



To:

LEN President Mr. P. Barelli

LEN General Secretary Mr. D. Sparkes

LEN Treasurer and Bureau Members

cc: FINA Executive Diretor

cc: LEN Executive Director Gianni Minervini

Dear Mr. Barelli and Mr. Sparkes,

To our surprise we took notice of the letter from General Secretary Mr. Sparkes dated 18th October 2021 to some of the LEN federations with the subject “Request for a LEN Extraordinary Congress”.

Your motivation: “In order to ensure due diligence and that the LEN Constitution is fully respected, LEN would need to formally verify the validity of this request.”

In your letter you are responding to a signed letter from 25 federations received by LEN on 12th October 2021 while you do not mention the presentation of the original request at the LEN Congress of 25th September 2021 in Budapest. This request signed by 24 federations has been publicly, during the Congress, handed over by Mr. António da Silva, President of the Portuguese Swimming Federation to acting Chairman and General Secretary Mr. Sparkes after having read out the request completely and mentioning all the names of the signing federations. The delegates of the respective federations, as formally excepted by you, were present at the Congress. The acting Chairman and General Secretary accepted this request without referring to any formal condition on signing.

It is absolutely clear the request has been made and presented in accordance with the LEN Constitution, in particular article 9.6. It strikes our attention the LEN General Secretary sends this letter more than 3 weeks (!) after the LEN Congress and without mentioning any particular rule or reason for this kind of demand to the federations. The last line of the letter is anyhow not in accordance with the LEN Constitution.

We wonder whether this letter has been sent by decision and with support of the LEN Bureau. Do the LEN Bureau members really accept this approach to a publicly in LEN Congress presented request for an Extraordinary Congress clearly supported by more than the minimum number of 20 federations?

The letter of 12th October 2021 signed by 25 federations clearly confirmed the request. There is no discussion about the legality of the request. Apparently, the General Secretary is trying to create obstacles for the request for an extraordinary congress while summoned in accordance with the LEN Constitution. Instead, it would have been a sign of respect for democracy if LEN by now would have shown its willingness to organize the extraordinary congress in a proper way.





We protest against this letter from General Secretary Mr. Sparkes. We do not see any legal reason for the demand to the federations to confirm the support for the request, especially after the accordance of the petition by two of the bureau members in the last FINA Bureau Meeting, held of 11th October of 2021 (Mr. David Sparks and Mr. Fernando Carpena).

We request the LEN Bureau to discuss this matter in the LEN Bureau meeting of 20th October 2021.

At your disposal.

Greetings,

António José Silva

Portuguese Swimming Federation President

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