

Mr. Dieter Neupert
Acting Chairman of the World Sailing Ethics Commission
World Sailing
20 Eastbourne Terrace
London W2 6LG
United Kingdom

4 May 2020

Dear Mr. Neupert,

STATEMENT RE: ENCOUNTER WITH GERARDO SEELIGER AND JOSEP PLA

By way of introduction, I am Patrick Singleton, Executive Officer of the World Olympians Association. I'm also a three time Olympian, and formerly an elite athlete in sailing and several other sports.

I am making this statement for the purposes of informing the World Sailing Ethics Commission about my encounter with Gerardo Seeliger and Josep Pla in Lausanne, Switzerland on the afternoon of 18 January 2020.

As a matter of disclosure, between 2017 and 2019 I was the IOC athletes commission liaison to the athlete's commissions of three International Federations, namely, World Sailing, the International Tennis Federation and the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation. As such I know President Kim Anderson through World Sailing and through the Americas Cup in Bermuda in 2017.

I am providing the following statement after being asked by the President if I would do so, in order to explain the following encounter that I had in January 2020. I am aware of a matter pending before the World Sailing ethics commission however I'm not entirely sure of all the details and the issues in play.

In January 2020, I was in Lausanne due to my involvement with the IOC Commissions week. On 18 January, I was at the Lausanne Palace Hotel in the reception/lounge area meeting a contact of mine, Sunil Sabharwal. There were numerous persons from the IOC, the Olympic movement and the international sports world, in the hotel's lounge at that time.

At some point while I was in the lounge meeting with Sunil, Gerardo Seeliger walked in along with a younger colleague. I was wearing my IOC athletes commission branded uniform which stands out as an official delegate. I made eye contact with Gerardo, smiled and gave him a friendly wave. Gerardo then walked over to where I was sitting and introduced himself to Sunil and myself. I don't think Gerardo remembered me at that moment. He then introduced us to his colleague, Gerard Esteva, of the Sports Federation Union of Catalonia.

Gerardo explained that he had received various requests from the sailing fraternity around the world encouraging him to run for President of World Sailing, in order to bring new ideas to the table and give sailing a kick start. He said he was in Lausanne to meet with the IOC about sailing and had come to the hotel that day to meet with some of his supporters who would help him formulate a plan to drum up support for his campaign.

A few moments later, Josep Pla entered the lounge area and came over to us. Gerardo introduced Josep Pla as being a friend from Andorra, and from the European Sailing Federation.

I had first met Gerardo during the World Sailing Congress a few months earlier, in November 2019 in Bermuda, when I presented him with an OLY designation and pin. I pointed out to Gerardo in the Lausanne Palace Hotel that he was wearing the OLY pin. It was only at this time that I believe he remembered who I was.

Our interaction and conversation in the lounge lasted a few minutes, after which Gerardo, Josep and Gerard all left to sit at their own table in a different part of the lounge. However, they were directly in my eye line so I could see them sitting together. Their meeting went on for perhaps 15 minutes and eventually they were also joined by Ser Miang (IOC Member), who I assume was attending IOC meetings in Lausanne at the time. I recall that their four-person meeting went on for about 45-60 minutes because that is how long I was with Sunil. Sunil then left the lounge to attend another meeting and I waited around to meet another contact.

While I was waiting for my contact, I noticed Ser Miang leave and then after some more time passed, I saw Josep leave. Gerardo also eventually left, and it was ultimately only Gerard left in the lounge. At one point I went over to speak with Gerard. He explained his involvement with sailing and his work with sport in Catalonia. He told me how he was helping to drive Gerardo's campaign efforts to become the next President of World Sailing, and that they were spending time in Lausanne meeting with supporters to help get Gerardo elected in the fall of 2020.

While I did not hear the conversation between Gerardo Seeliger, Josep Pla, Ser Miang and Gerard Esteva, it appeared to me based on my conversations with Gerardo and Gerard that day that the four of them were discussing how they could support Gerardo's campaign to run for President of World Sailing.

I believe the facts stated in this statement are true. Please let me know if there is anything you wish for me to clarify.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Singleton OLY

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International Olympic Committee - Athletes Commission
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