

Dear National Ski Associations,  
Dear Ski and Snow Sport Friends,

We are entering a new era for FIS and global sport.

An era that sees the election of the first FIS President of the 21st Century.

An era that sees FIS and global sports tackle their roles in a changed, and more inclusive yet demanding society, grow new wings, expand to new territories and attract new audiences.

An era that requires FIS to fully leverage revenue opportunities, digitally transform, collaborate with expert minds and secure new funding while being 100% athlete-centred.

An era that sees global sports boldly position with fans year-round, fully leveraging digital tools, advanced technology and new funding models; and now an era that is still in the midst of a global pandemic, and all that this brings.

This is the era that FIS must embrace and respond to working hand in hand with our member National Associations and Stakeholders: for growth, a healthy future for our sport, and with the athletes at the centre.

We have been presented with a unique opportunity to elect a President whose full focus is to lead FIS on a strategic transformation to the summit of international sport and become a global movement for World Skiing and Snowboarding.

I have devoted my life to our sport as an Olympian, as FIS Secretary General and as a leader in global sport.

In this new era of FIS, I submit my candidacy to serve you as President.

I am making this journey for one reason - to work together with you to build a FIS that is fully representative of the global ski and snow sport community, and fully equipped to take us well into the second centennial of FIS.

I am totally focused on creating a great future for our sport together with you through a crystal clear plan, with transparency and accountability.

Thank you to all of you who share this objective and join me as an integral part of this journey.

We can and will achieve more together.



**Sarah Lewis OBE OLY**



Aan: President, Vice-Presidents and Council  
Members  
Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS)

Presidents and Secretary Generals  
National Ski Associations

Berchem, 6 April 2021,

**Concerning: Candidacy for President of the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS)**

Dear President, Vice-Presidents and Council Members,  
Dear National Ski Association Presidents and Secretary Generals,

It is with honour and enthusiasm that the Royal Belgian Ski Federation submits its candidacy of Sarah Lewis OBE OLY for the role of President of the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS).

We have submitted the necessary documents to the International Ski Federation, in accordance with the FIS Statutes and FIS Council Candidate Application Process:

- Letter of nomination by the Royal Belgian Ski Federation and certificate of membership
- Current Passports
- Eligibility Questionnaire
- Declaration of Interests

As a member of FIS since 1936, the Royal Belgian Ski Federation has been a proud and active member of the international ski and snow sport family for the past 85 years. Our male and female athletes participate across the FIS disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowboard, Freestyle, FreeSki and Masters and we have competed with our teams at the FIS World Championships since many years. Notable successes of our athletes are highlighted by Seppe Smits' gold medals in the first ever Snowboard slopestyle event in La Molina 2011 (ESP) and Sierra Nevada 2015 (ESP) in addition to his 11 World Cup podiums, and Evy Poppe's gold medal in Snowboard slopestyle at the Lausanne 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games and gold and bronze medals in slopestyle and big air at this season's Junior World Championships. Another highlight was recorded by Armand Marchand with 10th place in the men's slalom in Cortina 2021 (ITA) following his 5th place in the Zagreb (CRO) World Cup slalom in 2020. Our volunteer FIS Committee Members, International Technical Delegates and Judges are highly committed to supporting the organisation of the sport nationally and internationally to contribute to the growth of ski and snow sport globally, and the Royal Belgian Ski Federation is proud to organise FIS competitions and Championships in Belgium, as well as international FIS events in countries including Austria, France and Italy every year to create opportunities for current and future athletes from Belgium and all the member nations.

Belgium is respected globally as a politically neutral nation, and serves as the home of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, with a multi-cultural, diverse and inclusive mindset, promoting unity and interaction between nations.

We are convinced that the neutral role of Belgium within the International Ski Federation, as a contributory and active nation yet not bidding for major events, is also an important asset for its President to work with and on behalf of all member National Associations in the interests of the sport and the organisation.

It is in this very spirit that the Royal Belgian Ski Federation is nominating Sarah Lewis OBE OLY as President of FIS.



