



*Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive*

**C.I.P.S.**

THE PRESIDENT

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***Praesidium meeting***  
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**Report of the CIPS President**

Unfortunately, once again, I must begin my report by speaking about the Russian/Ukrainian conflict, the end of which is still nowhere in sight. This conflict, moreover, is not the only one, considering the many other conflicts currently taking place around the world. In this regard, it should be recalled that, as far as Russia and Belarus are concerned, the Praesidium and, subsequently, the Congress decided that, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the participation of athletes from the two aforementioned countries in CIPS Championships would be suspended until an agreement was reached between the parties to put an end to this war, which for far too long has been causing countless deaths and destruction. Very recently, on 9 January, at his request, I met the President of the Russian Sport Fishing Federation, Mr Alexander Comissarov, who was on holiday in Italy, and on that occasion I had the opportunity to listen to his requests. The Russian President expressed his wish to once again be able to participate with his teams in FIPSeD Championships, justifying this request by stating that politics should always remain separate from sport. On that same occasion, I reiterated to Mr Comissarov that the possibility of returning to active participation within CIPS depends on the decisions that the IOC will take regarding the readmission of Russian and Belarusian teams and on the subsequent vote that will have to be taken during the annual CIPS Congress. Obviously, everything would be much easier if we could finally see the end of this absurd war, so that we could once again envisage competitions in which Russians and Ukrainians could, as in the past, compete side by side.

Over the past year, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has, unfortunately, been compounded by those between the United States and Israel on the one hand, and Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah on the other, thereby exacerbating the difficulties faced by all nations and teams wishing to participate in our championships, difficulties related to the very significant rise in the costs of fuel, air travel, accommodation, and so on.

As far as anti-doping is concerned, CIPS has taken note of the measures requested by WADA, including the preparation of a training plan that is mandatory for all WADA signatories. In November 2025, the Secretariat sent an email to all Federations informing them that the new List of Prohibited Substances and Methods issued by WADA had been published on the website.

(Link: [https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/2026list\\_en\\_final\\_clean\\_september\\_2025.pdf](https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/2026list_en_final_clean_september_2025.pdf))

The CIPS Secretariat also completed the Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) and, after receiving some requests for amendments from WADA in order to make the text compliant with their rules, the questionnaire successfully passed the assessment. Moreover, WADA has reminded us that CIPS must supply a Risk Assessment that represents a snapshot of our sport, containing a description of the physiological aspects of each discipline and an evaluation of all risk factors.

Of great importance is also the communication received from AIMS which, in collaboration with the International Testing Agency (ITA) and with the support of WADA, has decided to develop an operational model for the comprehensive management of the anti-doping programmes of the International Federations. This would allow a significant reduction in costs, as part of these would be covered by AIMS. This represents an opportunity for Federations to harmonise and strengthen their anti-doping programmes in view of the WADA Code 2027 and the new compliance requirements. I would also like to recall that CIPS already makes use of the assistance of the International Testing Agency (ITA) for matters concerning the issuance of TUEs and the procedures to be followed in the event of positive test results among athletes participating in Championships.

Finally, with regard to anti-doping tests, during the past year a total of 26 controls were carried out by the three International Federations and, therefore, by CIPS, of which 18 were in competition and 8 out of competition. As regards the results of the analyses, only one positive case emerged among the 26 tests carried out. This case is still under investigation in order to verify whether the positive result is attributable to a medicine taken on prescription or to an illicit act by the athlete.

As for the two positive cases detected in 2023, one of them, after two years of proceedings and with the assistance of our partner ITA, was resolved with the acquittal of the athlete through the granting of a retroactive TUE. The other positive case, unfortunately, resulted in a sanction and, in accordance with WADA regulations, the athlete's name will be published on the CIPS website.

Another situation which I feel the need to update the Praesidium on is the one that arose following the letter sent by the President of the FRPS (Romanian Sport Fishing Federation) to various European Federations. This letter intends to promote the establishment of an association called the "European Union of Sport Fishing", presented as an alternative to CIPS, and lists among its objectives the organisation of continental competitions and championships, therefore placing it in direct competition with CIPS. For this reason, following agreement with the members of the CIPS Praesidium, a letter was prepared and sent to all European Federations explaining the real situation, reaffirming that CIPS is the only organisation recognised by SportAccord and affiliated with AIMS, and clarifying the identity and role of the signatory of the letter originating from Romania. Following this communication, the Secretariat received several replies from European Federations stating that they had no intention whatsoever of adhering to the proposal.

