



Leader's Seminar organized in Thessaloniki (GRE)

There was little time for sight-seeing but plenty of opportunities to learn valuable lessons when Thessaloniki (GRE), located on the brink of the Thermaikos Gulf, staged the third "Leaders Seminar" from 11th to 13th November as part of the range of activities in the FIS Aid & Promotion programme.

Participants, who were welcomed by Gian Franco Kasper, President of the International Ski Federation, Demos Gyrousis, President of the Hellenic Ski Federation and Paul Michaelides, Chairman of the Working Group FIS Aid & Promotion, were treated to a series of presentations and enjoyed the opportunity to gain advice from experts as well as sharing experiences and exchanging ideas in working groups analyzing case studies - undoubtedly the highlight of the session..

The concept of the Leader's Seminar is to assist National Ski Association's help themselves through the provision of information in their efforts to improve their association's own organization. Dr. Jozef Zehnhäusern, consultant for FIS development activities and Fabienne Schnyder, a Swiss graduate in Marketing and Tourism, led proceedings in a workshop centered around how to attract potential sponsors. Melita Tsoutrelis from the Hellenic Ski Federation and member of the FIS PR and Media Committee spoke about the organization within a National Ski Association" citing the association's background and current work; Fridrik Einarsson, President of the Icelandic Ski Federation, described the association's marketing initiatives, while Madeleine Erb, Secretary to the FIS Secretary General and Zehnhäusern teamed up to elaborate on the question "How to obtain support from Olympic Solidarity". Finally, Sarah Lewis, FIS Secretary General presented the latest

doping information in order that the National Ski Association leaders are better informed about this complex subject.

Huge interest around FIS Aid & Promotion Training Camp in Vuokatti (FIN)

A training camp organized as part of the FIS Aid & Promotion program in Vuokatti (FIN) from November 20th-4th December has met with overwhelming interest from the participating nations. Due to the large number of requests, a limit of 2 athletes per National Ski Association had to be made. In total 26 athletes and 13 coaches from 15 nations will take part in the camp.

Previously a Cross-Country camp has been organized during summer in Otepää (EST) where last year 10 nations took part. On request from the National Ski Associations and athletes involved, the camp will now be organized for first time on snow. Jyri Pelkonen, Director of Vuokatti Training Center, says the aim is to organize a training period which satisfies both athletes and coaches. "The main focus will be on training on snow with participants able to benefit from theoretical as well as practical expert advice. We also aim to give instruction in preparing for competitions and training during the season", says Pelkonen. Vuokatti is renowned for its training centre for Cross-Country athletes who can count on year-round snow in an indoor ski tunnel that has a 2.4 km long track. Already from early October there is snow on the tracks outside, the length of which increase as the temperatures drop with the onset of winter.

FIS will pay for accommodation with full board for the participants, all costs for the education and practical lessons as well as the treadmill tests. The National Ski Association or their athletes and coaches

are required to pay their own travel costs and personal expenditure (extras, drinks, laundry, telephones, etc.)

Cross-Country competitions to go ahead in Beitostoelen (NOR)

Despite the lack of early season snow or cold temperatures the "VIESSMANN" FIS World Cup Cross-Country competitions will take place in Beitostoelen (NOR) on 19th-20th of November. With only a few centimetres of snow at the ski stadium and weather conditions which did not allow the production of artificial snow, there had been concerns of a possible cancellation of the competitions, but with forecasts predicting colder and snowy weather over the next days, the highly anticipated series of competitions to open the Cross-Country season have been confirmed.

This is the fourth time which the picturesque Norwegian ski resort which houses only 300 people all year round, will host a FIS Cross-Country World Cup competition. 200 athletes from 24 nations will compete against each other in the men's and ladies' competitions. Around 200 trucks carrying around 7000-8000 m² of snow will provide the foundation for a 3.3 km track around the Beitostoelen ski stadium which has been reconstructed over the last three years for approximately 6 million Norwegian Kroner. You may find the program for the competitions at Beitostoelen here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=17898

Two days before competitions get underway in Beitostoelen, athletes, trainers and other members of the ski industry are invited to join an open meeting at the Radisson SAS Resort. At the meeting Chairman of the Cross-Country Athletes Group, Vegard Ulvang and FIS Cross-Country Race Director, Jürg Capol will present the plans for the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 FIS Cross-Country World Cup as well as inform participants of the issues discussed during the FIS Cross-Country Committee meetings in October and the decisions taken at the FIS Council Meeting in Oberhofen (SUI) earlier this month.

Cross-Country TV production meeting held in Munich (GER)

In order to optimise the television coverage from the FIS Cross-Country World Cup, a TV Experts Meeting about television production of Cross-Country competitions took place at the Bayern Broadcasting Center in Munich (GER) on Tuesday 15th November.

Werner Rabe, Head of "Bayrischer Rundfunk" who led the host broadcast operation for German television's highly acclaimed coverage of the 2005 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf and Christian Knauth, FIS Communications and Marketing Director, got proceedings underway with a thorough introduction before participants were treated to a series of expert presentations on topics like television production, FIS Data and Timing Services as well as the recent developments within event formats and competition structures from ARD's Thomas Strobl, WIGE Data's Dr. Steffen Völker and FIS Cross-Country Race Director, Jürg Capol. Participants had the opportunity to benefit from a series of fruitful sessions during the meeting in which a number of case studies from several broadcasters were discussed.

Correction of the 2007 Nordic World Ski Championship programme

Please note that the competition programme in the Short Summary of Council Decisions for the above event was incorrect. The corrected version is now available in the Short Summary published in the Members Section of the FIS Website.

Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: 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

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