



Torino, 28 February 2025

Object: Follow up on notification of ethical concerns and corrective action required

Dear Mr Smitz,

On behalf of the Nomination Committee, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 27 February 2025 and appreciate the corrective actions taken in response to our request in the letter addressed to you dated 20 February 2025. After careful deliberation, the Nomination Committee would like to address the following key points, for which you will be referred to as the Candidate henceforth:

1. Compliance with Nomination Committee Requests

The Nomination Committee recognises that the Candidate complied with the requests made regarding the removal of social media posts, and the issuance of formal apologies and public statements. These actions demonstrate a willingness to adhere to the necessary procedures set out by the Nomination Committee.

2. Voluntary Disclosure

The Nomination Committee notes, however, that the Candidate chose not to disclose the reasoning behind the issued apologies and public statements, which in this case is following the request of the IOC and the Nomination Committee. Given the sensitivity of the matter and the broader context of the electoral process, this is considered a missed opportunity to reinforce transparency and demonstrate full accountability. Without a full explanation, the public may perceive them as spontaneous and self-initiated, rather than part of a remedial process, and this omission risks creating an incomplete or misleading narrative towards the stakeholders. Transparency is a cornerstone of trust in the electoral process, and candidates are expected to uphold this principle proactively. By opting not to provide such clarification, the opportunity to demonstrate sincere recognition of the damage caused was not fully utilised.

3. Request to use the amended manifesto

After careful review of the Candidate's request to publish an amended version of the electoral manifesto, the Nomination Committee determined that the request cannot be accommodated: the submission is considered outside the established deadlines, which is not something the Nomination Committee can grant in the current election framework. Furthermore, given the responsibilities associated with this role, it is expected that candidates anticipate and carefully consider the implications of their campaign materials and communications without needing external guidance.

4. Conclusion

The Nomination Committee acknowledges the corrective actions taken and considers them to be compliant with the requests made. Therefore, the Candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election, and will have the opportunity to present his vision and programme at the upcoming General Assembly in accordance with the established procedures. For the remainder of the process, the Nomination Committee will continue to closely monitor the conduct of the Candidate until the election.

The Nomination Committee believes that candidates standing for the presidency are not only expected to comply with the rules but to exemplify the highest standards of responsibility, foresight, and ethical conduct, and to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the ethical principles governing the electoral process, including fairness, neutrality, transparency, and accountability. The Nomination Committee remains committed to ensuring fairness and transparency for all candidates and appreciates your cooperation and efforts made in maintaining the integrity of this process.

Kind regards,

Dagmawit Girmay Berhane
Chair of the Nomination Committee