

Open letter from Greenpeace to the President of the International Ski Federation (FIS), Mr. Johan Eliasch and FIS Council members

Mr. President, Council Members,

As global emissions continue to skyrocket, the climate crisis is rapidly unfolding, causing devastation to people and nature across the planet. Changing weather conditions, including massive intensification of extreme weather events, are causing untold misery to millions of people around the world. It is a threat to lives and livelihoods everywhere.

Alpine regions are particularly affected by global heating, with significantly higher temperature increases than on average globally. Glaciers are shrinking at an alarming rate and snowfall patterns are in utter disarray, as the cancellation of multiple races due to lack of snow in the past skiing world cup season demonstrates.

Over 500 professional winter sports athletes have addressed their concerns about the lack of climate action by FIS, including calls for halving emissions by 2030 in line with science and full transparency. We see little action to date that these concerns are being addressed with the urgency they require. Whilst it is promising to hear that a strategy on how to decrease emissions is in the works and that an - albeit methodologically questionable - estimation of FIS emissions has been published on the website, the reference to FIS as being climate positive is, quite frankly, absurd and blatant greenwashing.

Rather than take real climate action and steps to reduce the emissions of FIS and the sport, as so many of your athletes demand, offsetting emissions in a non-transparent way is no answer to the climate crisis. On the contrary, the alpine skiing calendar now foresees athletes as well as their teams and equipment to travel across the Atlantic not once, but twice per season, significantly increasing the negative climate impact of the world cup.

Greenpeace therefore calls upon the FIS President and Council Members to respond to the demands of so many professional athletes and the climate crisis which, left unchecked, threatens the very existence of winter sports.

To act responsibly and address the climate crisis in a fitting manner FIS should:

- Refrain from referring to the federation as climate positive (or climate neutral).
- Refrain from offsetting emissions. This does not preclude FIS from supporting projects such as rainforest protection, which is a good and useful thing to be doing, albeit as additional to and not as a substitute for reducing own emissions and not under the title of carbon offsetting, CO2 compensation, climate neutrality/positivity or comparable terms.
- Adjust the racing calendar to ensure travel related emissions are kept to a minimum.
- Put forward a credible plan to halve emissions by 2030 and to reduce emissions as close as possible to real-zero, that is without offsetting, by 2040.

The athletes who participate in winter sports under the FIS are role models. Over 500 of these athletes have highlighted their climate concerns to you. We look forward to hearing from you as to how FIS intends to heed the call of these athletes, act as a role model itself and take responsibility for the climate crisis.

Best regards,



Mads Flarup Christensen
Interim International Executive Director