

UIPM Executive Board Meeting

The UIPM Executive Board (EB) assembled at short notice following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, supported by Belarus. 1st Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch (also VP of the International Olympic Committee) provided an update on the decisions announced by the IOC EB at its extraordinary meeting earlier the same day. 1st VP Samaranch advised that UIPM follow the recommendation of the IOC not to invite athletes and coaches from Russia and Belarus to competitions for an undefined period.

Extensive discussions took place, with almost all EB members including the three members from Russia and Belarus exchanging their views. There was a consensus that the events in Ukraine were deeply concerning and any impact on the sporting careers of Russian and Belarussian athletes and coaches was deeply regrettable. Nonetheless, following a number of remarks that the EB should take the lead of the IOC and not seek to take a unilateral stance that might put the Union out of step with the Olympic movement, President Dr Klaus Schormann called a vote based on the following question:

“Do we agree that the Board will not allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in UIPM-sanctioned international competitions, to protect the integrity of the sport and for the safety of all the participants?”

There were 12 EB members in attendance who had a right to vote, with three ineligible due to a conflict of interests. All 12 voted in favour of the motion.