

Clichy, August 11<sup>th</sup> , 2020

Dear LEN President, Dear Paolo,

Dear LEN member Federations,

First of all, thank you for your quick answer.

Apologies if my correspondence and its content surprised you, yet, I do not believe that this should come as a surprise.

I have never implied that no discussion occurred during the two Bureau held on April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> and of course Julien Issoulie reported to me all explanations provided. At this stage, and following these meetings, concrete and conclusive elements are still missing, which could clarify, once and for all, the situation and end all discussions in connection with it. The elements would reinsure LEN's family and stakeholders. It is worth mentioning that following Mr Bartolo Consolo's letter, the majority of LEN member Federations who don't belong to the Bureau, couldn't be informed about what happened, because nothing precise was reported in the minutes of those two meetings and the press release didn't bring more on the table.

All I ask is transparency and information.

Yet, all you sent us this weekend is a mere information that everything is normal, while inviting us to look elsewhere. Unfortunately, such letter does not allow us to conclude with certainty that articles in l'Espresso or other media outlets were/are lying or exaggerating.

The difference now is that the matter is in the hands of justice both in Switzerland and Italy. In this respect, Mr. Bartolo Consolo was received by Switzerland justice last week and new press releases were made.

Yet, once again, all I obtained from you despite clearly requesting concrete evidence is that an explanation was provided during Bureau's meeting.

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What is more, after my letter and Marco Stacchiotti's mail, you sent us on Friday a message saying an online Bureau Meeting will be held. I heard that you had a meeting this weekend with most of all bureau members but I was not invited. It is not my definition of constructive dialogue and openness. One more time, it used to be easier to talk all together. Now, we are facing a new situation based on your attitude which is creating a regretful and doubtful feeling on your governance.

As I told you, equity, integrity and transparency are my fundamental values and all of this makes me feel uncomfortable.

As we don't have for the moment documents or detailed explanations and for the sake of our organization, LEN and the swimming world cannot take the risk to face the outrageous disgrace to have a President implicated in bribery scandals. Now justice will work and I hope you'll be proved innocent. But our organization cannot have just one choice, just one option, one candidate with juridical issues - or we take the risk to appear weak and neglecting all the core values that should inspire a great organization such as LEN.

That's why yesterday, after intense talks with other LEN members sharing with me same values, we decided the two following things:

- we ask once again that an independent commission analyze all situations that have been pointed out; This commission shall be appointed independently without any intervention of the LEN Governance. It shall be independently constituted, or we risk again to create suspicion.
- we decide to officially submit my candidacy as LEN's president.

I would say to the LEN Members: I have transparency, truth, hard work, sense of cooperation and integrity to offer you. In the light of what is currently happening in our European swimming world, this seems to me enough to legitimate my candidacy as President of LEN.

To all LEN Members wanting and deserving another governance, we can discuss and work to build together a strong program for the next 4 years.

Soon my country will host the Olympic games, soon all of us will be meeting in Paris, soon the eyes of the world will all be on the number one sport in the Olympics, Swimming, our beloved sport. Our sport through our glorious athletes embodying strong values such as honesty, courage and fair play will inspire millions of young people. We are the guardians of the values of our sport. Our responsibility is to preserve it and adopt the principles of good governance.

My candidacy as President of LEN is guided by strong convictions and values. I may provide assistance in preserving our sport and institution. Should Paolo Barelli be discharged of all the legal accusations he has to currently face I will withdraw my candidature.

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As the number one representative of the Swimmers in my country, I will not take the risk to be associated with disgraceful acts when it is time to embody strong values. Wisdom is knowing the right path to take. Integrity is taking it. I am not bound to win; I am bound to be true.

If we share the same spirit, then you will understand and support me. We together as one will build a new system, based on a project in common and soon, as LEN, we will arise again and take our honor back.

Best regards,

**Gilles SEZIONALE**

**President of FFN**

