



UIM F1H2O pilot, Marit Strømøy speaking at the IF Forum

## Powerboat athletes take the stage at the IF Forum in Lausanne

"Athlete-Centred Sport" was the theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the IF Forum, organized by SportAccord in Lausanne, Switzerland. The annual summit of the International Sports Federations assembled more than 300 Sports Leaders from around the world in the Olympic Capital to explore the benefits of placing athletes at the heart of the Sport, in line with the Olympic Agenda 2020.

"By putting the wellbeing of athletes at the heart of the discussion, the IF Forum 2019 has provided an essential platform for exchanging knowledge and it has inspired a new approach to improve their condition," UIM, GAISF and SportAccord President Dr. Raffaele Chiulli said.

The three-day event offered a diversity of workshops, panel sessions and presentations with a focus on safeguarding athletes, financial well-being, athlete welfare and mental health, protecting clean athletes and strengthening the athletes' voice.

Representatives of the International Powerboat Federation played a particularly active part in the debates



UIM Aquabike Rider, Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq

and two of UIM's most outstanding athletes, UIM F1H2O driver Marit Strømøy (NOR) and UIM Aquabike World Champion Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq (KUW) came on stage to bring in their views and experience in the panel discussions, while Jean-Marie Van Lancker and Kathy Van Den Hende, UIM Offshore Commission Chairman and Member respectively enjoyed their first-time participation in the IF Forum.

"Bringing the athletes in the Center of the Sport is of capital importance, given the ever increasing pressure we are exposed to at all levels," said Marit Strømøy in appreciation of the initiatives taken by this year's IF Forum.

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**About the Union Internationale Motonautique.** The UIM is the world governing body for all Powerboating activities. It is fully recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is a member of the Association of the IOC Recognized International Sports Federations (ARISF) and of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) for both of which UIM President, Dr. Raffaele Chiulli also serves as President. The UIM has 62 affiliated National Federations. Circuit, Offshore, Pleasure Navigation, Aquabike and MotoSurf are the main disciplines. The UIM has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to further its range of environmental initiatives, share expertise and work together for "greening" the Sport.



UIM President Dr. Raffaele Chiulli



UIM President Dr. Raffaele Chiulli with Marit Strømøy



From left to right: H.E. Bader S. Al-Tunaib, Ambassador of Kuwait in Switzerland, UIM Aquabike World Champion Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq, UIM President Dr. Raffaele Chiulli



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