



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES LUTTES ASSOCIEES  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATED WRESTLING STYLES

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## TO ALL BUREAU MEMBERS TO THE SERBIA FEDERATION

### Subject: Recognition of Kosovo as associated member

Dear Colleagues,

At the request of Mr. Lalovic, member of the FILA Bureau and of the Serbia Wrestling federation, I put on the agenda of the Bureau meeting in Istanbul the recognition of the Wrestling Kosovo Federation as associated member.

In order for the Bureau to form its opinion without any political pressure, I would like to give you the following information:

- A. The requests of Northern Cyprus and Kosovo were discussed by FILA under "new applications for membership" at its Bureau meeting on 09 August 2008 in Beijing. You will find the decision on page 6 of the minutes of this meeting and the Bureau members raised no objection. I merely quote the conclusion which says:  
"FILA will only recognize the federations affiliated to IOC and will seek a system that will allow these countries to participate in some FILA competitions."  
After considering several solutions and consultations with the legal department of IOC which recognizes the authority of the International Federations to accept or refuse a National Federation, the Secretary General and I decided to create a category of associated members in the statutes in order to accept certain federations, after consultation with the legal department which raised no objection. These members are not allowed to vote at the Congress, they cannot take part in the Olympic Games, nor in qualifying tournaments and it was also decided to recognize associated national committees to manage the non-Olympic sports which affiliated federations do not want to deal with.
- B. Contrary to the remarks of Mr Lalovic and the Serbian Federation, the recognition of Kosovo as associated member by FILA has been made in accordance with the statutes and the competence of the Bureau to allow all wrestlers in the world to practice wrestling without political or religious discrimination.
- C. Reasons for the recognition of Kosovo as an associated federation:  
Contrary to what Mr. Lalovic suggests, the recognition of Kosovo is not exceptional for FILA. The Bureau and President Ercegan always applied the non interference of politics in sport. As a reminder for the Bureau members who do not know the history of FILA, we recognized before the other International Federations and sometimes even before IOC:
  - Palestine (which is not even a state)
  - South Africa when it was boycotted by IOC and the majority of nations because of its apartheid policy
  - East Germany (DDR)

to name only the most significant cases.

In my capacity as FILA President, I refuse to take political position and I can assure all parties that my objectives are only to comply with the FILA rules and to provide all the wrestlers in the world with the possibility to practice their sport where political alienation refuses to see reality in front.



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I enclose copy of page 6 of the minutes and the situation of Kosovo in relation to its recognition by 82 countries all over the world.

I hope my explanations help you understand and accept the position of FILA and you can make a decision for wrestling sake and not for politics.

I thank you for your attention and your collaboration.

Sincerely yours,

Raphaël Martinetti  
FILA President

Enclosures

Letter of the Wrestling Serbia Federation

Letter of Mr. Lalovic

Page 6 of the minutes of the Bureau meeting in Beijing in 2008

List of nations which recognised Kosovo

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 29 August 2011/C16