

OFFICIAL INVITATION



IBU

16TH ORDINARY **IBU** CONGRESS

26 SEP – 29 SEP 2024 | BELGRADE SRB

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Dear Presidents, Dear Secretaries General, Dear Biathlon Family,

In accordance with the IBU Rules of Congress, the Executive Board of the International Biathlon Union has the honour of inviting you to the

16TH ORDINARY IBU CONGRESS

In Belgrade, Serbia, which will take place **from 26 until 29 September 2024**

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2024 (all times local time)	
Morning	Arrival of delegates
14:00 - 18:00	Workshops for NF leaders
19:00	Opening Reception
FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2024	
09:00 - 12:00	Keynotes and Panel Discussions
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 17:30	Congress, Day 1
19:00	Congress Dinner
SATURDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2024	
09:30 - 12:30	Congress, Day 2
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 17:00	Congress, Day 2
19:00	Biathlon Gala Dinner
SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2024	
09:30	Walk-and-Talk Tour of Belgrade
12:00	Lunch
13:30	Departure

- ▶ **NATIONAL MEMBER FEDERATIONS**
(full and provisional members)
- ▶ **IBU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**
- ▶ **CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES** (TC, AC)
- ▶ **BIATHLON INTEGRITY UNIT BOARD**
- ▶ **IBU WCH CANDIDATES 2028 AND 2029**
- ▶ **IBU WCH HOSTS LENZERHEIDE 2025 AND OTEPÄÄ 2027**
- ▶ **MILANO CORTINA 2026**
- ▶ **GUESTS OF THE IBU**

The Executive Board looks forward to welcoming you to the Congress and wishes you a nice summer and a safe trip to Belgrade!

Yours sincerely,



Olle Dahlin

IBU President



Max Cobb

IBU Secretary General



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WORDS OF WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT	4
INFORMATION ON THE CONGRESS	5
INFORMATION ON THE CONGRESS CITY	7
INFORMATION FOR CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS	8
CONTACT DETAILS	10

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

▶ Application for visa invitation letter	15 June 2024
▶ Official registration of Congress Delegates by name	28 June 2024
▶ Motions - Rule Amendments	28 June 2024
▶ Nomination of candidates for Technical Committee election (one position)	28 June 2024
▶ Hotel booking	28 June 2024

WORDS OF WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT

Dear Biathlon Friends,

I am delighted to invite you to the 16th Ordinary IBU Congress in Belgrade, Serbia.

It will be a historic Congress as together we take the next step forward in our transformative journey to realise our sport's enormous potential.

As we all know, together we have made incredible progress.

Our Target 26 strategic plan has guided us over the last four years across every aspect of biathlon and pushed us forward to deliver the very best sport for our athletes and fans.

Our 2023/2024 record-breaking season was symbolic of the advancements that have been made. As ever, our athletes thrilled fans with their spectacular performances and dramatic competitions, which were enjoyed by record numbers at the stadium at Nové Město na Moravě and as broadcast audiences. Record engagement across our digital and social media channels touched millions more.

It was also our most sustainable season yet. The hosts of the World Championships and all nine World Cups voluntarily signed the IBU's new Sustainability Charter, pledging to concrete actions, in a demonstration of the biathlon family's collective commitment to leading the way in sports sustainability.

Throughout the year, our IBU Academy has supported the biathlon community with educational programmes and webinars and our new Financial Support System is helping National Federations accelerate their development and to "Close the Gap."

Such has been our progress; we are on track to complete Target 26 by the time of this year's Congress where our 15-month action plan will reach its conclusion. But just like our athletes, we must use this success as motivation to achieve more. This is the purpose of Target 2030.

We are grateful to everyone for their contributions and feedback, and we look forward to presenting the consolidated and collaborative Target 2030 at the Congress. This and more will be covered during the Congress. As particular highlights I would like to mention the election of the hosts of the 2028 and 2029 IBU World Championships and the Workshops for NF leaders on various key topics in the afternoon on Thursday 26 September, among other important agenda items.

