



## IOC's Christian Wassmer and SportAccord's Vlad Marinescu among Keynote Speakers at Inaugural Global Skateboarding Summit May 22-24 in Istanbul

(Istanbul, Turkey – February 12, 2015) — [World Skateboarding Federation](http://www.worldskateboardingfederation.org), a governing body for skateboarding, today announced keynote speakers for the upcoming Global Skateboarding Summit in Istanbul, Turkey May 22-24, including Christian Wassmer, the International Olympic Committee Head of International Federations Relations and Winter Sports, and Vlad Marinescu, general director of Sport Accord.

The three-day summit will be held at the Conrad Hotel in Istanbul. Designed to be an annual meeting to unify skateboarding, the summit will discuss ways to help grow and form local, national and international skateboarding federations and associations.

With the potential of skateboarding being included in future Olympic Games, the summit will also serve as a platform to understand the implications of this opportunity. Attendees will hear directly from the IOC and Sport Accord on how skateboarding can be included and what it needs to do to be considered. The summit will give attendees a chance to voice opinions and ask questions as the framework for an internationally agreed upon format, scoring system and a unified network of qualifying events are considered.

The full list of speakers for the 2015 Global Skateboarding Summit includes:

**Christian Wassmer**, IOC Head of International Federation Relations and Winter Sports

**Vlad Marinescu**, General Director of Sport Accord

**Tim McFerran**, President of World Skateboarding Federation

**Alistair Menzies**, Board Chairman of Skateboard Scotland

**Cyrille Harnay**, President of the International Downhill Federation

**Dr. Jack J. Lesyk**, Ph.D., CC-AASP, Director of Ohio Center for Sports Psychology

**Mike Jacki**, Former President of USA Gymnastics and USA Ski and Snowboard

**Brendi Rawlin**, Managing Director of Lee & London Public Relations

**Aaron Spohn**, CEO of Action Park Alliance

"This Summit will be hugely beneficial to those in the industry looking to understand the requirements and implications of skateboarding in the Olympics," said Tim McFerran, president of World Skateboarding Federation and host of the Global Summit. "We have some of the top speakers from the IOC and Sport Accord to help guide and educate the skateboarding industry. We will be hosting international federation and local federation representatives as well as industry leaders from around the world – we are looking forward to a meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas."

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### About the Global Skateboarding Summit

The purpose of the Global Skateboarding Summit is to bring together skateboarders, organizations, groups, federations, and associations, for the first time, in an effort to collaborate, organize and create a meaningful direction for the sport of skateboarding while supporting its athletes. Designed to be an annual meeting to help support skateboarders globally and further the growth of skateboarding, the summit will be packed with top tier speakers from the global skateboarding and international sports community. An exhibition area will be available for companies to share merchandise, activities and connect with the largest collection of global skateboarding athletes, retailers, manufacturers and brands. There will also be valuable networking and one-on-one meeting opportunities for attendees. To register for the summit as an attendee or exhibitor, visit [www.worldskateboardingfederation.org](http://www.worldskateboardingfederation.org).

### About World Skateboarding Federation (WSF)

World Skateboarding Federation is the leader in providing skateboarders around the world with funds to help pay for travel expenses to attend international contests. WSF actively donates skateboards to youth in poverty stricken areas and supports worthwhile skateboarding organizations like Skateistan in South Africa. WSF is currently working with a number of countries, providing leadership and expertise, to help them form national federations. The mission of the World Skateboarding Federation is to promote skateboarding around the world; to grow and connect relevant skateboarders, organizations, brands and manufacturers for the further expansion of skateboarding; to assist in building quality skateparks; to provide financial assistance to top skateboarders to attend international skateboarding contests; to create a centralized judging and scoring system; and to provide a platform to create national, regional and local contests. World Skateboarding Federation is a USA incorporated nonprofit 501-c-3 organization. For more information visit [www.worldskateboardingfederation.org](http://www.worldskateboardingfederation.org).