



MINUTES

INTERSKI INTERNATIONAL Presidium Meeting

Date: 26 February 2026

Format: Online / Teams

Attendees:

Eric Sheckleton, Stéphane Cattin, Petar Jankov, Vittorio Caffi, Thomas Braun, Pete Allison, Vanessa Mann

Left after Topic 7:

Laura Duff

Clerk:

Peter Mall

1. Meeting with U.S. State Department

Visa and Entry Guidance for Interski 2027

The Presidium welcomed **Dan Mickelson (Chief of Sports Diplomacy)** and **Nicholas Hirsch** from the U.S. State Department to discuss visa and entry procedures for participants traveling to **Interski 2027 in Vail, USA**.

Key guidance for participating nations

- Participants should **apply early** for visas or ESTA.
- Current appointment waiting times are generally manageable (example: **Sofia approx. 2–3 weeks**, globally often **within 60 days**).
- Many nations may travel under the **Visa Waiver Program (ESTA)**.
- **ESTA applications must be submitted individually.**

Important visa considerations



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- Travel to certain countries (e.g. **Cuba**) may make travelers **ineligible for ESTA**.
- These travelers must apply for a **visa instead** but can still travel to the U.S.
- **Group visa appointments may be possible** depending on the embassy.

Additional guidance

- Invitation letters are generally **not required**.
- Applicants should present a **credible travel purpose** and intent to return home.
- Hotel or flight bookings **do not need to be finalized** during application.

Border entry considerations

- Pre-screening for entry denial is **not possible**.
- Border refusals are **rare relative to total travel volume**.

2. Follow-up with U.S. State Department

The following cooperation steps were agreed:

Actions

- Interski will provide a **list of participating countries and estimated numbers**. (OC Vail 27)
- For countries with **10+ applicants**, Dan Mickelson may inform respective embassies.
- The State Department provided **official information links**.
- Interski will deliver **economic impact estimates for Vail**.

3. Presidium Actions

The Presidium agreed to communicate the following to all member nations:

Communication planned for March

Key messages:

- Apply early
- Check ESTA eligibility
- Ensure correct passport data
- Use clear travel planning statements



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Nations are encouraged to:

- **Apply for ESTA early**
- **Start visa procedures immediately where required**

4. Interski 2027 – Operational Update

Minutes

The minutes of **29 January 2026** were approved and will be published on the Interski website (coordination: **Vanessa Mann**).

Education Content

- Education Newsletter distributed.
- OC will strengthen **discipline representation**, particularly:
 - cross-country information
 - additional venue visuals.

Demo Hill / Venue

- Demo area will be moved to the **race venue**.
- Snowmaking and slope uniformity solutions are being prepared.
- Adjustments needed due to **tunnel feature**.
- Possible **freestyle features (jump / box)** under discussion.

Sponsorship

- **Mammut** confirmed as official outerwear partner (3-year agreement).
- **Falke** confirmed as base-layer partner.

Event Commitment

The Organizing Committee reaffirmed full commitment to holding **Interski 2027 in Vail**.

No support exists for postponement or relocation.

5. Governance and Schedule



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Presidium Meeting – Vail

Tentative schedule:

- June 29 – July 3
- Presidium meetings: June 30 – July 2
- Departure: July 3

General Assembly

Next **Virtual General Assembly**

Date: **Monday, October 19**

Agenda items:

- Vote on **Interski Serbia membership**
- Approval of **financial statements**

6. Future Congress – Interski 2031

The Presidium reiterated:

- Bids must come from a **member nation and host city**.
- Applications from agencies alone are **not acceptable**.

Actions

- Presidium will encourage candidate bids.
- Internal bidding timelines will be clarified.
- Official bidding guidelines will be recirculated.

7. Membership Topics



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Slovakia – IVSI / ZSL

- IVSI Presidium rejected the alternative application.
- IVSI intends to present **ZSL** for membership approval at the **General Assembly in Vail**.

A future **umbrella structure** combining stakeholders is encouraged.

Korea

Eric reported interest in Korea's **technical skiing championship model**.

Possible outcomes:

- workshop
- lecture proposal
- integration into **ISIA Day**

Environmental Working Group

- Funding secured through **UN Basel / Rotterdam / Stockholm Convention program**.
- **Dara O'Connell** appointed as support.
- Update meeting planned within **1–2 months**.

8. Financial Report

The Presidium reviewed the financial situation.

Key points

- Annual result: **Loss approx. €5,575**
- Presidium supports introducing **annual audit/revision cycle**

Administrative Seat



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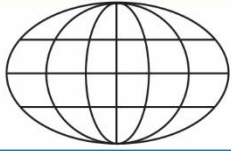


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Current administrative services in **Zug (~€10,500)** were questioned.

Relocation to **Bern** may reduce costs but would require **statutes amendment**.

Action

Stéphane Cattin will prepare a **cost comparison proposal**.

9. Additional Coordination Topics

IAESS

- Balkan Conference in Slovenia.
- Webinar series continues (next: **March 5**).

Serbia – FIS Letter

Request for a **FIS recognition letter** describing Interski as an umbrella organization.

Action

Stéphane Cattin will contact FIS leadership once wording is confirmed.

IVSI Day – Congress Program

IVSI is defining the format of **IVSI Day** during the Congress.

Decision expected after **IVSI meeting in June (Munich)**.



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