

Dear President,

Soon we will be called to vote in Auckland for our new ITU Executive Board and President.

It will be a significant moment as we have to select the right candidates who will lead our sport in the best way for the next 4 years.

The past mandate has been strategically very important for the entire ITU Family, as we have been able to improve and consolidate our presence within the Olympic community with all the advantages connected to this, in terms of increased exposure and income.

We now have a solid base on which we will be able to continue building our strength and accelerate growth.

We have all seen in recent days the arguments that have been raised by the candidate to the President position, Mr Yu. As a working Continental ITU Board representative, I was surprised by the document submitted by Mr Yu on the financial situation that I judge from my short tenure on the ITU Executive Board and my inspection of the accounts to be completely misleading, and creating a wrong impression of the facts.

As the ETU EB, we have read and carefully examined Mr Yu's documents, the ITU response to it on the financial matters and Marisol Casado's past performance as ITU President and proposed program. As an EB, **we hold a unanimous position in support of Marisol Casado** for the following major reasons:

- **Proven performance** in the role as ITU President over the past 4 years and earlier with ETU and the Spanish Federation
- **A need for continuity in the IOC family** and great concern about the loss of our opportunity to achieve Olympic programme status for the Triathlon Mixed Relay
- Whereas this has implications primarily for the larger National Federations, we also note that over **half of our members**, 21 European NFs, sent athletes to the Olympic Games in 2012, some of them for the first time, and it is likely that even more of our member NFs have aspirations that their athletes will achieve Olympic status
- We believe the attempt to **increase the number of Olympic places** above 55 men and 55 women for the Rio Olympic Games will be significantly greater under Marisol Casado's leadership

- It is extremely important to maintain our existing strong relationships with the **International Paralympic Committee** to maximise the options for our paratriathletes in terms of number of medals and number of athletes able to compete in Rio
- We will have a greater opportunity than ever before to develop our Continental development programs, with **twice the funding** that we have had in the past (at least 160k\$ p.a., possibly **even up to 200k\$ p.a.**)
- We will receive ongoing support from ITU staff in facilitating this development programme and helping us to help you attract IOC solidarity funding through your National Olympic Committee
- This **increased development funding** will permit us then to implement measures to support our member NFs with a range of funding streams that will help you with an agreed combination of **event, athlete, coach, technical official and governance development**
- We will have **full accountability** on the ETU Development program that will be submitted by our Development Committee and approved by the Board after **discussions with our key members** (see below).

The ETU Board will undergo further consultation with each member NF in the most needy development categories, 2 and 3, to identify a 4 year programme to help you grow sustainably in your focus area and endeavor to pair you with a more advanced ETU member NF to transfer skills and offer other opportunities to your coaches and athletes.

I am available to discuss any of these points with you (contact details below) and I look forward to meeting you at the ETU Pre-ITU Congress event if not before.

May I wish you safe travels to New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,

Renato Bertrandi

ETU President

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