



Le Président

Rome, October 26, 2016

Ref.: 883/AA/2016

Republic of Turkey
Ministry of Youth and Sports
ozelkalem@gsb.gov.tr

Dear Minister,

The World Underwater Federation (CMAS), presided by me, organises many international competitions and world championships every year. Those concerning the underwater sports – such as Apnoea, Free Diving, Underwater Hockey, Underwater Rugby, Spearfishing and Finswimming – are hold in different countries around the world.

The Turkish Underwater Sports Federation (TSSF), in line with the decision of the CMAS Board of Directors, successfully organized the 6th Round of CMAS Finswimming World Cup and the 2nd CMAS Apnoea World Championship-Outdoor in your country between 30th April 2016 – 1st May 2016 and 2nd-9th October 2016, respectively.

The CMAS Board Members and I have been following the recent accomplishments achieved by the Turkish athletes - particularly the Finswimming World Championship, won for first time in 2016 by the National Athletes, who were trained under the umbrella of TSSF; and the world second place award, achieved by the Turkish National Underwater Hockey Team; as well as other international sporting achievements -.

At the 2nd CMAS Apnoea World Championship held in Kaş, Antalya, 2-9 October 2016, I had the opportunity to closely witness the ever-increasing success rate of Turkey in almost every field of the underwater sports, as well as the great feedback received thanks to its great experience in world championship contests. Previous to the championship competitions, we also organized the CMAS Board of Directors Meeting in Kaş, a fascinating place due to its breath-taking and unique nature boasting an underwater richness.

From the first day until now, I have been personally attending the championship competitions, which have achieved a record number of participants including 50 competing athletes from 14 countries. Online live broadcasting of the underwater competitions and the emergency response system developed by the TSSF team to ensure the safety of athletes have been the two important implementations carried out for the very first time at our world championship events. With these firsts, Turkey has given a breath of new life into the CMAS competitions. The safety measures implemented for the athletes in apnoea free diving, which is one of the most difficult sports in the world, deserve a real appreciation.

Based on the excellent success of the TSSF President Assoc. Prof. Dr Şahin ÖZEN, the TSSF Board Members, and the TSSF event team concerning the CMAS championship competitions, as well as on the interest shown by the Turkish sports fans and press in the CMAS championships at the CMAS Board of Directors, we have decided that:

- The **2017 Golden Final of CMAS Finswimming World Cup**, consisting of 6 rounds; and
- The **CMAS Apnoea European Championship**, to be held 2-9 October 2017, will be organized in Turkey; as well as
- The **International Apnoea Open Competitions**, which will be held in Kaş under the slogan "Kaş Başka" in order to make these competitions a sports festival exclusive to Kaş in 2017 and beyond.

I would like to highlight that these decisions taken jointly by me and the CMAS Board Members are based on the key role played by the TSSF President Assoc. Prof. Dr Şahin ÖZEN in making the accomplishments and events concerning the Turkish Underwater Sports world standards. In this regard, we have been following Mr ÖZEN's efforts aimed at CMAS with appreciation.

The CMAS Board Members and I would like to express our appreciation to your Ministry, your local governments supporting the CMAS events, the Turkish sports fans, and specially the TSSF President Assoc. Prof. Dr Şahin ÖZEN - who has been the architect of your rising success rate that we have seen in the CMAS international competitions as well as your world championship events, which have been organised and held taking into account the smallest detail.

We wish your worldwide accomplishments in the underwater sports continue.

Best Regards,

Anna ARZHANOVA

