

# Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

An important milestone in its history of 108 years was recorded by the International Weightlifting Federation with the Electoral Congress that took place in Moscow, on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. More applicants than ever before had claimed the leadership positions of the Federation. The election itself was carried out on the basis of an updated and modernized Constitution approved by a previous IWF Congress in Baku, last December. What makes us use the term "milestone"? First of all, the unprecedented interest in the positions of the top decision makers: six candidates had been nominated to President;

four to General Secretary Treasurer; eleven to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (a position contestable individually for the first time), more than twenty to Vice President and over forty to Executive Board Member. To become a member in the Technical or the Coaching & Research Committee also proved to be a desirable goal for many, as shown by the large number of candidates. Undoubtedly, each electoral congress is an opportunity to assess the extent and quality of the personal contributions rendered by the officers to the sport. This time, the stake seemed to be higher, the seats more appealing than usual. No wonder that the quantity and the potential of the applicants made the elections more open and exciting than ever before. Evidently, all parties concerned had been anxious to ensure fair conditions to the elections: these were guaranteed by the IWF's leadership leaving no chance to bias or influence. We have to thank the lawyers' team from Switzerland for the fair and legal conduct of the voting, as well as to the scrutineers for their efficiency, competence and meticulousness. First of all, we must thank the Russian Federation for providing a high standard environment and the

IWF Secretariat for the top level and smooth organisation of the Congress which turned out a spectacular event worthy of an Olympic sport with a great history.

At the time of the appearance of this magazine the outcome of the elections is of course known and we wish to congratulate everyone elected. Human nature tends to forget

# Editorial



Mr. Sergey Syrtsov, President of the Russian Weightlifting Federation received thanks for hosting the Congress

things that are not nice or unpleasant. Within this Editorial we do not want either to go into details on the intrigue, political clashes and various waves of accusations that sometimes precede elections – the IWF Congress

measured and the success rewarded in the votes cast by the delegates. They weighed the fact that weightlifting has recently been upgraded by the International Olympic Committee in a categorization defining the distribution

woman Member: well, these measures all work towards the improvement of the activities and enable us to give pertinent answers to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In this Editorial, signed by the President and the General

hotel hosting our Congress. We are truly happy that – after many years of absence - the representative of the Russian Federation has again been elected to a prominent position, that of Vice President. It is important to



Dr. Antonio Urso, Italy, was first to congratulate the President

being no exception. No, we don't wish to waste time on that. On the other hand, we cannot emphasize often enough: our sport has never been as strong as now. The 138 countries present in Moscow and eligible to vote evaluated with their ballots the work done and the achievements of the IWF. The work that allows weightlifting to stand out from the 107 international sports organisations as well as from the 35 – winter and summer – Olympic sports, and ranks the IWF in a strong midfield position. The input was

of television revenues from the Olympic Games. We mentioned that the Constitution had been modernised, restructured, shaped to meet the contemporary requirements. Life has been proving us that our new Constitution and By-Laws are relevant and up to the standard. The rules introduced and since implemented, i.e. that there should be a separate vote for the First Vice President, a key position in the Federation; that we made sure, by a special vote, that the Executive Board should have at least one

Secretary, it would not be proper to congratulate ourselves. However, by all means we would like to thank our Members for their confidence and support. The composition of the Executive Board and the Committees elected may warrant for the future development of weightlifting. Reinforced by and with the solid background of the current leadership we shall work hard to realize our aims and visions to the benefit of the sport. Finally, once again we wish to thank Russia for the fantastic backdrop, the magnificent

underline, however, that the political interests have been outweighed by the professional and sports-specific interests and the people who got elected do not only talk but can prove their commitment to weightlifting by deeds. Good luck and much success to all the elected IWF Officers in their endeavours for the sake of prolonged success in weightlifting all over the world!

**Dr. Tamás Aján**  
President

**Ma Wenguang**  
General Secretary