



STJEPAN BALOG

CROATIA

Dear colleagues and friends,

My name is Stjepan Balog. I was born on August 10, 1968 in Zagreb, where I just finished primary and secondary school and graduated Journalism at the Faculty of Political Sciences of Zagreb University.

As a young journalist, I went through all forms of press reporting (newspaper, radio, TV) and since 1993 I have been working as a journalist in the Sports Program of Croatian Television. HRT (Croatian Radio Television) is a public service and a member of Eurovision, with one of the largest shares of sports in the total production of the program.

In my 30-year period of work at HRT, I went through all forms of on television journalism - from reporting, editing and hosting shows, commenting on sports events to leading large projects.

In three periods (2011-2013, 2016-2019 and 2019- present) I was the editor-in-chief of the Sports Program.

I have also managed large projects such as the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games, and UEFA EURO 2020, and I believe that I am well acquainted with the production processes and the problems faced by sports journalists in today's society.

I have been a member of HZSN since 2002, and since 2022 I have been a member of the Executive board as the leading body of our national organization.

I believe that there is much more that unites us European journalists than divides them. We have many common problems and priorities that we need to solve. That is why I am very sad to see disputes within our organization, which I think is not in anyone's interest.

As a candidate for the AIPS EC member, I would like to contribute to improving the status of sports journalists, which is not at all easy these days, through the following activities:

- Leading a dialogue with the most important European sport association (UEFA, FIBA Europe, European Athletics, European Aquatics, etc.)**
- Legal protection of journalists in carrying out their activities**
- Improving the status of young journalists through various opportunities for scholarships and other financial support.**

I hope that in this short address you will find enough reasons why I applied to be a AIPS EC member.