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"I AM EXCITED TO CREATE
A PLATFORM IN WHICH A DIRECT
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO
THE NPC'S BECOMES
LEGITIMATE."

An athlete's life devoted to athletes

As a former top-level dressage athlete and throughout my career as a coach and administrator on national and international level, every single action I have undertaken has always been one of absolute commitment in which **the athlete is always at the centre of my interest.** Having been the driving force behind para-equestrian in Belgium since the very beginning, I quickly got glued to the

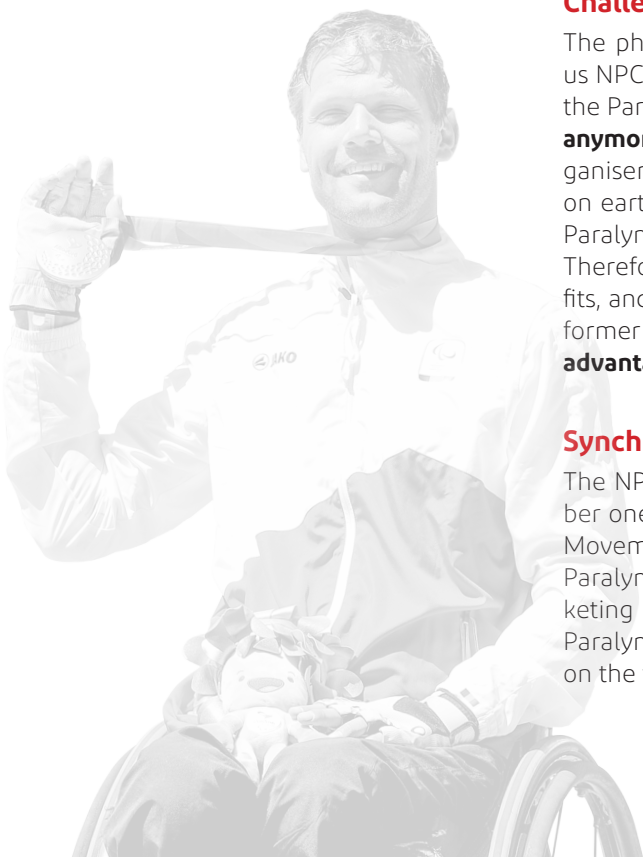
Paralympic Movement when representing Belgium's NOC at several Paralympic Games since the 1990s. Recently, I started my 3rd mandate as NPC Belgium's President and ended my NOC's Governing Board membership after 8 mandates. I have faced many challenges during my sporting career, which helped me understand the needs of the athlete and the priorities and decision-making process a global body like the IPC must tackle.

Challenging the IOC relations for the benefit of the NPC's

The phenomenal evolution of the Paralympic Games has given us NPC's an unseen opportunity to grow in the last few years. Yet the Paralympic Games are **not the 'little brother' of the Olympics anymore.** They have become a strong argument for potential organisers to convince their population to bid for the greatest event on earth. They are the added value that make the "Olympic and Paralympic Games" the number one sporting event in the world. Therefore, with respect to the existing IOC-IPC partnership benefits, and making use of some excellent contacts with current and former IOC-members, I want to challenge this relationship **for the advantage of the IPC and its members.**

Synchronizing IPC-NPC marketing

The NPC's and their athletes are irreplaceable and are the number one products and ambassadors of the worldwide Paralympic Movement. They make the Games' success. However, the passed Paralympiad has not been a milestone in synchronizing the marketing programs of the IPC and its NPC's. While the value of the Paralympic Games is exploding, it can be hard to catch and stay on the train of professionalization.



"I AM A STRONG BELIEVER IN THE NEED OF INVESTING IN RE- SEARCH ON EVIDENCE-BASED CLASSIFICATION."

Based on my considerable commercial experience and personal network, generated as a member of the business family behind a global brand, I want to engage in intensifying a thorough **dialogue regarding marketing and business standpoints** between the IPC and its members. For this, I look forward to

create a platform in which a scale-based **direct financial contribution to the NPC's** becomes legitimate, as it is for the NOC's in their protection of the TOP-partners' exclusive rights.

Lighthouse for inclusion

The inclusion of para-sports within the global able-bodied sports federations is progressive, as is the wish of different sports to become more independent and autonomous. Having been at the origins of the inclusion of para-equestrian within the FEI, I understand as no other **the importance of considering all pro's and con's to make the best possible athlete-based decision** when it comes to inclusion. I strongly believe the IPC will need to be a lighthouse, focusing above all on what's best for the NPC's and their athletes, leading to an environment in which our sportsmen and -women can reach their maximum potential.

Evidence-based classification

The explosive growth of the Paralympic Games have unfortunately led to an era in which fair play is at risk. Classification is under pressure more than ever and with it the credibility of our Movement. I strongly believe that we need to invest in evidence-based classification research and am honoured to see how the Belgian university of Leuven is trying to make a difference, as do many others worldwide.

Diversity and consensus

Born and brought up in the European capital of Brussels, consensus is my middle name. Also, as no other, I take note of the importance of **diversity in good governance** anno 2017. I think the IPC is doing a great job being a trailblazer with regards to multiculturalism and feminine representation, amongst others. As a former athlete and with 30+ years of experience in women-inclusive national and international projects, I want to affirm this know-how as Member at Large, with respect to worldwide cultural differences.

Devoted to inspiring athletes

Having been involved in sports all my life and in para sports since many years, I know the positive values that sports brings about and the social impact and prosperity it can bring forth. Seeing para-athletes **inspire and change the world** will always be breath-taking to me, their influence is immense. My devotion to the Paralympic Movement is based on the main objective of creating **an environment in which the Paralympic athlete is treated in the same way a top-class able-bodied athlete** would be, offering them all the opportunities to inspire society and change the world's perspective on people with a disability.

