



## Positive FIS Calendar Conference in Amsterdam

While the athletes are enjoying a well deserved rest in the off-season, 350 delegates from 40 nations were hard at work when the FIS Committees and Sub-Committees assembled at the Dorint Sofitel Hotel in Amsterdam from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May for the FIS Calendar Conference.

The FIS spring administrative session was held in a good working environment and the participants enjoyed a series of fruitful discussions as Technical Committees and their Sub-Committees convened to review the past season and discuss new ideas. Brief summaries and additional reports from other committees will follow in the future editions of the FIS Newsflash as the minutes and news filter through.

## Bonnet honored at FIS Alpine Committee Meeting

The Alpine Committee meeting which rounded off the series of Sub-Committee meetings during the Amsterdam conference on the morning of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May, began its proceedings with a one minute silence in honor of former Alpine Committee Chairman Honoré Bonnet (FRA) who passed away earlier in the year at age 85.

The members of the Alpine Committee all had a chance to express their opinions during a fruitful meeting which included a discussion of proposed amendments to the Mens' and Ladies' FIS Alpine World Cup 2005/2006 calendars. Also the starting order for the FIS Alpine World Cup Downhill competitions and the course setting for slalom competitions featured on a full agenda whilst qualification competitions to control the size of the starting fields in the

finals for future FIS Alpine World Ski Championships were thoroughly discussed. Reports were given from the FIS Alpine World Championships in Bormio (ITA), as well as by the Organisers of the championships in 2007 and 2009 and the Olympic Winter Games in 2006 and 2010.

## Zoutermeer Snowdome stages Alpine Course Committee Meeting

Members of the Alpine Course Committee were inspired by their surroundings as they with the help of the Dutch Ski Federation enjoyed the luxury of staging their meeting in the superb surroundings of the indoor ski centre at Zoutermeer (HOL), around 45 minutes from the Dutch capital. The Zoutermeer facility – inaugurated in 1996 - is one of six massive indoor ski centres in the Netherlands of which the largest Snowdome at Landgraaf which has previously staged two Nokia FIS Snowboard World Cups and one FIS Alpine European Cup edition is the other.

Apart from discussing the schedule for upcoming homologations of alpine pistes, the committee also had a chance to debate the growing pressure on alpine pistes with the ever-growing number of competitors and the security measures involved in aiming to limit the number of risk factor for the athletes.

## Signals bright for future of Nordic disciplines

All Nordic disciplines seem to be approaching an exciting future based on the discussions and proposals brought up during the five-day meeting in the capital of the Netherlands. The Ski Jumping Committee considered amendments to the 2005/2006 FIS World Cup Ski Jumping

Calendar. A standardized cutting of the jumping suit also featured as one of the topics of discussion in a meeting during which the introduction of a new FIS Cup as an entry level to international ski jumping competition was debated.

The FIS Nordic Combined Committee considered amendments to the finalization of the FIS 2005/2006 Nordic Combined World Cup calendar and also had a chance to discuss the format of the FIS Nordic Combined World Cup schedule. The Committee also took the opportunity to look into the calculations of the World rankings for the FIS Nordic Combined World Cup and ways of increasing the exposure of the sport.

With an increased number of items featuring on the agenda, members of the FIS Cross Country Committee were certainly kept busy. With false starts representing a significant concern for FIS Cross Country organizers, a new start procedure for all major championships was considered along with an increase of athletes in the sprint finals from 16 to 30. The Committee supported lowering the quotas for entry to World Cup races, whilst increasing the FIS qualification points level.

### FIS Freestyle and Snowboard organizers aiming for new highs

A common theme in Amsterdam, the FIS Freestyle Committee spent a considerable amount of time in discussions about the advancements of the various different events, their present status and their future development. The Committee could reflect on a season which had the highest number of nations ever competing in the FIS Freestyle World Cup (33) and the calendar for the 2005/2006 could potentially include the largest number of organizers to date.

Discussion in and around many agenda items of the Freestyle disciplines focused on the forthcoming 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin (ITA) and the preparations for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver (CAN). Finally the calculation of the FIS points system/world rankings featured as an important item on an agenda

holding many interesting perspectives for the future.

Before the FIS Snowboard Committee began with their agenda, Norwegian athlete Line Oestvold who died following a training accident at the Snowboard Cross event in Valle Nevado, Chile in September 2004 was honored with a minute's silence. Judging from the devotion to the sport displayed by the participants during the FIS Snowboard Committee meeting, the sport is eager to develop. A varied agenda included consideration of candidates for the FIS Junior Snowboard World Championships, the addition of "Slope-style" events in the years to come, amendments to the rules and calendar planning.

### Vital issues under discussion by FIS Medical Committee

The FIS Medical Committee chaired by Professor Bengt Saltin, discussed current physical issues facing the world of skiing. The Committee applauded the positive signals from FIS' increased efforts in the fight against doping through the establishment of a comprehensive programme and the introduction of new tests which played a significant part in putting together the largest doping control programme outside of the Olympic Winter Games in connection with the 2005 FIS Nordic World Championships in Oberstdorf (GER).

Apart from the reports of medical supervisors, the members on the committee seized the opportunity to discuss the establishment of educational courses featuring among others the distribution of a FIS certified Anti-Doping E-Learning course. The Committee touched upon various matters like the changes for the 2005 Anti-doping list, the procedures for TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemptions) applications, the requirements for out of competition testing and the establishment of the WADA-ADAMS database in which FIS has been chosen to lead a pilot-project among a number of sports federations.

## Challenges ahead for FIS PR and Media Committee

With the ever growing need of publicity to make sure FIS is constantly increasing the exposure of its initiatives and competitions, the FIS PR and Media Committee tackled a full agenda. Reports on the progress of the work done by the Committee were given by chairwoman of the Committee, Elizabeth Hussey, and evaluations presented over all FIS World Championships held during the season 2004/2005.

Interesting facts and figures were shown in a complete analysis of the TV- and advertising matters during the season while the media service strategy for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games was presented by representatives of the Turin organizing committee. The options for joint marketing measures were discussed along with the quality of TV-productions and the position of advertising brands on skiing equipment during a meeting with plenty of interesting new elements to be considered for the future.

## Proposals of the FIS Committees

All proposals of the FIS Committees from their meetings in Amsterdam (NED) will be submitted to the FIS Council which meets on 21<sup>st</sup> May in Munich (GER). These include the FIS World Cup Calendars for 2005/2006, modification to rules and regulations, organization of courses and seminars. Details of the decisions of the Council will be published in the FIS Newsflash issued on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: [frandsen@fisski.ch](mailto:frandsen@fisski.ch). "FIS Newsflash" will not only be distributed via e-mail but also be published in the News section of the FIS Website.

Best regards

Svend Frandsen  
INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION  
Communications Manager