



CIO COMMISSION  
D'ÉTHIQUE

Case 2015-01 / 2018-04

## DECISION WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

Situation of the

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad AL-SABAH  
IOC Member in Kuwait

### Pre-statement

The chairman of the IOC Ethics Commission, having reviewed the facts related to this case, immediately recused himself due to the risk of perception of conflict of interest. Pursuant to Article 11 of the Statutes of the IOC Ethics Commission, the longest-serving independent member elected, Mr Samuel Schmid, will perform the Chairman duties on this file.

### Facts and analysis

By decision dated 8 November 2018, the Public Prosecutor of Geneva submitted to a criminal court an accusation against five persons, including the Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah, IOC Member, for forgery.

The Sheikh Al-Sabah is IOC Member since 1992; he is Chair of the Olympic Solidarity Commission and the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) since 2012. The Olympic Solidarity Commission oversees the distribution of the Olympic Solidarity funds; ANOC is an IOC recognised organisation and as such member of the Olympic Movement.

The IOC Code of Ethics requires the IOC Members to refrain from any act likely to tarnish the reputation of the Olympic Movement; this applies at any time and in any circumstances, including outside the framework of the sport movement and for facts not related to sport.

The fundamental aim of the Ethics Commission is to help protecting the IOC and the Olympic Movement against any type of reputational risk.

The IOC Ethics Commission finds that the facts involved, punishable by 2 to 5 years in prison, are very serious.

The IOC Ethics Commission notes that the fact that he is considered by a judicial authority as having violated a criminal law constitutes a very serious damage to the Olympic Movement and the IOC's reputation. This damage is proportionate to the importance of his various responsibilities in the Olympic Movement: the higher the responsibilities the higher the impact on the reputation.

The IOC Ethics Commission notices that by letter dated 18 November 2018, the Sheikh Al-Sabah has decided to self-suspend from all his rights, prerogatives and functions linked to



his quality as IOC Member and Chair of the Olympic Solidarity Commission. This was confirmed by an official statement dated 19 November 2018.

The IOC Ethics Commission notes that the Sheikh Al-Sabah's decision to self-suspend from his quality as IOC Member and Chair of the Olympic Solidarity Commission, in order to protect the reputation of the IOC and the Olympic Movement, shall have an impact on his functions within ANOC.

As a consequence, the IOC Ethics Commission considers that the self-suspension from his functions as President of ANOC by the Sheikh Al-Sabah and the postponement of any ANOC's elections and decisions regarding him are the most appropriate measures to protect the reputation of the entire Olympic Movement of which ANOC is part of. Failing that, the IOC Ethics Commission considers that the IOC Executive Board Members/IOC Members could not participate in the ANOC meetings chaired by an IOC Member self-suspended pursuant to the IOC Code of Ethics.

Finally, the IOC Ethics Commission shall invite the Sheikh Al-Sabah to present his arguments during its next meeting on 11 January 2019 in Lausanne.

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#### DECISION with recommendations

After deliberating in accordance with its Statutes, the IOC Ethics Commission decided to recommend to the IOC Executive Board:

1. to take note of the decision by the Sheikh Al-Sabah to self-suspend from all his rights, prerogatives and functions linked to his quality as IOC Member and Chair of the Olympic Solidarity Commission pursuant to the IOC Code of Ethics, and
2. to take note that this suspension must lead to the suspension of his functions as president of ANOC, IOC recognised organisation and member of the Olympic Movement, as well as the postponement of any ANOC's elections and decisions regarding him.

Furthermore, the IOC Ethics Commission decides:

1. to continue its investigation, and
2. invite the Sheikh Al-Sabah to present his arguments during its next meeting on 11 January 2019 in Lausanne.

Lausanne, 22 November 2018