

## **KNGU, Royal Dutch Gymnastics Federation, advocates a positive sports climate at the international FIG congress**

At the beginning of November, a delegation of KNGU participated in the FIG-congress in Turkey. The Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG- International Gymnastics Federation) is important to the gymnastics sport since the rules of play for our sport at the highest level are determined there. Thus, it is of importance for the KNGU to exert influence here. This is why the KNGU has adopted an [international agenda](#) with focal points on, inter alia, gender equality/diversity and a positive sports climate. Furthermore, the focus is to acquire large events such as the [2023 World Gymnaestrada](#) in Amsterdam.

### **Call to action**

As regards gender equality, one of the goals is to obtain more international positions for female board members. Unfortunately, the two Dutch candidates during the FIG elections, Monique Kempff (executive committee) and Jitske Vasbinder (women's technical committee gymnastics) did not attain sufficient votes.

Equally, director Marieke van der Plas made a statement to support the efforts of the [Gymnastics Ethics Foundation](#): "We are very thankful for the support, effort and insights of the Foundation. But I want to emphasize that we, as national federations and local clubs, are responsible for our own actions regarding a positive and safe sports climate. If needed, the Royal Dutch Gymnastics Federation is willing to share the [results of our investigation](#) and follow up with other countries and federations."

Additionally, Marieke van der Plas called on the new executive committee of the FIG: "Don't just set up a safety net when things go wrong, but also dare to have a look at the way in which the sport is organized, for example the minimum age at which performance is expected and our sportswear rules and culture." The statutes of the FIG have been amended, at the request of the KNGU as well. To this end, it has become possible to share penal and disciplinary judgments with the Foundation as regards officials in the sport. However, the KNGU still has many questions about privacy law which renders it impossible to enable this international exchange.

### **Continuation in 2022**

The KNGU advocates an international alliance so as to consistently call on these matters next year as well. Furthermore, together with the city of Rotterdam, a bid will be submitted by the end of May 2022 for the 2026 gymnastics world championships.