



**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE SKI**  
**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**  
**INTERNATIONALER SKI VERBAND**



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CH-3653 Oberhofen (Switzerland), Tel. +41 (33) 244 61 61, Fax +41 (33) 244 61 71 [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FIS MEDIA INFO**

### **FIS Appeals Commission rejects appeal from Swedish Ski Association against Christina Paluselli (ITA) in Vasaloppet**

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Oberhofen, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2006/ -- The FIS Cross-Country Skiing Appeals Commission has dismissed the appeal from the Swedish Ski Association against the decision of the Jury that rejected a protest against the race winner, Christina Paluselli (ITA), in Vasaloppet on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The Swedish Ski Federation / Åsarna IK had submitted a protest following the Vasaloppet race on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, claiming an infringement by Christina Paluselli of Article 340 of the FIS International Ski Competition Rules (ICR, edition 2004) requiring a competitor to cover the whole competition distance "using only their own means of propulsion."

The Vasaloppet Competition Jury decided against the protest immediately following the race. The Jury decision was based on a lack of proof of a violation of Article 340.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Swedish Ski Association / Åsarna IK appealed the decision of the Vasaloppet Competition Jury. According to the FIS Rules, the appeal was handled by the FIS Cross-Country Skiing Appeals Commission, for this case consisting of Karl-Heinz Lickert (GER; Chairman of the Appeals Commission and Chairman of the FIS Cross Country Sub-Committee for Rules and Control), Dietmar Miklautsch (AUT), and Hermod Björkestöl (NOR).

Based on its review of the evidence for the case, the Appeals Commission decided to uphold the Jury decision from March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The rationale for the Commission's decision was that the available evidence does not provide conclusive proof of a violation of Article 340.

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For further information, please contact:

Jürg Capol, FIS Race Director Cross-Country + 41 79 419 02 20

Sarah Lewis, FIS Secretary General on + 41 79 310 2244

Riikka Rakic, Communications Manager on +41 79 64 34 281