You can find all the key information for your attendance at the Congress included in this invitation.

I hope to see you in Belgrade.

Yours sincerely,



Olle Dahlin
IBU President



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INFORMATION ON THE CONGRESS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Hyatt Regency Belgrade is the official hotel of the 16TH IBU Congress.

It is an eight-story hotel located on the New Belgrade side of the Sava River near the Convention Centre and USCE Shopping Mall.



For further information, please consult:

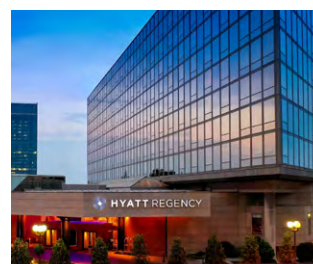
Hyatt Regency Belgrade

Milentija Popovica 5, Belgrade 11070, Serbia

Phone: +381 11 301 1234,

email: belgrade.regency@hyatt.com

Website: www.hyatt.com

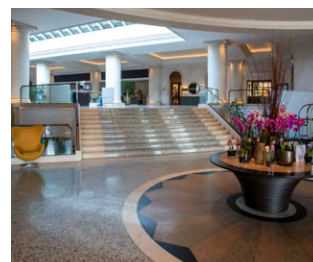


If you would like to stay at another hotel of your choice, please contact

Jumbo Travel Agency

Phone: +381 11 303 88 77

email: putovanja@jumbo.rs



B. ROOMS AND ROOM RATE

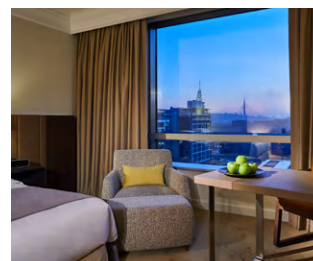
We have pre-reserved rooms in the following categories:

- **Standard double room** for € 170.00 per night/ per room (excl taxes & fees)
- **Standard single room** for € 150.00 per night/ per room (excl taxes & fees)

To book the room in the Hyatt, please use the following link latest on 28 June 2024:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELGR/G-IBUC>

Please note, the booking website functions best with Google Chrome and Edge browsers.



Make sure to receive a booking confirmation; for any issues with booking procedures, please contact belgrade.regency@hyatt.com

In the event of booking cancellations after 28 June 2024, a fee will apply. The IBU will duly inform the respective NF and proceed with the charges accordingly.

C. MEALS

Breakfast is included in the room rate.

The IBU will offer a lunch buffet on all Congress days. As part of the Congress programme, an evening reception with food and beverages will be offered on Thursday, 26 September.

The dinners on Friday, 27 September, and Saturday, 28 September, will be hosted by the IBU and the Biathlon Union of Serbia.

D. PAYMENT OPTIONS

Please pay for your hotel accommodation upon departure from the hotel, at the latest.

You have the choice of paying by credit card.

E. ARRIVAL AND PARKING

Travel by plane: Belgrade Airport is located 15 km to the west of the hotel.

Public Transportation from the airport to the hotel: Bus line 72 (Route: Airport - Zeleni venac Square) approximate travel time: 30 minutes

Shuttle: Please send your request to drive@jumbo.rs or call +381 65 303 55 88. When requesting a transfer please include: the names of the people traveling, a contact phone number, arrival / departure flight number, date and time, pick-up location and destination. The request must be sent at least 15 days prior to the transfer date.

Alternatively, taxis are available and a trip to the city centre will cost approximately EUR 20-25.

Hotel parking: Hotel guests may use an open parking space for € 19 per vehicle/night or a garage for € 39 per vehicle/night.

F. VISA

Congress participants coming from the following visa duty countries:

▶ **LEB** ▶ **UZB** ▶ **THA**

are obliged to obtain an entry visa for their entry into the Republic of Serbia.

The entry visa will be issued by the Embassy of Serbia in the participants' respective countries based on an invitation letter from the Biathlon Union of Serbia.

The above-mentioned NFs must send a completed "Application form for visa invitation letter" by using IBU Scope 2.1 (scope.ibu.at) by 15 June 2024.

