

Time for Change!

Your vote will help to create a new ISSF

You, my fellow representatives of ISSF National Federations, have the future of ISSF in your hands. I am proud to be the alternative candidate to President Lisin.

With your feedback and advice I am currently finalising my Manifesto and Action Plan as this is not “my” plan but “our” plan for the future of ISSF and shooting sports.

But before I circulate this document I would like to summarise my 5 priorities for change:

1 ISSF Management Style

The last 4 years have seen the instalment of an autocratic “top down” management style where debate is discouraged, there is no transparency, and decision making is focused on the President and his entourage. I vow to bring back the principle of democratic debate, open dialogue and respectful relationships between all stakeholders.

2 Technical Rules of the Sport

I will ensure that the technical rules of the sport, our record lists, as well as competition formats and calendars will be managed by technical experts in shooting sports and not by politicians. I will insist on a strict division to ensure the sanctity and integrity of our competitions. It is not acceptable to me to see that our technical committees have been side lined in terms of decision making. These volunteers know the sport and they take decisions that are in the interests of sport, and not just the ruling clique. I would add that it is also important that we restore the position of our Organising Committees and trust them fully. The ISSF leadership must work with OCs with mutual respect and not consider them as mere servants.

3 The ISSF needs a new approach to finance to support the neediest federations

The ISSF has no urgent financial issues. We have comfortable reserves and we do not need to depend on the gifts of a wealthy oligarch to survive. I am already in discussions with a number of first class companies who are willing to invest sponsorship income in the ISSF, should I have the honour of being elected President of the ISSF. These funds will be an additional revenue stream. I will ensure that we have a new ISSF Development Fund that is transparent, and whose management is based on the principles of good governance, working with the Continental Associations to ensure a bespoke approach to the needs of individual federations. We cannot build a sustainable future by relying on the deep pockets of one man, however rich he is.

I guarantee that if I am elected I will immediately work on an action plan to reduce costs, to restore sound and transparent financial management and to give concrete support to stakeholders who need help the most. I strongly believe that there is no “one size fits all” approach to development finance. Every federation has different needs and we must have a fair and open system that can evaluate issues quickly and make sure that support is provided at the right time and in a clear way.

4 We must remain a valued member of the Olympic Family

We must not underestimate the power of our Olympic status. Our revenue – and the revenues of national federations – is mainly derived from our share of the Olympic Games’ revenues. The IOC has already made its position very clear regarding the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. It is known that the current President of ISSF is connected to the military industrial complex in Russia that is waging a war of aggression in Ukraine.

I have received a letter of support by the Italian Olympic Committee to my candidacy for the position of President of ISSF. If we agree that our place in the Olympic Family is crucial, then it follows that we should also be electing a President who can, immediately, add value to the Olympic Movement and to the reputation of the IOC.

5 The voice of federation experts must be heard!

I will guarantee that our federation experts will be returned to the centre of all our activities. Our competition formats, our calendar and our governance style must be relevant to the federations who have the interests of our athletes at heart. I believe that the sport needs to evolve, and to attract fans and media, but only by respecting the traditions of the sport. I trust and value the views of our officials and technical experts. I guarantee that if I am elected, all decisions about the future or format of shooting events will be taken with their detailed input, and that the views of the ISSF Athletes Committee will be taken seriously as well.

The war in Ukraine is a violation of the spirit of sport

We must not turn a blind eye to the consequences of Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. This has not only led to shocking war crimes against innocent non-combatants but has led to a global economic and political crisis. This war continues to rage and its consequences – including soaring prices for energy and food – are affecting us all, both in Europe and around the world.

This war violates sacred principles including the peaceful and unifying power of sport. The IOC Executive Board, on 24 February, decided that the invasion was a violation of the Olympic Truce and led to a recommendation to all International Federations to suspend athletes **and officials** from Russia and its ally Belarus from international competitions.

How does the war impact on ISSF?

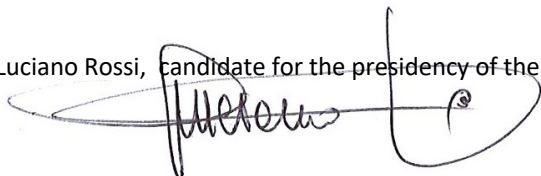
Let us consider the facts. The incumbent ISSF President, Mr Vladimir Lisin, is one of the richest men in the world. He is the owner of the largest metallurgical company in Russia, the Novolipetsk Iron and Steel Works (NLMK), which has close links to the Russian authorities, led by President Vladimir Putin. This company is a major supplier of steel for the Russian military, used in the construction of tanks and other weapons and in the nuclear industry. During the last election, the embassies of the Russian state were instructed to send letters of support for the candidacy of Mr Lisin. I have copies of these letters in my possession.

Mr Lisin is currently on a sanction list in Ukraine and Australia. A request to add Lisin to a US sanction list is currently being considered by the US Senate.

For the sake of our sport, its integrity and reputation, and our continued place in the Olympic Family, President Lisin could have volunteered to step down. He could have shown that his personal ambitions were less important than the good name of the ISSF and our continued place as a valued and important Olympic sport federation. He did not.

Now is the time to take action, for the good of the sport.

Luciano Rossi, candidate for the presidency of the ISSF



Rome, 16th November 2022