



**Gianni Merlo**  
President

**Johan Eliasch**  
**FIS President**

*Lausanne, February 3rd, 2025*

Dear President Eliasch,

I have received complaints from some colleagues regarding the decision of FIS to cancel the press conference during the World Alpine Championships 2025 in Saalbach.

I know that the decision was taken because of the short time at the athletes' disposal, but I think that it is possible to also find alternative solutions.

The press conferences after the competitions in the World Cup were cancelled because in the last seasons, excluding only a special place as Kitzbuhel, there were only a few journalists who followed the circuit. We understand this choice, but at the World Championship the situation regarding the participation of journalists is better. Newspapers are investing important resources to send their journalists to the Championships, and they need to have the possibility to have more access to the sources to report in the best way.

The written press is experiencing a difficult moment, because the federations, the clubs and agents are trying to hide the sources that are basic for us.

I think that it is possible to find solutions that can satisfy your needs and our needs.

Thanks to the media winter sports have had a great public success and I think that we can cooperate again to find the solutions together. In this world of information that is developing every day, the principles of the real journalism have not changed, only our communications tools have changed.

For the future I propose that you create a commission with experts and top journalists who, when you celebrate a congress every year, can discuss and solve the needs of the winter competitions.

I thank you for the attention and I wait for your kind answer.

Best regards,

**Gianni Merlo**  
**AIPS President**