



Sjötorp, 4 November 2024

Objection against Mr. Alisher Usmanov as Candidate for the Presidency of the FIE

On 28 October 2024, the FIE Bureau presented the list of candidates for the upcoming elections to be held at the FIE Congress in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 30 November 2024.

Mr. Alisher Usmanov is candidate for the presidency of the FIE.

According to the FIE Statutes article 4.1.4, each national federation can contest the list of the candidates communicated by the Bureau. A contestation shall be tried by Executive Committee, after advice from the Legal Commission and the persons concerned.

The Swedish Fencing Federation hereby contests and objects to Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature as President for the FIE. The Swedish Fencing Federation requests that the Executive Committee rejects Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature and removes Mr. Alisher Usmanov's name from the list of candidates.

The FIE is a non-profit organisation which is subject to the laws and regulations of the Swiss Confederation ("Switzerland"). Accordingly, the FIE must comply with the laws and regulations in force in Switzerland.

According to the FIE Statutes article 5.1, the management of the FIE is entrusted to the Executive Committee in between Congresses. Accordingly, when the Congress is not in session, it is the Executive Committee's duty and responsibility to make sure that the FIE complies with the laws and regulations in force in Switzerland.

On 4 March 2022, Mr. Alisher Usmanov was sanctioned by Switzerland. The Swiss authorities justified the sanctions against Mr. Alisher Usmanov by pointing out that Mr. Alisher Usmanov

- actively supported materially or financially and benefitted from Russian decision-makers responsible for the annexation of Crimea and the destabilisation of Ukraine,

- is a leading businessperson operating in Russia and a businessperson involved in an economic sector providing a substantial source of revenue to the Government of the Russian Federation, which is responsible for the annexation of Crimea and the destabilisation of Ukraine, and
- actively supported the Russian government's policies of destabilisation of Ukraine.

The Swedish Fencing Federation has asked the Sanctions Division of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs in Switzerland about the legal implications of Swiss sanctions ([Appendix 1](#)). The Sanctions Division states that a sanctioned person is not eligible to a position in the FIE if such an election would entail the reception of economic resources.

According to the FIE Administrative Rules article 7.2.5, Mr Alisher Usmanov will be granted an allowance equivalent to 100 Euros per day when the Executive Committee have meetings. Furthermore, Mr. Alisher Usmanov will receive compensation for travel expenses and accommodation in connection with Executive Committee meetings. Based on the mentioned FIE rules, Mr. Alisher Usmanov is not eligible to any position in the FIE because the election of Mr. Alisher Usmanov will entail that he will receive economic resources, which makes him not eligible according to Swiss law.

The Sanctions Division also explains that it is the responsibility of individuals, companies and organisations to ensure compliance with the measures in place. As mentioned above, the FIE must comply with the laws and regulations in force in Switzerland, including the sanctions issued by Switzerland. Furthermore, it is the Executive Committee's duty and responsibility to make sure that the FIE comply with these laws, regulations and sanctions. Accordingly, there is no other alternative for the Executive Committee than to reject Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature. If the Executive Committee approves Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature, this will imply legal consequences for the FIE and the individual members of the Executive Committee. The individual members of the Executive Committee may also have to face legal consequences in their home countries, should they be citizens of countries having imposed sanctions against Mr. Alisher Usmanov.

Mr. Alisher Usmanov is sanctioned by the following 38 countries:

1. Australia
2. Austria

3. Belgium
4. Bulgaria
5. Canada
6. Croatia
7. Cyprus
8. Czechia
9. Denmark
10. Estonia
11. Finland
12. France
13. Germany
14. Greece
15. Hungary
16. Iceland
17. Ireland
18. Italy
19. Japan
20. Latvia
21. Lichtenstein
22. Lithuania
23. Luxembourg
24. Malta
25. Netherlands
26. New Zealand
27. Norway
28. Poland
29. Portugal
30. Romania
31. Slovakia
32. Slovenia
33. South Korea
34. Spain
35. Sweden
36. Switzerland
37. United Kingdom
38. United States

Mr. Alisher Usmanov is thus currently subject to sanctions in 23,7 % (37/156) of the countries that have national fencing federations. There is no fencing federation in Lichtenstein.