To further complicate this situation, which has been dragging on for many years now, at the end of March we received a summons from the Bucharest Court informing us that the aforementioned FRPS has taken legal action against the AGVPSR, the Romanian Spinning League, the League of Romanian Carp Clubs and the CIPS. As regards the three Romanian associations, the claimants allege that, as things stand, they are not legally authorised to organise competitions on Romanian territory and, therefore, not even to represent Romania with their own athletes in international competitions, whilst CIPS is accused of

continuing to affiliate and thus allow representatives of the aforementioned associations to compete, whilst refusing affiliation to the FRPS which, in their view, is the only body entitled to represent Romania in international competitions. Unfortunately, however, the documents arrived in Romanian, so we were forced to have them translated in order to try to better understand how and why we had become involved in what is clearly an internal dispute within Romania. In view of all the above, we are therefore seeking legal advice and assessing whether it is necessary to instruct a Romanian lawyer to represent us in the proceedings.

With regard to new applications for affiliation to CIPS, the situation is as follows:

a. The Nigeria Sport Fresh Water Fishing Federation has applied for affiliation to CIPS for the three International Federations. Initial contacts were made with the FIPSeD Secretariat, as they had requested to participate in a couple of Championships organised by the International Freshwater Federation. The Secretariat sent a letter containing the information necessary for affiliation. Vice-President Maree was therefore asked to gather further information. He did not find any evidence that could support the application of the Nigerian Federation and suggested that photographs, official competition results and a letter from the Nigerian Olympic Committee should first be obtained before the application can be considered.

b. The National Sport Fishing Association of Malaysia requested affiliation to CIPS, although it did not specify for which International Federation. After the Secretariat sent the necessary documentation for affiliation, no further response was received.

c. The Albanian Diving Federation (Federata Shqiptare e Zhytjes) applied for affiliation to CIPS for the International Sea Federation. The Secretariat subsequently received the documentation required for affiliation.

d. The Macedonian Fishing Federation applied for affiliation to CIPS for the International Fly Fishing Federation. President Stéphane Allacker informed the Secretariat that he would verify the compliance of the documentation.

e. The RSSFA – Recreational Sportfishing & Sustainability Federation of Israel requested affiliation to CIPS for the three International Federations. The Secretariat sent a letter containing the information necessary for affiliation, specifying that FIPSeD already has the ISRAFISH Federation affiliated, which participates in the Championships. After sending the documentation, no further response was received.

f. The CIPS Secretariat received a request for information from Mr Juan Carlos Castaño (Colombia) regarding affiliation and participation in FIPSeD competitions. Following this, the CIPS Secretariat immediately replied and provided the representative from Colombia with the requested information. To this day, however, there have been no further developments;

g. The Chinese Celebrity Fishing Association has requested information regarding affiliation with FIPSeD, which, as usual, was immediately provided by the secretariat. Subsequently, having received no updates, the secretariat wrote again to Mr Huang Wei asking whether the aforementioned Federation was still interested in affiliation. We are awaiting a reply.

To complicate matters, last week we were contacted by a second Chinese association (the CAA – China Angling Association), which expressed a strong interest in joining CIPS, so we are currently gathering information on the matter.

h. The Secretariat received a communication from the Union Marocaine de Pêche Sportive (UMPS) stating that the Académie des Activités de Pêche Maroc, already affiliated to CIPS through FIPS-Mer, had decided to merge into the aforementioned UMPS. The Secretariat contacted the Federation affiliated with CIPS to request confirmation of the merger and informed it that the request would in any case have to be ratified at the CIPS Congress. The Académie des Activités de Pêche Maroc has officially communicated the integration of the two organisations.

This affiliation forms part of a broader dynamic aimed at the development and organisation of the sport fishing sector in Morocco. UMPS is a national organisation dedicated to the promotion and structuring of sport fishing at both national and international level. It brings together 30 associations across several regions of the country and covers the two main disciplines of our sport: sea fishing and freshwater fishing. It should also be recalled that last year the CIPS Congress, following a specific request from the Académie des Activités de Pêche Maroc, unanimously approved the cancellation of its affiliation with FIPSeD, as it did not have a sufficient number of clubs practising freshwater disciplines.

The CIPS Secretariat, having taken into account the comments made by the President of FIPS-Mer regarding the communications received from the two Moroccan associations mentioned above, has written to the Director of the Ministry of Sport, National Education and Pre-school Education of the Kingdom of Morocco, requesting definitive clarification as to which Moroccan sport fishing association is officially authorised to represent Morocco in CIPS competitions.

