

Dear Mr. Eliasch,

We listened with great interest to your interview on Swedish Radio^[1] and we wanted to express gratitude for your very constructive statements.

Indeed, you highlighted that *“The criticism of the early season start to the Alpine World Cup season is bringing much-needed pressure on the issue^[2]”* and that *“Every reaction helps the discussion. It shows that public opinion is in favour of delaying the start of the season^[3]”*. Furthermore, the fact that you agree to more transparency in FIS’s climate work^[4]—one of the key requests from our petition—gives us great hope that FIS will soon become the climate leader our planet needs.

Protect Our Winters reiterates its commitment to support FIS in that ambitious, urgent and necessary path. To that end, the more than 500 athletes who signed the initial letter^[5] and the more than 31 000 signatories of our petition ask FIS to share its strategy and timeline for the following steps:

1. Implement a target-based sustainability strategy, including a roadmap to achieve a 50% emissions reduction by 2030.
2. Publish FIS’s environmental impact with full transparency^[6].
3. Adapt the competition calendar to reduce the impact of travel and respect the changing climate.
4. Use FIS’s political influence to advocate for climate action at a governmental level.

1) As a signatory of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework (UNFCCC), in November 2019^[7], FIS has committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and submit within 12 months its plans to UN Climate Change^[8]. This plan is now almost four years late. Our petition calls for it to be published. Additionally, not including externally organised events in emissions calculations would not align with the UNFCCC framework. As FIS sets the dates and locations of its events, FIS should choose venues that commit to a level of sustainability or to insist on a set level of sustainability by event organisers.

2) It is Protect Our Winters’s view and the view of many leading climate experts^[9] that offsets should only be used to compensate for those emissions that cannot be avoided at an operational level. All the offsets claimed by FIS are situated in the Amazon, hence more transparency is critical in this case^[10]. Avoided deforestation projects have to be assessed for additionality^[11]. Proof of this along with the volume of financing directed to and the amount of carbon preserved by these projects should be made publicly.

In your response to our petition, FIS mentions that it is working to strengthen partnerships with other Sport Federations and NGOs on sustainability issues, following SDGS goal 17. Protect our Winters would like to see published examples of this and how you are spreading awareness among your National Associations about how best they can cut emissions and reduce their environmental impact.

3) We have realised that Sölden starts on the same date as in 2019. As a study in *Nature*^[12] shows, average snow cover during winter in the Alps has been reduced by 36 days, we

recommend following the science and delay the season start by at least one month to fit the available science.

4) It is not too late for FIS to take meaningful, transparent, and truly impactful action, and POW is here to be your ally in this important work.

We wish everybody a great race this weekend in Sölden.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Maltby

President

Protect Our Winters Europe

[1] <https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/fis-basen-ser-skal-att-forskjuta-alpina-sasongen-viktigt>

[2] *"Kritiken mot den tidiga säsongstarten för alpina världscupen ger välbehövligt tryck i frågan menar Johan Eliasch, svensk ordförande för internationella skid- och snowboardförbundet FIS".*

[3] *"Alla reaktioner hjälper diskussionen. Det visar att public opinion tycker att det är viktigt att förskjuta säsongstarten"*

[4] *Klimatuppropet som nu samlat över 27 000 underskrifter kräver även mer transparens i FIS klimatarbete - och även där kan Eliasch hålla med.*

[5] <https://protectourwinters.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/FIS-open-letter-230209.pdf>

[6] https://greenpeace.at/uploads/2023/05/evaluierung-fis_finalexc_sum.pdf

[7] <https://www.fis-ski.com/en/international-ski-federation/news-multimedia/news/fis-joins-united-nations-sports-for-climate-action-framework>

[8] <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/sports-for-climate-action>

[9] <https://www.theenergymix.com/2021/11/28/treat-carbon-offsets-as-last-resort-carney-advises-investors/>

[10] <https://www.ft.com/content/4cb93468-d9bd-4dbc-84bc-77e2b3739a7a>

[11] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/revealed-forest-carbon-offsets-biggest-provider-worthless-verra-aoe>

[12] <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-022-01575-3>