The implication of the sanctions imposed on Mr. Alisher Usmanov is not only that the FIE and the individual members of Executive Committee would be breaking Swiss law, and the law of many other countries, should the Executive Committee decide that Mr. Alisher Usmanov is eligible as candidate for the presidency of the FIE. With Mr. Alisher Usmanov as President, the FIE would have a President who, among other things, would be

- prevented from visiting the FIE headquarters in Lausanne,
- prevented from visiting 37 of the member federations, most likely more because of travel bans,
- preventing the FIE from accessing its funds,
- preventing the FIE from functioning efficiently.

It is of course a fundamental requirement that the President of the FIE can visit all the member federations and that he is able to help the FIE manage its affairs. The leader of world fencing cannot be persona non grata in significant parts of the world or prohibited from taking any part in the management and leadership of the organization. The President of the FIE should promote the interests of fencing everywhere in the world while clearly and openly taking responsibility for every decision made by the organisation.

Mr. Alisher Usmanov cannot fulfil any of these requirements and the Executive Committee must therefore stand up to its duty and responsibility and reject Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature.

Mr. Alisher Usmanov himself seems to understand that he cannot act as President of the FIE because of the sanctions imposed on him. On 1 March 2022, Mr. Alisher Usmanov "self-suspended" himself as President of the FIE because of the sanctions issued against him on 28 February 2022 by the European Union. He could not travel to the FIE headquarters in Lausanne and to member federations and the assets of the FIE were placed under sanction because of the sanctions issued against him.

"Self-suspension" does not exist as a legal concept in the Statutes of the FIE. Therefore, the only possible interpretation of Mr. Alisher Usmanov's "self-suspension" is that he resigned as President of the FIE on 1 March 2022.

If Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature is allowed, and the Congress should elect Mr. Alisher Usmanov as President for another term, Mr. Alisher Usmanov must again, because of the sanctions imposed on him, immediately "self-suspend" himself, that is, immediately resign as President of the FIE.

The Executive Committee must of course reject a candidature for the presidency of the FIE, if it is clear to the Executive Committee already before the election that the candidate will resign as soon as he is elected President.

Finally, the Swedish Fencing Federation was surprised to read that the Bureau, when presenting the list of presidential candidates for the upcoming elections, not only indicated the member federation presenting the candidature of Mr. Alisher Usmanov, but also included information about which member federations that had "supported" Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature. This action by the Bureau raises questions.

- What legal support does the Bureau have to include member federations that "support" a candidate when presenting the candidate?
- How does the Bureau define the concept of "support" and through which process is the accuracy of this support assured? Could the FIE provide the Swedish Fencing Federation with written documentation of this support from every federation? If yes, please do.
- Which fencing federation presented Mr. Alisher Usmanov as a candidate? Please provide supporting documents.
- Mr. Otto Drakenberg is presented as a candidate by the Swedish Fencing Federation. However, there are other member federations around the world supporting Mr. Otto Drakenberg's candidature. Why did the FIE not ask Mr. Otto Drakenberg if there were any member federations supporting his candidature before the list of candidates was presented?

The Swedish Fencing Federation requests that the FIE distributes a list of member federations supporting the candidature of Mr. Otto Drakenberg. The Swedish Fencing Federation will send such a list to the FIE in order to secure that the integrity of the elections cannot be questioned on the grounds that the candidates have been treated differently.

Furthermore, the Swedish Fencing Federation requires that the FIE puts into place a mechanism that enables the member federations to change which candidate they are supporting. It is most desirable that the integrity of the Congress, as the supreme decision maker of the FIE, should not be side-stepped

by an abnormal, non-statutory procedure that gives the impression that the election process is of no value since the Executive Committee has already stated as a fact that a majority of the member federations are already supporting one of the candidates.

The elections are to be held on 30 November 2024. This matter is therefore urgent, and the Swedish Fencing Federation expects the Executive Committee to answer the questions above and to communicate the decision to reject Mr. Alisher Usmanov's candidature on Friday 8 November 2024 at the latest.

