



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

HE Dr Mohammad Mohsen AL-AFASI,  
Minister of Social Affairs and Labour  
State of Kuwait

NOC Relations Department  
Ref. No 2009/PMS/jpy

Lausanne, 9 December 2009

### **Situation of the Olympic and sports Movement in Kuwait**

Excellency,

As you know, a PAYS delegation came to Lausanne on 23 October for a meeting with the IOC and OCA in order to discuss and finalise a new draft sports law in Kuwait. We very much appreciated this initiative and, in our spirit to assist you, we made us available immediately to receive this delegation and to work together, on a technical level, in order to ensure the compatibility of the sports legislation in Kuwait with the principles of the Olympic Movement. As you are certainly aware, this meeting was extremely productive since we came out with a new draft sports law which would supersede all the existing sports legislation in Kuwait. It was agreed that, upon their return to Kuwait, PAYS would take the necessary steps together with you in order to present this new draft sports law to the Kuwait Parliament for consideration, as per the procedures in force in Kuwait which we fully respect and which we, of course, do not interfere with.

Nevertheless, we have not heard from PAYS since then and we have not received any follow-up of this new draft sports law.

Surprisingly, we were informed that, on 14 November 2009, PAYS issued a decision by which the Board of Directors of several Sports Clubs in Kuwait were removed and so-called "interim committees" were appointed. As you are aware, we immediately requested PAYS to reconsider this position and to reinstate without delay all Sports Clubs and their legitimate office bearers duly elected in 2008. To date, PAYS did not respond to our letter dated 17 November.

Needless to say that our position remains the same as expressed in this letter and that, until the legitimate office bearers are reinstated, the IOC will not recognise any decision or action that might be taken by these "interim committees" on behalf of the Sports Clubs at NOC and national Federations level and that these decisions or actions will be considered as null and void.

We were extremely disappointed by such decision which is in total contradiction with all agreements signed between the Kuwait authorities and the IOC and which is unfortunately a very bad sign, in particular because such decision is based on one the provisions of the current law which is precisely in contradiction with the principles of the Olympic Movement.

Therefore, we take the liberty to address you directly in order to express our greatest concerns regarding this situation.

Indeed, as you know very well, we have been doing our best (and even more) to assist all of you in Kuwait for more than two years in order to reach our common objective to ensure that the Kuwait sports legislation is compatible with the principle and rules of the Olympic Movement, based on the successive written agreements which were signed since 2007.



Unfortunately, in spite of our good will and all these efforts to avoid a suspension of the Olympic Movement in Kuwait, we note that the written commitments taken by the Kuwait authorities concerned have not been respected so far.

Consequently, we would like to remind you, once more, that if the whole process of amending the sports law in order to make it compatible with the principles and rules of the Olympic Movement is not finalized before 31 December 2009, as per the agreements signed, the decision of the IOC Executive Board will be immediately enforced and the suspension of the Kuwait Olympic Committee would unfortunately come into effect as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

Should the suspension of the NOC come into force, the IOC would immediately coordinate with ASOIF and the various International Sports Federations concerned in order to have a joint action which would result in the suspension of the whole Olympic Movement in Kuwait.

Be assured that we would very much regret this situation but the IOC together with ASOIF and the International Sports Federations have done everything possible in order to avoid this outcome. Unfortunately, we are coming to a point where the lack of cooperation from the concerned authorities in Kuwait is forcing us to take action.

We thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pere MIRÓ', written over a set of horizontal lines.

Pere MIRÓ  
Director  
NOC Relations

Cc: - Jacques Rogge, IOC President  
- HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait  
- Major General (Ret.) Faisal Al-Jazzaf, Chairman of PAYS, State of Kuwait  
- HE Dr Suhail Shuhaiber, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Switzerland  
- Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)  
- Olympic Council of Asia  
- Kuwait Olympic Committee