

## Press Release

### Gian Gilli to become the new head of Swissalpine

**At the Swissalpine there is a changing of the guard. Gian Gilli takes over the leadership of the largest summer running event in Graubünden next year. Andrea Tuffli, the 1986 founder and erstwhile head of Swissalpine, remains in the new five-member board.**

Instead of the K78, with start and finish in Davos, as was the case last year, the new supreme discipline T88 Swissalpine will start in St Moritz, with its destination in Davos. With this re-launch, the Organising Committee have created the most significant step in the 33-year history of Swissalpine in 2018. Now, behind the scenes of the tasks of this major event, setting the course of this strategic sporting field, are the new OC president (succeeding Andrea Tuffli) and the board members. This was regulated at the recent General Assembly at which a strategic committee, comprising a five-member board, was elected, led by the club president, Gian Gilli. The board also includes Jasmin Nunige, Roberto Rivola, Christian Biland and Andrea Tuffli. Nunige sits on the panel as a representative of the Davos Sports Commission; she is also the seven-time winner of the K78 of the Swissalpine. Rivola is a communications expert and an avid trail runner. As a former CEO of Migros Eastern Switzerland and an active trailer, Biland has also been associated with the Swissalpine for many years.



61-year-old Gilli is currently the full-time CEO of next year's Ice Hockey A World Cup, which will be held in Switzerland in May 2020, with venues in Zurich and Lausanne. Therefore, it was agreed between Gilli and the Swissalpine that he will only be available as President from summer 2020. Gilli is widely known in the sports arena. At Swiss Ski, he served as cross-country head coach and later as head of competitive sports. For the Alpine World Ski Championships 2003 in St Moritz, he was active as a sports director for the Ice Hockey A World Cup 2009 in Switzerland as CEO and Secretary-General. At Swiss Olympic, Gilli, as sports director, reorganised the sports department. And as head of mission and principal coach, he led the Swiss delegation to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, 2012 in London and 2014 in Sochi. He also designed and led the candidature Winter Olympic Games Graubünden 2022.

"I consider trail running to be a magnificent event," says Gilli. "It motivates me to do something with a strong team that takes place in Graubünden. With Davos and the Engadine, the Swissalpine offers a special combination. This major undertaking occurs in one of the most beautiful regions of the Alps. We need movement in the mountains. This has a sporty, a touristy and an eventful background." Anyone who knows Gilli, will be aware that he will tackle his new task ambitiously.

"If I'm doing something, I want to develop it further," says the 61-year-old, who originates from the Engadine. "The Swissalpine has potential. It is a product with which we can ideally consolidate our strength in Graubünden. Especially in the summer, we have to look for good events in the canton – those, which have great charisma, and which really make evident our positive attributes."

Gilli remarks that at the moment, it is too early for him to comment on concrete plans. According to Tuffli, the sporting relaunch of the Swissalpine will be concluded next year with a 100 Miler (about 160 km, the Red), on the most beautiful trail track in the world. "In the medium term, the Trail World Championship will be considered."

The 34th edition of the Swissalpine will be held this year with the preliminary events on 20th July in the Upper Engadine, and the main event from 26th to 28th July in Davos - the T88, of course, will be re-started in St Moritz. For the first time, running shoe manufacturer, On, will be the second main sponsor alongside Migros. The competition programme has been further streamlined; It will be more compact and clearer. No longer to be carried out, will be the T127, the T39 and the H21. The H20 again leads over the Jakobshorn, with Start and Finish in Davos.