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Mr. Alessandro Nicotra di San Giacomo
Secretary General
International Shooting Sport Federation

October 15th, 2024

Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Alessandro,

Firstly, I thank you for the letter you have sent out yesterday to the Executive Committee members expressing gratitude to Yair Davidovich for his contribution to the work of the Organization and welcoming me in the Body.

I have also to inform you that during the last days I was contacted by a number of the ESC Member Federations expressing concerns over the documents that had been sent out from the ISSF Office according to art. 6.10 ISSF Constitution.

In a summarized way those concerns can be formulated like this:

Agenda of the 2024 General Assembly

1. Financial and Audit Reports for 2023 are missing which is very unusual because normally the financial documents should cover 2 years. It questions the transparency and proper government of the Organization.
2. Item 7 should clearly state that the Executive Committee and the Secretary General are discharged of Responsibility for 2022.
3. Not enough time is scheduled for item 8. In case the discussion takes longer than presumed by the administration, it can affect discussions on the following items of the Agenda, especially item 11.

Amendments to the ISSF Constitution

1. The Member Federations were never asked to send their proposals of amendments.
2. Not clear who has proposed the amendments.
3. There are several controversial proposals.
4. An online workshop can't substitute the open discussion during the meeting of the General Assembly with understanding that English is not the native language of many Member Federations and simultaneous translation is needed for such discussion.

Those concerns were discussed by the ESC Presidium on October 12th, 2024. The information provided, if correct, shows that:

1. The Agenda of the General Assembly was not approved by the Executive Committee in due time. If so, it is a violation of art. 6.9 ISSF Constitution and puts in doubt the legitimacy of the General Assembly as such.
2. The Executive Committee members did not receive, at least by October 12th, 2024, the financial report for 2023.
3. The Executive Committee members did not discuss the proposed amendments to the ISSF Constitution and never approved them.

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

It looks like that in such circumstances there is only one way to protect the integrity of the ISSF and the image of the Organization without bigger problems: to remove item 8 from the Agenda.

Instead, to offer the Member Federation a real democratic procedure that was usual for the ISSF in the past. Ask the Members to send proposals for amendments, evaluate them by the Statutes and Eligibility Committee, discuss at the meeting of the Executive Committee and, finally, invite the Members to a General Assembly for approval.

In the amendments proposed now, one can hardly find anything that can't wait till 2025 or even 2026. For example, the next non-elective General Assembly will be only in 2028.

It should not be forgotten that to approve amendments to the Constitution a 2/3 majority is needed. It is not an easy task. The recent ISSF history demonstrates it. In 2012 and 2016 the attempts to get such majority failed. Only in 2019, at an Extraordinary General Assembly that lasted the whole day the 2/3 majority was obtained with a very small margin.

Governance in each International Federation is monitored by the IOC and the Olympic Movement, in general. Why not to respect democracy and transparency?

Sincerely,


Alexander Ratner
President