Born and brought up in the United Kingdom, becoming an international alpine ski racer and Olympian has enabled her to travel, train and compete in many countries, before moving to the heart of the Alps in Switzerland where she has lived for the past 27 years. This pathway has shaped her international mind-set and global outlook.

We wholeheartedly believe that Sarah Lewis' experience, knowledge, integrity, competence and inclusiveness are a tremendous asset to guide FIS into the future.

Her collaborative approach and vision for bringing the National Ski Associations into the governance structures of FIS will harness the international ski and snow sport community, enabling us to progress together, fully represented, to secure a strong future for this sport we all cherish.

We know her to be incredibly talented in building sustainable partnerships in the best interests of our athletes and the sport, and she is actively connected with all FIS member nations, as well as the organisers and stakeholders, which is vital for the global growth and universality of our sport.

Sarah Lewis is highly respected internationally for the skills and drive she has demonstrated during the past 20 years as FIS Secretary General, and through positions in the International Olympic Committee Commissions, the Association of International Winter Sports Federations and Sport Accord, establishing close relationships with Olympic Games Organising Committees, the Olympic Movement and the wider sports governance landscape including the World Anti-Doping Agency. Her roles prior to joining FIS, further extend to having worked as a National Ski Association Director, as well as in the ski industry and media.

Through her tireless work, FIS has established connections that have strengthened its reputation and can further evolve with Sarah Lewis as President.

Sarah Lewis has an undeniable special spark, and will never think twice about going the extra mile to make our ski and snow sport community stronger, putting us in the best possible position to confidently take on the future challenges as the world's largest winter sports governing body.

We are imagining a future for FIS where the member nations take this same step with us - at this very important moment in the future of FIS - by joining us in support of Sarah Lewis as your FIS President.

Yours sincerely,

Signed signatures

Martine Tossens  
President, Royal Belgian Ski Federation

Stijn Urkens  
Secretary General, Royal Belgian Ski Federation

Enc.

Copy: Members of the FIS Council National Ski Associations



President, Vice Presidents and Council Members  
of the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS)

Presidents and Secretary Generals  
National Ski Associations

Brussels, 31 March 2021

***Candidacy for President of the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS)***

Dear President, Vice-Presidents and Council Members,  
Dear National Ski Association Presidents and Secretary Generals,

In my capacity as President of the Belgian Olympic & Interfederal Committee, it is with great pleasure that I lend my full support to the Royal Belgian Ski Federation with its candidacy of Sarah Lewis OBE OLY as President of the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS).

I have known Sarah Lewis for the past decade. Through my own eyes I have seen her dedication to the Olympic Movement and her ability to elevate and promote FIS and snow sports within the Olympic ranks.

She is one of the most energetic and committed persons I have had the honour to know personally and professionally, highly dedicated to her work and to ensuring that FIS is well represented throughout the Olympic Movement and global sports world.

Sarah Lewis has made a tremendous contribution to the Olympic Movement and specifically the IOC Programme Commission, Olympic Winter Games Coordination Commissions and Youth Olympic Games - while her knowledge as an Olympian and gathered from working at five Olympic Winter Games, serving as Secretary General of the Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations and as Chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency Independent Observers at the Beijing 2008 Games - are testament to her qualities which are those needed of today's International Federation Presidents.



Embodying the core principles of Olympism, Sarah Lewis is inclusive, collaborative, honest, reliable and driven. She has proven skills and fully understands just how important it is in the Olympic Movement to shape a FIS that is financially and economically resilient especially during these uncertain times for the world and sport, that stands together in solidarity supports and protects its athletes, leads by example with good governance and develops sustainably, all with a firm eye on the future and innovation.

I strongly believe that Sarah Lewis would bring vitally important qualities to work with you to serve FIS, its National Ski Associations and key stakeholders, as President of the Fédération Internationale de Ski, and therefore I wholeheartedly support our member, the Royal Belgian Ski Federation in submitting her candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P.O. Beckers-Vieujant', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant  
President  
Belgian Olympic & Interfederal Committee