To this day, we are still awaiting a reply.

With regard to the financial situation relating to the 2025 payments of CIPS membership fees by the National Federations, the situation is as follows:

- Azerbaijan: 300 euros (FIPSeD);
- Djibouti: 900 euros (FIPS-Mer);
- India: 2,700 euros (FIPSeD – FIPS-Mer – FIPS-Mouche);

Another important situation in progress concerns the relationship with the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF). Already last year, contacts had been made with its President, Mrs Alena Klauser, with the aim of opening a constructive dialogue and evaluating possible prospects for this International Federation to join CIPS. On 28 November, the ICSF Elective Assembly was held in Budapest. As I was unable to attend in person due to the simultaneous staging of a World Championship in Mexico, and not knowing that our friend Andries Maree would also be attending the Congress as a delegate from South Africa, I asked Mario Podmanik, who was closest to the venue, to attend on behalf of CIPS. For more detailed information on the outcomes of the Assembly, I believe that the members of the Praesidium who were present will be better informed.

Another serious issue we had to deal with during the past year was the appeal filed with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against CIPS and FIPS-Mer by the Northern Ireland Federation of Sea Anglers, which opposed the unanimous decision of our last Congress to deny their affiliation to CIPS. This obviously forced us to seek lawyers specialising in international sports law in order to follow the matter with the utmost attention. For this reason, our Court President, Mr José Louis Bruna, was entrusted with identifying the appropriate legal counsel and following all stages of the proceedings. We are now

awaiting the CAS decision and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend José Louis for all he has done and for his commitment.

At the 2022 CIPS Congress, our participation in World Environment Day, to be held on 5 June each year, was unanimously approved. For this reason, a letter was sent to all National Federations asking them to organise events dedicated to environmental protection, particularly of both fresh and salt waters, on that day. In the letter, we also requested information on the activities carried out so that they could be promoted on our social media channels. Unfortunately, no response was received. At its meeting on January 23, 2026, the Praesidium resolved to send a second letter to all federations encouraging them to organize an event for this occasion on the next day, June 5, 2026.

The secretariat sent the letter but received only a reply from the Federation of Kyrgyzstan.

Speaking of the environment, I am gathering detailed information on whether the European Community is moving forward with a regulation that would ban the use of lead in both hunting and fishing activities. At present, nothing is certain, but there are several rumours indicating an attempt to move in this direction. As soon as I have definite information, I will inform you immediately. In the meantime, I am in contact with various European parliamentarians in an attempt to mitigate what appears to be a development that could cause enormous damage to our sector, at least as far as competitions held in Europe are concerned.

As regards the preparation of the Code of Ethics requested by the IOC, I believe that my friend Mr Allacker will be able to better explain the current situation on this matter.

Last, but not least, I would like to update you on the possibilities for our Confederation to be recognised by various international organisations, such as the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International World Games Association (IWGA).

As far as the IPC is concerned, I would say that at present our chances of recognition are close to zero, since, despite repeated letters sent to the various National Federations, participation in our World Coarse Fishing Championship for People with Disabilities has not exceeded 9–10 countries, while World Championships for People with Disabilities in other disciplines, such as Freshwater Feeder Fishing, Surf Casting and Sea Shore Angling, are struggling to get off the ground.

A different situation applies, however, with regard to our recognition by the IOC. In this case, the number of affiliated nations, the scale of our activities (Championships) and the overall set of our characteristics would suggest that there is a tangible possibility of being recognised in the future, although not in the near term. The problem is that the IOC is an entity that moves at a snail's pace and has not recognised any new International Federations for many years, if not decades. Therefore, good prospects, but geological timeframes.

Where I see a better chance of success, and perhaps within a more reasonable timeframe, is recognition by the IWGA, as the requirements they impose on International Federations appear to be far less pressing and considerably less complicated. In this respect, I would remind you that the ICSF is already recognised by this organisation. My proposal is therefore to continue pressing for IOC recognition while, at the same time, preparing all the documentation to be submitted to the IWGA in order to request their recognition.

I would like to conclude by reminding everyone that, thanks to our South African friends, the 5th edition of the World Fishing Games will be held in South Africa in 2027. All three International Federations will be represented with Championships, and there will also be two ICSF Championships: the Senior Casting World Championship and the Ladies Casting World Championship.

At the end of my report, I would like to thank all the members of the Praesidium for their cooperation and support, the Auditors for their patience and expertise, and all the office staff, without whom it would not be possible to cope with the volume of work that reaches us on a daily basis.