- Surname, first name(s)
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Nationality
- Passport number and passport expiry date
- Address and telephone

INFORMATION ON THE CONGRESS CITY

Nestled along the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Belgrade is a city that effortlessly blends history, culture, and a vibrant contemporary spirit. As the capital of Serbia, it serves as a dynamic crossroads between Eastern and Western influences, reflected in its architecture, cuisine, and people.

One of Belgrade's most striking features is its rich historical cityscape. From the ancient remnants of the Belgrade Fortress, with its commanding views over the city, to the ornate facades of Orthodox churches and Ottoman mosques, history comes alive on every corner.

Visitors can wander through the winding streets of the charming Skadarlija district, known as the Bohemian Quarter, where lively cafes and traditional taverns spill out onto cobblestone streets.

But Belgrade is no relic of the past; it's a city pulsating with energy and creativity. The vibrant nightlife scene is legendary, with an abundance of clubs, bars, and floating river clubs lining the banks of the Sava. Here, locals and visitors alike dance until dawn to the beat of electronic music or revel in the sounds of traditional Serbian folk music.

For those seeking relaxation, Belgrade offers plenty of green spaces to unwind, including the sprawling Kalemegdan Park and the lush Ada Ciganlija Island, where one can sunbathe, swim, or enjoy various recreational activities.

Moreover, Belgrade's culinary scene is a delightful fusion of flavours, drawing on influences from across the Balkans and beyond. From hearty grilled meats and savoury burek pastries to delicate pastries and strong Turkish coffee, every meal is a culinary adventure.

In Belgrade, history, culture, and modernity converge to create an unforgettable experience for visitors, leaving them enchanted by the city's charm and eager to return for more.



INFORMATION FOR CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS

A. DELEGATES' RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE, REGISTRATION

All full members may attend the Congress with up to three (3) delegates (Art. 7.1.2, 15.1-15.3 of IBU Constitution) while provisional members may register up to two (2) delegates (Art 2.3 of the Rules of the Congress).

If an NF Member nominates more than one delegate for a meeting of the IBU Congress, there must be at least one delegate of the male gender and at least one delegate of the female gender.

To register the NF Congress delegates by name, NFs are requested to use their account on the IBU Scope 2.1 available here scope.ibu.at and **complete their registration by 28 June 2024**.

NOTE: The IBU will provide the NFs with financial assistance for attending this Ordinary Congress as follows:

- € 650 for European Federations from the following nations: HUN, CRO, BIH, SRB, BUL, ROU, MKD
- € 1000 for other European Federations
- € 2000 for non-European Federations

The contribution will be paid by bank transfer, after the end of the Congress.

B. GUEST REGISTRATION

All Congress guests, candidates for election, members of event organising committees, representatives of the official candidates for hosts of the IBU World Championships and IBU partners are invited to register here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCH8ZPR> by the **registration deadline of 28 June 2024**.

Guests are also requested to book their rooms in the Hyatt directly using the following link **latest on 28 June 2024**: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELGR/G-IBUC>

C. NF MEMBER RIGHTS

Full members may submit motions to the IBU Congress (Art. 7.1.4), nominate candidates for official functions (7.1.5., 7.1.5.1, 7.1.5.2), and vote (Art 7.1.3).

Each full member has one vote. The head of the delegation will exercise the right to vote for the NF delegation. The head of the delegation must be a citizen of the NF Member's Country (Art.15.2).

Deferring the right to vote to others (voting by proxy) is not allowed.

Provisional members may attend the IBU Congress and may be heard (Art. 7.2.1 of IBU Constitution). However, according to the IBU Constitution, they are not permitted to file motions or submit nominations, or to vote.

A person may not be a delegate for more than one NF Member at a Congress.

