

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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The President

To: ISU Members
ISU Honorary Members
ISU Council
ISU Director General
ISU Legal Advisor
ISU Treasurer
ISU Disciplinary Commission
ISU Sports Directorate
ISU Technical Committees
ISU Medical Commission
ISU Development Coordinator

Milan, 19 December 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the usual letter I send at the Year End allow me to focus on an issue that I consider among the most important for the future of the International Skating Union.

With brevity I would like to involve the role and function of the ISU Development Coordinator, as the person in charge of looking after the issue I wish to tackle with you today.

Our sport disciplines are indeed very technical and every season, through the passionate dedication of the skaters, there is a high standard of skating that is more and more difficult to be achieved.

We are therefore in front of an embarrassing dilemma: the ISU cannot stop the progress, so we have to let the skaters perform as they can, but we do not always have the evidence that the remaining skaters improve accordingly to keep the difference between the very top and the others in reasonable limits.

What should therefore the Development Program obtain? If an adequate number of Members do not conduct a good activity, the result will be that the leadership in the ISU sports is left under the control of a limited number of countries. The ISU Development Coordinator has good skills, knowledge and long experience to understand the limits within which the ISU has to act. To avoid being misunderstood permit me to clarify that I am conscious that such an embarrassing situation exists in the majority of sports. This means that it is not only the ISU that is facing such a demanding problem, but in any case it is truly of paramount importance that the ISU Members with good skaters increase in number.

I would like to inform you that I frequently remind the ISU Development Coordinator to be very active in order to obtain the results that I consider are achievable. No doubt that some Members do not have an adequate tradition in ice skating, as well as other Members are facing difficulties related to economics or to the lack of adequate ice skating facilities. But the ISU doesn't ask all the Members to be strongly involved in ice skating. What we need is that those Members having opportunities, either because of glorious past or thanks to the availability of a suitable structure, in particular of organizational nature, they remarkably increase their activity.

What can the ISU do to help? Regretfully we cannot intervene in the area of facilities construction, but the ISU might consider to help for the availability of coaches, for improving the knowledge of the Officials and hopefully to also grant financial assistance within the limit permitted by the ISU budget.

The Season Festivities are approaching fast and I am conscious having submitted to your attention an issue that is not the best to celebrate the Christmas period and the New Year. But on the other hand it is my role to point out the priorities so that the Union can continue its positive mission in the future.

So far we have been good, our international reputation is high, the level of organization and of administration of our activities is for sure positive. We only need to increase the activity and to improve the quality. Please help yourselves and help the ISU.

Thank you.

*Now permit me to wish you all and your families
the very best for the next Festivities
and please do not forget to extend these sentiments
to all those who collaborate within your Member Association.*



Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ottavio Cinquanta'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ottavio Cinquanta
President