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Mr. Jiri KEJVAL

IOC Member

President
Czech Olympic Committee

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Russian Olympic Committee, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you and the Czech Olympic Committee for your continued commitment to protecting athletes and upholding the true values of the Olympic movement.

However, we would like to inform you of a deeply concerning development within World Climbing. On 23 April 2026, the General Assembly of the World Climbing decided to hold an extraordinary General Assembly in July 2026 specifically to re-vote the suspension of the Climbing Federation of Russia (CFR). This comes despite the fact that CFR's full membership was only recently restored in February 2026 by a decision of the IFSC Executive Board.

This is happening exactly at a time when the International Olympic Committee is clearly directing a course toward returning to the pre-2022 situation and allowing Russian athletes to compete under standard conditions with their flag and anthem. Today 32 international sports federations have already allowed Russian athletes to compete internationally. Russian youth athletes have already been given access to international youth competitions with the standard protocols regarding flags, anthems, uniforms and other elements in 22 olympic individual and team disciplines.

Thus, the World Climbing is acting contrary to both the IOC's decisions and the interests of the global sports community.

This stance will negatively affect sport climbing as an Olympic sport and will inevitably have adverse effect on the World Climbing's relationship with the IOC. Moreover, the World Climbing's General Assembly has planned to expand the list

of National Federations suspended for political reasons, proposing to include Israel and a list of “other countries” to be determined based on proposals from World Climbing member federations.

Such actions deepen the politicization of sport, contradict the fundamental Olympic principles, and violate the Olympic Charter.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to officially bring this situation to the attention of Czech Climbing Federation and to explain the urgent need to steer the World Climbing toward depoliticization at the upcoming extraordinary General Assembly. Specifically, we ask your Federation to vote against the suspension of any National Federation for geopolitical reasons.

We appreciate your support and trust in our joint efforts to protect the Olympic Movement from political interference.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Degtyarev
Minister of Sports of Russia
President, Russian Olympic Committee

