LALOVIC SPEECH AT FILA CONGRESS AFTER ELECTION AS PRESIDENT

“Thank you for the confidence you have in me to serve as your president. Thank you for your kindness... for the hard work you do for this sport every day.

And for the passion and love you bring to Wrestling. I will commit to you that I will also act with love and passion...and hopefully the kindness that you have shown to me. I will be proud to be your president.

Two years ago in Moscow we were fighting for our lives. Our world was on the verge of collapse. For the first time in 2700 years we were not part of the Olympic Games.

That was the time we began to change. We had to.

As wrestlers have for thousands of years, we fought. We fought majestically to save our rightful spot in the Olympic Games.

And we did that exactly one year ago tomorrow in Buenos Aires. September 8. The IOC welcomed us back in a resounding first round victory for our sport. We fought for the future of all those youngsters out there who were dreaming of Olympic gold.

Brothers and sisters, we can be proud of that fight. We stood tall and we stood proud. And most importantly we stood together.

We saved our sport on that day. It was one of the most important days in wrestling history.

But, we are guaranteed a spot in the Games only through 2024. So we must continue our efforts and make our progress evident to all.

And TODAY is the day we change. The day we double our efforts to become a core sport in the Olympic Games.

The Olympic world is changing this year. Under Thomas Bach and his vision of Agenda 2020 the Olympic Movement could undergo some revisions, some changes.

We need to part of that change. And what we do...here TODAY in Tashkent could mean whether it is going to be a good change for the sport of wrestling. We are not guaranteed anything.

We have already done some amazing things to our sport. ...

Rules to make it simpler and more fast paced. Women more involved. Athletes in leadership roles. And, more importantly the tightening and embracing of our own family as we grow stronger. But. our real battle starts TODAY with more than 150 national wrestling federations here in Tashkent.

In our elections we`re going to have new people. New ideas. New growth outside of FILAs normal boundaries. We are at a point in our history where we can take a giant step forward.

In the past FILA has taken small steps, some of them backwards.

I promise you that the steps all of us are taking now will be huge. They will propel us into a new age in our sport.

We WILL make changes:

We will rename ourselves to reflect the world of wrestling. And we will embrace the wrestling of all countries...of many styles.

We will look different...on the mats...in our competitive dress and in our brand.

We will not stand still in the area of doping. Ours is not a sport in which doping is common, but we will be vigilant in making sure it is not.

We will increase our vigilance in match-fixing, betting and in any area where our sport may be tainted or harmed.

We will take our message to sponsors that wrestling is worth investing in. And we will be good partners with them.

We will increase our commitment to reach media and let the world know how great this sport is, and the wrestlers who compete in it will be our greatest stories.

We will change the way we present competitions - on location and on television.

We will be strong as we prepare for Rio and the 2016 Olympic Games. We will have the best wrestlers in the world, we will be ready to take the biggest stage in the world and make our sport proud.

And we will be a Partner to the International Olympic Committee and its outreach to improve the world.

In the years to come we also have to work very closely with our friends and partners from WADA, SportAccord and ASOIF, the Summer Sports Federations. And everyone involved in the world of international sport.

Together we will implement this World Wrestling Plan.

We want our organization to inspire us, to be something all of us can be proud of. The Bureau, the national federations, the FILA staff, our referees, officials, volunteers...we want a spirit from within FILA that sends that message to our wrestlers, to our fans and to the world.

In Moscow I gave each of you an envelope and said...in this envelope is the person who will change our sport. And inside was a Mirror. It was you. We all helped change that day...and because of it we are still an Olympic sport.

That Mirror is still with us. And so are you. We are not finished. Far from it.

This is the time that we all come together to do this. TODAY is that time.

And I am proud to be a part of this strength...and to stand with each of you."