

COMMUNICATION FROM THE IOC ON 30 MAY 2024

Dear Presidents, Dear Secretaries General,

Please allow us to update you on developments since the [IOC's declaration against the politicisation of sport](#) in March.

At the time, the IOC warned that the Russian government was intending to organise purely politically motivated sports events in Russia, and that the Russian government had created and funded the "International Friendship Association" (IFA) in order to host the summer and winter "Friendship Games".

In the latest development, the Russian government has appointed ex-FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke, who was convicted for corruption, as head of the association, as [reported in Russian media](#). Valcke was suspended by FIFA and given a suspended sentence for corruption in Switzerland.

To further underline the political nature of this appointment, his role was approved by the President of the Russian Federation. It was also made clear that all further decisions on the format and organisation of these games will be taken by the Russian Federation's Sports Ministry.

In light of such a political appointment, the IOC reiterates its strong demand that all stakeholders of the Olympic Movement and all governments reject any participation in, and support of, any initiative such as the so-called "Friendship Games" whose purpose is to fully politicise international sport.

We remain available to discuss any questions you may have on this.

Thank you and best regards,

Emi Schiliuk
*Manager of the Director's Office
Sports Department*