Per Palmström
Legal counsel to the Swedish Fencing Federation

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Från: sanctions@seco.admin.ch
Ämne: RE: Implications of Swiss sanctions
Datum: 22 oktober 2024 09:40
Till: per@palmstrom.se, sanctions@seco.admin.ch
Kopia: Otto.Drakenberg@fencing.se



Dear Mr. Palmström,

Thank you for your request. Due to the high number of inquiries, it is currently taking longer to process them.

You refer to the Ordinance on Measures Connected with the Situation in Ukraine (SR [946.231.176.72](#), hereinafter 'Ordinance'). The annexes of the persons and entities on the sanctions lists are available [here](#) (table, 'consolidated version'). On our website you will find a [search engine](#) that allows you to check whether a person or an entity is currently on the SECO sanctions lists. This information always corresponds to the most recent situation.

Mr. Alisher Usmanov is listed on Annex 8 of the Ordinance. As such, the asset freeze and the prohibition to make funds and economic resources available to sanctioned persons pursuant to Article 15 Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Ordinance apply. Furthermore, the travel ban pursuant to Article 29 applies as well. Whether a sanctioned person is electable to a position in an organisation depends on the circumstances and effects of such an election. It is p.ex. prohibited if such an election would entail, directly or indirectly, the reception of economic resources. Moreover, the asset freeze and the prohibition of making funds available apply not only to sanctioned individuals, but also to organisations that are owned or – directly or indirectly – controlled by them. Therefore, such an election bears considerable risks.

We further draw your attention to the fact that it is the responsibility of individuals, companies and organisations to ensure compliance with the measures in place. We remain at your disposal for any further, more detailed questions you might have.

Finally, we recommend that you subscribe to the sanctions information service ([here](#)) in order to be kept informed of changes.

Best regards,

Mr Aleksa Kostadinovic

Sanctions Division
Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

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-----Message d'origine-----

De : Per Palmström <per@palmstrom.se>
Envoyé : jeudi, 10 octobre 2024 11:20
À : _SECO-Sanctions <sanctions@seco.admin.ch>
Cc : Otto Drakenberg <Otto.Drakenberg@fencing.se>
Objet : Implications of Swiss sanctions

Dear Sirs,

Mr Alisher Usmanov, currently the president of the International Fencing Federation (FIE), is subject to sanctions imposed by the Swiss Confederation. Mr Alisher Usmanov is also subject to sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union.

The FIE will elect a new president at its congress held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 30 November 2024. Uzbekistan is one of few countries Mr Alisher Usmanov can still visit due to the various sanctions imposed on him. Most likely, at the congress in Tashkent, Mr Alisher Usmanov will stand as candidate for the presidency of the FIE for the period 2024 - 2028.

According to the Statutes of the FIE, the FIE is a non-profit making organisation which is subject to the laws and regulations of the country on whose territory its head-office is located. The head-office of the FIE is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

According to Swiss law, is an individual, who is subject to sanctions imposed by the Swiss confederation, electable to a position in an organisation that is subject to the laws of Switzerland?

I am asking as legal advisor to the Swedish Fencing Federation.

Best regards,

Per Palmström

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BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF SURNAME:

Nom, Surname, Apellidos	Prénom, Given name, Nombre	Fédération, Federation, Federación	Genre, Gender, Género
DRAKENBERG	Otto	SWE	M

Présenté par la Fédération d'Escrime de / Presented by the Fencing Federation of / Presentado por la Federación de Esgrima de: SWE.

