



IFSC PLENARY ASSEMBLY 2017 A DEBRIEF FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year's Plenary Assembly in Quebec was exactly what we envisioned. Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC) and the Fédération Québécoise de la Montagne et de l'Escalade (FQME) did a fantastic job, organising all aspects of the event and one of the best PA ever. Our President of the PanAmerican Council, Maria Izquierdo, and her team were the perfect hosts. 44 National Federations from all over the world showed high levels of engagement all week long. We introduced a brand new series of workshops which provided a space for about 100 representatives to share ideas and learn from experienced presenters. Take a moment to learn more about them in our [press release](#).

It was the 10th anniversary of the founding of the IFSC, and we celebrated with the richest discussion on the Olympics. We were glad to take decisions together on two key topics: the Olympic Format to be adopted and the main concept of the Qualification System approved at the PA, which will be worked on with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) once they release their Qualification Principles. This concept is that Athletes will qualify through Combined (Olympic format) events only. Amidst these discussions, we had the privilege to hear from Walter Sieber, Board Member of the Canadian Olympic Committee and member of the IOC Program Commission, who encouraged everyone to continue the spirit and values of our sport. Be sure to look through our [photo album](#) for the PA which includes pictures of his speech and all the event.

This year was also unique because it was the time for IFSC Executive Board elections for the next four-year term, as well as European and PanAmerican Council Board elections. You can find all these changes on our website [here](#). After years of tireless service to the IFSC and Sport Climbing, Helmut Knabl stepped back from the position of IFSC Vice-President Sports/Events. It was a pleasure to recognize this devotion during the PA, which voted to present him with the title of IFSC "Honorary Member." Now filling his position will be Kobinata Toru of the Japanese Mountaineering Association (JMA), who has already contributed in so many ways as IFSC Asian Council Vice-President and we are thrilled to welcome in this new role. We also welcomed new President of the Oceania Council, Romain Thevenot: his enthusiasm will surely boost the growth in this region.

We are all excited for these next four years: two new international events in Canada (PanAmerican Youth Championships 2017 in Montreal and IFSC Youth World Championships 2018 in Central Saanich), two Olympic Games and so much more.

World up, keep climbing!

MARCO MARIA SCOLARIS
IFSC President