

Vessela LETCHEVA

Candidate for ISSF President

Every Shot Counts.
Every Moment Matters





ATHLETIC CAREER & GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Olympic silver medallist:** Seoul 1988 (50m Rifle 3 Positions) and Barcelona 1992 (10m Air Rifle);
- **Five-time World Champion:** Suhl 1986 (two gold medals), Budapest 1987, Sarajevo 1989, and Moscow 1990;
- **Eight-time European Champion,** with two additional silver medals and three bronze medals at European Championships;
- **All-time World Cup record-holder,** with 31 gold, 13 silver, and 11 bronze medals;
- **Four-time ISSF World Cup Final winner;**

In 2007, on the occasion of the ISSF's 100th anniversary, she was voted the Top Shooter of the 20th Century.

Her competitive career is distinguished by exceptional consistency, psychological resilience, and sustained dominance at the highest level of international shooting over more than a decade.



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Vessela Letcheva is an accomplished sports leader, Olympic medallist, and senior public official with more than three decades of experience spanning elite international competition, sports governance, parliamentary leadership, and ministerial administration.

A multiple Olympic medallist and one of the most distinguished rifle shooters of her generation, she has built a career combining elite sporting achievement with leadership in public administration and sports development. Her work focuses on modernising sports institutions, expanding participation in sport, strengthening support for athletes and coaches, and enhancing Bulgaria's international representation within the Olympic Movement.



As President of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, Vessela Letcheva brings extensive experience in organisational leadership, sports policy development, and institutional management. Her professional background includes overseeing major sports infrastructure projects, advancing sustainable funding frameworks, and promoting the long-term development of competitive and grassroots sport.





EDUCATION

PhD in Sport from the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski", Sofia, Bulgaria.

The doctoral research, "Theory and Methodology of Sports Training," focuses on situational psychological and physical preparation in elite shooting sports, contributing to advanced methodologies in performance optimization.



SPORT LEADERSHIP

- **President of the Bulgarian Shooting Union since 2022**

Under her leadership, the number of competitive shooters nationwide has increased, the federation has secured a record budget, and the National Shooting Range has undergone a comprehensive renovation and reopened as a modern facility for sport shooting.

- **Vice-President of the European Shooting Confederation (ESC)**

As vice president of the European Shooting Confederation (ESC), Vessela Letcheva helps strengthen the organization's international ties with the International Olympic Committee, the European Olympic Committees, and the National Olympic Committees. She participates in coordinating preparations for the 2027 European Games in Istanbul.

- **President of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee (BOC)**

Elected in 2025, she led the Bulgarian Olympic Team at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games, achieving Bulgaria's best result in 20 years. As BOC President, she advocates structural reform, stronger international representation, and the modernisation of Olympic governance. She also promotes sports diplomacy and institutional transparency at the international level.

- **Member of the IOC Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Commission since 2023**

In this role, she contributes to the development of strategic communications policies and global public affairs initiatives within the Olympic Movement.







GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

- **Minister of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria (2022–2023)**

She manages to ensure institutional stability and policy continuity. In addition she created a national state-funded program for coaches, providing structured financial support and professional development pathways. Letcheva completed the construction of the second-largest multifunctional sports hall in Burgas, with over €40 million invested, expanding Bulgaria's capacity for hosting international events. An innovative data-driven policy development was initiated to assess participation levels and map them with sport infrastructure to optimize public investment in youth and sport.



- **Chair of the State Agency for Youth and Sports of Bulgaria (2005-2009)**

Vessela Letcheva launched nationwide mass sports programs in tennis, skiing, and swimming, strengthened governance frameworks for national federations, and significantly increased funding for professional and amateur sport. She initiated the construction of Arena Sofia, the first large multifunctional sports hall in the capital to be built after 1989.

- **Member of the National Assembly of Bulgaria during its 39th, 40th, and 44th term**

Letcheva contributed to legislative initiatives related to youth engagement, sports governance, social welfare, and institutional reform and was deputy chair of the Standing Committees on Children, Youth, and Sports and on Social Policy over the years.


НАПРЕД,
НАУКАТА Е СЪНЦЕ,
КОЕТО ВЪВ ДУШИТЕ
ГРЕЙ ...
НАПРЕД,
НАРОДНОСТТА НЕ ЧЕЗНЕ,
ТАМ, ГДЕТО ЗНАНИЕТО
ЖИВЕЙ ...
Иван Пешев
Весела Лечева
Проф. Красимир Петков







MOTIVATION ANF CONTRIBUTION

I am confident in my ability to lead the shooting sport at the highest international level. I bring first-hand experience, strong leadership skills and well-established relationships across the shooting community. Having competed at the highest level, I understand the physical and mental demands placed on athletes, as well as the challenges of training and competition.

My years of experience in sport, public administration and leadership have taught me to work under pressure, assess complex situations and make clear, effective decisions.

I do not want to be merely an administrative president. My ambition is to lead an ISSF that is not only well-managed, but also influential and respected within the international sports and Olympic movement - an organization that helps shape the future of global sport.











Sport is a way of life!