Nom, Surname, Apellidos	Prénom, Given name, Nombre	Fédération, Federation, Federación	Genre, Gender, Género
USMANOV	Alisher	RUS	M

Présenté ou soutenu par les Fédérations d'Escrime de / Presented or supported by the Fencing Federations of / Presentado o suportado por las Federaciones de Esgrima de: AFG, ALG, ANG, ANT, ARM, ARU, AZE, BAH, BAN, BEN, BIZ, BLR, BOT, BRA, BRN, BRU, BUL, CAM, CGO, CHI, CHN, CIV, CMR, COD, CPV, CRC, CUB, DMA, DOM, ECU, EGY, ESA, GEO, GEQ, GHA, GRE, GUA, GUI, GUY, HAI, HON, HUN, INA, IND, ISL, ISR, ISV, JAM, JOR, KAZ, KEN, KGZ, KOR, KSA, KUW, LBA, LBN, MAC, MAD, MAR, MAS, MDA, MGL, MLI, MNE, MRI, MTN, MYA, NAM, NCA, NEP, NGR, NIG, OMA, PAK, PAN, PAR, PER, PHI, PLE, PUR, ROU, RSA, RUS, RWA, SEN, SRB, SRI, SYR, THA, TJK, TKM, TOG, TPE, TUN, TÜR, UAE, UGA, URU, UZB, VEN, VIE, YEM.



FIE ELECTIONS 2024

Candidate form

President



1. Personal Information/ Informations personnelles/ Información personal

Last Name : DRAKENBERG

First Name: Otto

Date of Birth: 28.07.1966

Gender: Male

Nationality: SWEDEN

Profession: Business executive

3. Specific requirements/ Exigences spécifiques/ Requisitos específicos

CRITERIA OF THE FIE STATUTES

I speak one of three working languages of the FIE fluently: **Yes**

Desirable: I understand and speak one of the two other working languages: **Yes**

4. CV

Otto Drakenberg – Candidate for FIE President

Jan Sten Otto Drakenberg (born 28 July 1966, Lidingö, Sweden) is a Swedish business executive and former elite athlete in fencing. He competed in the individual and team épée events at the 1988 Summer Olympics and is currently Chairman of several Swedish companies and organisations, including the Swedish Fencing Federation. Drakenberg has in his business career also served as CEO of several listed companies.

Fencing Career

A member of the Swedish national fencing team, Drakenberg placed fourth in épée at the 1989 World Championships and eighth in the team event at the 1988 Olympics. In 2017, he was elected President of the Swedish Fencing Federation.

Business Career

Drakenberg holds a Bachelor's degree in business administration from University of Stockholm and pursued advanced studies in economics. He began his career at Procter & Gamble, (1996–2000) and went on to serve as CEO for Goodyear Dunlop's Nordic and Baltic operations (2004–2007) and led Carlsberg Sweden (2007–2010). From 2011 to 2015, he was Group CEO of Arcus-Gruppen A/S. He has since led transformation efforts in listed and privately held companies.

With over 40 years of combined experience in sport and business, Drakenberg aims to lead FIE with transparency, growth, and sustainability at its core.



FIE ELECTIONS 2024

Candidate form

President



1. Personal Information/ Informations personnelles/ Información personal

Last Name : USMANOV

First Name: Alisher

Date of Birth: 09.09.1953

Gender: Male

Nationality: RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Profession: Philanthropist

3. Specific requirements/ Exigences spécifiques/ Requisitos específicos

CRITERIA OF THE FIE STATUTES

I speak one of three working languages of the FIE fluently: **Yes**

Desirable: I understand and speak one of the two other working languages: **Yes**

4. CV

CV OF ALISHER BURKHANOVICH USMANOV

Alisher Burkhanovich Usmanov was born on September 9, 1953 in Choust, Uzbekistan.

In 1976 he graduated from the Moscow State University of International Relations where he specialized in international law.

In 1997 he graduated from the Financial Academy on the Government of the

Russian Federation with a degree in banking.

He has a Ph.D. in Sociology.

He speaks Russian, Uzbek, English and French.

Alisher Usmanov is a renowned businessman, the founder of USM Holdings, a diversified holding company which brings together businesses in the metals and mining, telecoms, technology and internet sectors.

In 2001-2009 Alisher Usmanov served as President of the Russian Fencing Federation.

In 2005-2009 Mr. Usmanov was President of the European Fencing Confederation.

In 2008 Alisher Usmanov was elected President of the International Fencing Federation (FIE) and was re-elected in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

Alisher Usmanov is one of the leading philanthropists in the world who founded several charitable foundations, including Art, Science and Sport and For the Future of Fencing.