No member of the Executive Board, the BIU Board, or any IBU Staff may be a delegate of an NF Member at Congress (Art. 15.3)

D. OVERVIEW OF CONGRESS 2024 DEADLINES

DATE	ACTION
Deadline for submission 15 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request for a visa application support letter: LEB, UZB, THA
Deadline for submission 28 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motions to amend the IBU Rules and/or Constitution• Nomination of candidates for TC election (one position)• Hotel booking
30 days before Congress 27 August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of the digital Congress Handbook and Congress Agenda

E. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE IBU RULES AND CONSTITUTION

According to Art. 7.1.4 of the IBU Constitution, any full IBU member federation may submit motions to amend or modify the IBU Rules. Please use the NF account on the IBU Scope 2.1 here scope.ibu.at **no later than 28 June 2024 to submit your NF motions.**

F. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE IBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Technical Committee Member Nomination

There will be one open position for the IBU Technical Committee to be elected according to Art 13.2.7 and Art. 26.2

Background: Tomi-Pekka Riihivuori/Finland, originally elected in 2022 until 2026, has stepped down from his position in the IBU Technical Committee after assuming the role of IBU Para Biathlon Manager and IBU Para Biathlon World Cup Race Director.

Nominations for election to the Technical Committee must be submitted in accordance with Article 26 (Technical Committee) of the Constitution and Article 4.1(d) of the Rules of Congress. They must be signed by the President or Secretary General of the nominating NF Member and must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Only persons who have been proposed in writing by a full IBU member federation 90 days before the beginning of the Congress may be elected to the Technical Committee.

The personal presence of the candidate is desirable, but not mandatory (Art. 13.2 Rules of Congress). The person elected will remain in office until the next elections that will be held at the Congress 2026.

Eligibility of IBU Officials. Any person who represents and/or works on behalf of the IBU, whether as a result of election or appointment or otherwise, is an IBU Official. To be eligible as an IBU Official the requirements in Article 26 of the Constitution must be fulfilled, including the Vetting Rules.

To nominate a candidate, please use the NF account on the IBU Scope 2.1 here scope.ibu.at **no later than 28 June 2024.**

G. IBU EVENTS TO BE AWARDED

The following IBU events will be awarded at the 2024 Congress in Belgrade:

- **IBU World Championships Biathlon 2028***
- **IBU World Championships Biathlon 2029***

There are three official candidates that submitted their intent to apply for the events being awarded at the Congress 2024 by the **deadline of 1 May 2024**.

The candidates are (in alphabetical order):

- **Hochfilzen (Austria)**
- **Kontiolahti (Finland)**
- **Oslo-Holmenkollen (Norway)**

Each candidate is bidding for the 2028 and 2029 editions.

Following submission of their **full candidature details by 12 July 2024**, the official candidates will undergo a thorough evaluation process. An IBU evaluation commission will visit each candidate venue to assess the infrastructure, logistics, and overall sport-technical suitability for hosting the IBU Championships.

The presentation by the Candidates to the IBU Executive Board will take place during the Congress in Belgrade.

The election is scheduled for Saturday, 28 September 2024, according to the Constitution, Art. 13.2.12. after a presentation to the Congress. The IBU Executive Board will recommend one candidate to the Congress to be approved. In case such candidate will not receive a simple majority, the EB must propose the next candidate in line, which then will seek for Congress approval.

* Note: For full details of the World Championships application process, please refer to [this summary](#).

H. CONGRESS WORKSHOPS FOR NF LEADERS

Following the success of the workshops for NF leaders during the Congress 2022 in Salzburg, several workshops on topics of importance for the future of biathlon and concerning key strategic initiatives under Target 26 and the new Target 2030 plan will be offered during the afternoon of Thursday, 26 September. We request the NF delegates to plan their travel accordingly and ensure arrival by lunch that day.

More information on the workshops including registration details will follow in June 2024.

CONTACT DETAILS

IBU HEADQUARTERS

Sonystrasse 20, A-5081 Anif b. Salzburg, Austria

Phone: +43 662 85 50 50, biathlon@ibu.at

Contact person for **general questions**: Max Cobb, Secretary General, max.cobb@ibu.at

For **logistical questions, such as travel or accommodation**, please contact: travel@ibu.at