEN	CHEIKH Moubarack	Wade	Voting Member - 0 Votes	0
SLO	Vladimir	Meglic	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
SRB	Dusan	Kovacevic	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
SUI	Neville	Tanzer	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
SUI	Sabine	Horvath	Other Delegate	0
SUI	Christian	Stofer	Other Delegate	0
SWE	Anders	Joelsson	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
SWE	Veronica	Kallstrom	Other Delegate	0
TUN	Meriam	Berguiga	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
TUN	Donia	Koubaa	Other Delegate	0
TUR	Yusuf H.	Oktar	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
UAE	Aaref	Ibrahim Alharanki	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
USA	Nobuhisa	Ishizuka	Voting Member - 3 Votes	3
USA	Amanda	Kraus	Other Delegate	0
UZB	Rustam	Ruziev	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
VIE	HAI DUONG	NGUYEN	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
VIN	NICHA	BRANKER	Voting Member - 1 Vote	1
	Victoria	Aguirregomezcorta	Other Delegate	0

Continental Rowing Confederation - European Rowing	Annamarie	Phelps
Continental Rowing Confederation - European Rowing	Nebosja	Jevremovic
Continental Rowing Confederation - European Rowing	Dusan	Machacek
Continental Rowing Confederation - FASA	Hussain	Abd Elsalam

COPARE	Kris
FASA	DR Hussen Abd elslam

World Rowing	Jean-Christophe	Rolland	President
World Rowing	Matt	Smith	Executive Director
World Rowing	Denis	Oswald	Honorary President
World Rowing	Peter	Cookson	Council
World Rowing	Lenka	Dienstbach-Wech	Council
World Rowing	Gerritjan	EggenKamp	Council
World Rowing	Mehdi	Garidi	Council

World Rowing	Rosie	Mayglothling	Council
World Rowing	Rebecca	Orr	Council
World Rowing	Svetla	Otzetova	Council
World Rowing	Jacomine	Ravensbergen	Council
World Rowing	Patrick	Rombaut	Council
World Rowing	Tricia	Smith	Council
World Rowing	Ryszard	Stadniuk	Council
World Rowing	Juergen	Steinacker	Council
World Rowing	Eva	Szanto	Council
World Rowing	Ludovica	Caprino	Staff
World Rowing	Lucy	Trochet	Staff
World Rowing	Matt	Evans	Staff
World Rowing	Daniela	Gomes	Staff
World Rowing	Christine	Jacobsen	Staff
World Rowing	Paolo	Mattana	Staff
World Rowing	Brian	Orsini	Staff
World Rowing	Nathalie	Phillips	Staff
World Rowing	Vincent	Gaillard	Guest

OBESERVERS

The list of Observers indicates those who pre-registered to the 2021 Ordinary Congress.

Name of MF/ Organisation	Position in the MF/ Organisation	Observer's Name	Last
Swift	Director	Gareth	Gruenbaum
THA	ITO	Jirawat	Wongsriratanakul
RCAT (THA)	International Umpire	Angela	Pochanasomburana
UK Sport	International Relations Advisor	Jen	Browning
World Rowing Sports Medicine Commission	Member	Henning	Nielsen
Hudson Boat Works	Business Manager Europe	Ruud	Pepping
HUDSON	President	Glen	Burston
World Rowing	Umpiring Commission	Nick	Hunter
Rowing Australia	Chief Executive Officer	Ian	Robson
Rowing Australia	Chief Operating Officer	Sarah	Cook
Hong Kong, China Rowing Association	Board Member	Victor	Ng
German Rowing Federation	Council Member	Katharina	von Kodolitsch
World Rowing Federation	Internal Audit Committee	Germaine	Bauer
Sports Medicine Commission	Commission Member	Mikio	Hiura
Croatian Rowing Federation	professional associate	Ida	Gajsak
World Rowing HKCRA (HKG)	WR Events Commission President	Matthew Mike	Draper Tanner
Italian Rowing Federation	Head of Communication	Claudio	Tranquilli
Italian Rowing Federation	Communication officer	Niccolò	Bagnoli
ERB	Honorary Member	Roland	Weill
Tunisia	National Technical Director	Fayçal	Soula
National Sports Tribunal	Chief Executive Officer	John	Boultbee

