



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

NOC Relations Department

Mr Lefteris AVGENAKIS
Deputy Minister for Sports
Ministry of Culture and Sports
Greece

Lausanne, 14 September 2020

New sports law

Dear Mr Avgenakis,

It has come to our attention that a new sports law will be discussed this week at the Greek Parliament.

We would like to reiterate the IOC's position and respectfully ask the concerned authorities to ensure that this new law is fully compatible with the principle of "responsible autonomy" for sports organisations belonging to the Olympic Movement, as specified in the Olympic Charter, in particular paragraph 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, which reads: *Recognising that sport occurs within the framework of society, sports organisations within the Olympic Movement shall apply political neutrality. They have the rights and obligations of autonomy, which include freely establishing and controlling the rules of sport, determining the structure and governance of their organisations, enjoying the right of elections free from any outside influence and the responsibility for ensuring that principles of good governance be applied.*

As repeatedly indicated in the past, the sports law may establish a number of reasonable conditions (aimed, in particular, at ensuring that the basic principles of good governance are implemented) for the sports organisations to be eligible to benefit from government support and public funding, however it should not impose requirements which would be in breach of the Olympic Charter (for the NOC) or the statutes of the International Federations concerned (for the National Federations). In addition, any such conditions should be discussed with the sports organisations directly concerned beforehand.

This approach is summarised in the reference document (attached) which has been produced as a result of Recommendation 28 of Olympic Agenda 2020 to facilitate harmonious and productive relations between NOCs/National Federations and their respective government authorities whilst ensuring full respect for the principle of "responsible autonomy" and mutual understanding of each one's jurisdiction and responsibilities.

Lastly, we have already made it clear on several occasions that the specific term limitations which are being considered as part of this law should not apply retroactively, and we understood that appropriate action would be taken by the Greek authorities to clarify and confirm this interpretation in order to avoid any misunderstanding or legal disputes.

We are counting on your full support to ensure that the above-mentioned position is carefully considered in the discussions this week, so as to address these issues smoothly and amicably, in the interest of the Olympic Movement in Greece.

Unfortunately, we have not had an opportunity to meet you in person over the past few months, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, however we hope that we will soon be able to organise such meeting.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, and we remain fully at your disposal should you need any further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Macleod', with a stylized, cursive script.

James MACLEOD
Director of Olympic Solidarity and NOC Relations

Copy: Spyros CAPRALOS, IOC Member, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee