

CONFÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DES ACTIVITÉS SUBAQUATIQUES (CMAS)

TO THE WORLD UNDERWATER FEDERATION (CMAS)

TO THE CMAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TO THE CMAS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

§1 In accordance with the provisions of CMAS Board Decision No. 233, adopted for the implementation of the CMAS Four-Star Instructor Standards, and referring specifically to Paragraph 6 – "Implementation Guidelines", particularly Section 6.2, I hereby submit the following application for the issuance of a CMAS Four-Star Instructor Certificate based on the following statement of grounds:

By adhering to all diving rules, training standards, and educational requirements, diving at all depths, and participating in every type of underwater activity—from rescue operations to scientific research expeditions—I have acquired sufficient diving knowledge, professional reputation, and recognition within the diving community. Based on these qualifications, the Presidency of the Association of Underwater Activity Organisations of the Republic of Serbia (SOPA RS) proposed to the Presidency of the Association for Underwater Activities and Marine Sport Fishing of the SFR Yugoslavia (hereinafter: RSJ Rijeka) that its Educational Commission award me the diploma of Federal Diving Instructor. That proposal was accepted, and I was awarded the highest diving distinction available in Yugoslavia at that time. (*see Appendix 1*)

It is well known within the international diving community that the Association for Underwater Activities and Marine Sport Fishing of the SFR Yugoslavia was one of the founding organisations of CMAS. The Association maintained representatives on all CMAS committees and commissions and actively participated in the Confederation's work. At that time, the Educational Commission of the Yugoslav Association intended to submit a proposal to the competent CMAS Commission requesting that CMAS officially recognise the diplomas issued to Federal Diving Instructors of the former Yugoslavia and that those instructors—including myself—be awarded the equivalent qualification of CMAS Four-Star Instructor.

§2 Following the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the consequent dissolution of the Association for Underwater Activities and Marine Sport Fishing of the SFR Yugoslavia, the possibility of obtaining such certification ceased to exist. That possibility was later restored through the establishment of the Association of Underwater Activity Organisations of the Republic of Serbia (SOPA RS). On at least four occasions, I submitted formal requests to SOPA RS seeking the issuance of the appropriate CMAS Four-Star Instructor certificate and my inclusion in the official register of Serbian diving instructors under that category. I never received a response, allegedly because of organisational difficulties within the Association that have significantly delayed decision-making.

Through this application, I am therefore attempting to expedite the issuance of the Four-Star Instructor certificate by addressing CMAS directly. This request also reflects the fact that throughout my entire diving career I have been exclusively committed to CMAS and its standards. As a diving instructor, I completed the training for every diver category and every instructor category solely within the framework of CMAS standards and regulations.

§3 I began my diving career by attending diving courses conducted under the first Diving Regulations of 1963. These regulations were first implemented by the Association for Marine Sport Fishing and Underwater Activities of the SFR Yugoslavia, and for a brief period also by the Association for Underwater Activities and Marine Sport Fishing (RSJ) in Rijeka. From the standpoint of the history of underwater activities in both Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia, it is important to note that these regulations were most likely produced by translating the French Diving Regulations during the mid-1960s. The regulations were introduced at the time when both civilian and naval diving organisations began equipping themselves with French La Spirotechnique diving equipment.

§4 During this period my interest in diving began, together with my determination to obtain all of my diving education and certifications exclusively through officially registered Serbian and Yugoslav diving organisations and from licensed instructors. The transparency and legality of my diving education are demonstrated by the fact that I obtained every qualification through officially recognised training courses, beginning with: Category Zero – Trainee Diver (*see Appendix 2*); Category One – Sport Diver (*see Appendix 3*); Category Two – Independent Diver (*see Appendix 4*); Category Three – Diving Instructor (*see Appendix 5*). One event has remained particularly memorable: the practical final examination for obtaining the Category Three – Diving Instructor qualification. The examination, attended by five candidates representing the republican diving associations affiliated with RSJ Rijeka, lasted four days. Among the practical tests, in addition to numerous equipment exercises, candidates were required to assemble scuba equipment underwater at a depth of ten metres after descending without a weight belt. Another exercise required candidates to make a free ascent from a depth of twenty metres after removing the regulator mouthpiece from the mouth. One of the examination tasks also involved a "blue-water" dive to a depth of fifty metres, followed by navigation along the seabed back to shore using only a compass. Upon surfacing, we still had twenty bar of air remaining in our 10-litre cylinders originally filled to two hundred bars. A particularly demanding part of the examination required candidates to assemble, dive with, and dismantle two types of oxygen rebreathers: the CRESSI-SUB 57 B Pendulum apparatus, and the PIRELLI Model LS 901 closed-circuit rebreather. I never learned why the examination board required us to dive using closed-circuit breathing apparatus. What I do know is that, at the time, a Pirelli rebreather complete with its accessories cost approximately half the price of an Italian Vespa scooter. The chairman of the examination board was the renowned underwater fisherman and Federal Diving Instructor Engineer Josip Medur.

§5 To promote diving and diving education according to international standards, CMAS adopted new training standards in 1987 covering all divers and diving organisations operating—or intending to operate—under CMAS standards. At the same time, CMAS introduced standardised training programmes for diver education at various qualification levels. These standards were published in a booklet commonly known as the "Blue Book", named after the colour of its cover. The publication clearly defined the standards and training requirements for diver classifications ranging from One-Star Diver to Four-Star Diver. In parallel with the definition of diver qualification levels, CMAS also established standardised training programmes and curricula for each category. The *Blue Book* further prescribed the procedures for issuing official CMAS diplomas for all diver categories. It also established the standards for instructor certifications ranging from One-Star Instructor to Three-Star Instructor. In the same publication, CMAS defined the procedure for obtaining certification and the CMAS Four-Star Instructor diploma.

The development of these standards, the classification of divers and instructors, and the preparation of training programmes by the various CMAS commissions continued for two years. On 15 September 1989, at the meeting of the CMAS Technical Committee in Paris, the Basic Principles for Licences and Certificates were adopted and distributed by the CMAS Commission for Licences and Certificates to all national diving federations. The Educational Commission of the Association in Rijeka immediately embraced this opportunity to enable Yugoslav divers and instructors to receive official CMAS diplomas, certification cards, and other insignia corresponding to their qualifications. In cooperation with the republican diving associations, a complete reclassification of divers and diving instructors was carried out. The Association in Rijeka officially verified this reclassification, and, following payment of the required administrative fees, most instructors from Serbia received their official CMAS diplomas, certification cards, and other insignia corresponding to their respective qualification levels at the beginning of 1990. (*see Appendix 6*)

§6 A good example of the cooperation between the Educational Commission of SOPA RS, the Educational Commission of RSJ Rijeka, and the CMAS Commission for Licences and Certificates was the organisation of the Junior Instructor training course. The course was organised by SOPA RS, which entrusted me with its overall management. At that time, under the applicable diving regulations, I held the rank of Senior Instructor. A total of fifty-seven candidates from all republican and provincial diving federations of the SFR Yugoslavia enrolled in the course. Between June 6th and October 1st 1988, the admission process, verification of candidates, entrance examinations, classroom instruction, practical training, and final examinations were conducted in Belgrade and Rijeka. Of the fifty-seven enrolled candidates, forty-three completed the course and qualified as Junior Instructors. After receiving their diplomas from the Educational Commission of RSJ Rijeka, the newly qualified Junior Instructors were offered the opportunity to obtain official CMAS One-Star Instructor diplomas and certification cards through the Association upon payment of the prescribed fee. All of them accepted this offer. Many of the instructors who obtained their One-Star Instructor certification through this course have gone on to enjoy successful diving careers. Several remain active today and have advanced to the rank of CMAS Three-Star Instructor.

§7 I believe that I fully satisfy all the requirements established by the CMAS Board of Directors for candidates seeking certification as CMAS Four-Star Instructors, as set out in Decision No. 233, Paragraph 3, Sections 3.1 through 3.2.2. Likewise, I also meet the requirements concerning participation in the training of CMAS Three-Star Instructor candidates. My Diving Training Logbook records my participation in four such instructor training courses, involving a total of six candidates.

§8 Throughout my work in many areas of underwater activities as a Three-Star Instructor, one of my greatest professional satisfactions was serving as President of the Technical Commission of RSJ Rijeka. I held this position until the Association ceased to exist. During my tenure, I organised three training courses for Technical Officers representing diving clubs that were members of the republican diving federations of the SFR Yugoslavia. Approximately forty divers, most of whom were already diving instructors, completed this specialised training.

§9 I believe that my contribution to the establishment and development of underwater activities in both the former Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia extends far beyond the achievements that led to my appointment as a Federal Diving Instructor. A comprehensive overview of these contributions can be found in my Diving Career Logbook. Among the many activities recorded there, I would particularly emphasise the following:

§10 In 1971, I was one of the founders of the Association for Underwater Activities of the Republic of Serbia, and I remain an active participant in its work. (*see Appendix 7*)

§11 Between 1971 and 2006, I participated in the establishment of five diving clubs in Belgrade. Among these, my role in founding the following organisations is particularly noteworthy: URS Society for Underwater Activities, Belgrade Underwater Activities, "Bezbednost" Diving Club and "Hidroarheolog" Diving Club (*see Appendix 8*)

§12 I participated in the development of the project for establishing the first private Hyperbaric Medicine Centre (CHM) in Belgrade, including its technical design, equipment procurement, and operational organisation. The Centre was established in 1994 and equipped with a COMEX multi-place hyperbaric chamber (CX 2000) together with all accompanying systems, including oxygen delivery equipment, monitoring instruments, fire protection systems, and high-capacity air banks for chamber pressurisation. A team of specialists from COMEX also trained part of the CHM staff in the operation of the chamber, and the participants received the appropriate professional certificates. (*see Appendices 9, 10 and 11*)

§13 I organised, participated in the planning of, and directed an underwater archaeological investigation of the Sava River in Sremska Mitrovica, aimed at locating the remains of the bridges of the ancient Roman city of Sirmium, one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. The project was sponsored in 1994 by the Archaeological Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade and the Museum of Srem in Sremska Mitrovica. The investigation enabled a more precise determination of the locations of the eastern and western bridges of fourth-century Sirmium. Numerous archaeological artefacts were recovered from the riverbed, illustrating everyday life and river navigation on the Savus—the Roman name for the River Sava—during the reign of Diocletian's Tetrarchy in the third and fourth centuries AD. (*see Appendices 12 and 13*)

§14 At the end of 1994, news began circulating among divers, and later in the press, that a shipwreck carrying the remains of a valuable cargo had been discovered in the southern part of the eastern Adriatic coast, in the Bay of Kotor, near Rose, a small harbour settlement at the entrance to the Herceg Novi Bay. Among the finds scattered across the seabed were numerous cups, saucers, plates, bowls, and other finely glazed and decorated ceramic vessels of exceptional artistic value. Following a proposal by the Diving Federation of the Republic of Montenegro, and with the support of the Heritage Museum of Herceg Novi and the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, a team of divers from the Belgrade diving club "Bezbednost" carried out an underwater archaeological survey of the wreck. Under my archaeological leadership, this survey was conducted in September 1995 near Cape Kabala, close to the harbour of Rose. The survey confirmed both the archaeological significance of the site and the need for a much larger underwater excavation. After preparing the research project, assembling the expedition team, and gathering diving equipment, archaeological instruments, and supporting technical resources, the largest and most significant underwater archaeological investigation ever undertaken in that part of the Adriatic Sea was conducted during the autumn of 1996. In my opinion, the quality and scope of this investigation have probably never been surpassed. The expedition included archaeologists, archaeology students, and divers from Belgrade and Herceg Novi. The team consisted of twenty-three members, all of whom participated in diving operations—including the expedition physician specialising in diving medicine and even the expedition cooks. Together they accumulated 730 hours underwater. The excavation recovered: sixteenth-century ceramic tableware decorated with hand-painted motifs

originating from Iznik, Turkey; pewter vessels, predominantly plates of probable Mediterranean origin; bronze oil-lamp holders; copper cauldrons; millstones for grinding grain; metal tools and other commercial goods. Within the remains of the vessel itself, investigators found: a large iron anchor typical of smaller sailing vessels; four cannons; and at least four gunpowder chambers ("maškule") used for loading naval artillery. Extensive research in maritime archives, port records, shipping logs, and other historical documents established that the wreck could be identified as follows: During a winter storm in 1504, a Spanish merchant vessel of the caravel type struck the coast. A fire subsequently broke out on board. The ship initially sank in shallow water, allowing part of its cargo to be salvaged. Over the centuries, however, the remaining cargo gradually dispersed down the steep underwater slope until it came to rest at a depth of approximately thirty metres, where the wreck was ultimately discovered. The investigation and its findings were published in numerous professional archaeological journals. Several documentary films were also produced and presented at festivals both in Serbia and internationally. *(see Appendices 14, 15, 15A, 16 and 17)*

§15 Within my home organisation, the "Hidroarheolog" Diving Club, I established a Museum of Underwater Activities and Diving Equipment. The museum's exhibition contains three hundred objects, including diving equipment, ship equipment and tools, nautical instruments and equipment. One section of the museum is devoted entirely to products manufactured by La Spirotechnique (SPIRO) that were marketed in the former Yugoslavia and used by Serbian divers, including the OXYMIX 3C breathing apparatus. The museum also houses an extensive collection of historical diving documents and numerous photographs of Serbian and other divers who made significant contributions to the development of diving in Serbia throughout the various periods of Yugoslav history. *(see Appendices 18 and 19)*

§16 From my very first dive, I developed a strong interest not only in diving itself but also in the equipment, support systems, and auxiliary technology used in underwater activities. To maintain, service, overhaul, and manufacture spare parts for diving equipment, I established a specialised diving equipment workshop. Within the "Hidroarheolog" Diving Club, this workshop was later expanded into the ARHOTEHNA Service Centre. The service centre is equipped with certified tools for the inspection, testing, maintenance, and overhaul of virtually every type of breathing apparatus used in diving. It also contains specialised instruments capable of precisely measuring the operating parameters of breathing equipment under simulated working-depth conditions and digitally recording those measurements. Within the ARHOTEHNA Service Centre, numerous custom adapters have been designed and manufactured to make older breathing equipment compatible with modern technical standards. For example, an adapter was developed that enables the high-pressure (HP) pressure-gauge connection on the first stage of the well-known La Spirotechnique AQUILON regulator to be connected to a modern 7/16-inch HP pressure-gauge hose. Another example is an adapter that allows the HP yoke assembly of the famous MISTRAL STANDARD and ROYAL MISTRAL regulators to be connected to cylinders fitted with DIN 200 or DIN 300 valves. *(see Appendices 20, 21 and 22)*

§17 A few days ago, a long-time diving colleague from Kikinda, in the Banat region, contacted me seeking historical information about Serbian diving. He was unable to locate the information on the Internet because power restrictions in his area had prevented his computer from connecting to the Internet. The reduced water level affecting the local hydroelectric power system had caused intermittent interruptions to the electricity supply. I was able to find the requested information immediately in my own publication entitled: "Catalogue of Written Materials Collected and Held by the Author." This catalogue was compiled after many years of collecting books, catalogues,

brochures, manuals, and other written materials covering every field of underwater activities. It contains 2,000 titles, ranging from the history of diving to modern mixed-gas diving systems. The catalogue is available to anyone who wishes to obtain a printed copy by covering the printing costs. Among the many works in my personal library, one of the most valuable is an original French edition of the magazine *L'Illustration*, No. 4354, published in Paris on 14 August 1926. The magazine contains an article describing Commander Yves Le Prieur's demonstration of his newly invented diving apparatus at the Trocadéro Aquarium in Paris. His invention supplied divers with compressed air delivered continuously at ambient pressure, although this reduced the duration of underwater autonomy. The article bears the title: "Un Nouvel Appareil de Plongée" ("A New Diving Apparatus"). (see Appendix 23)

§18 Among the many books in my library, one has always held a particularly special place. It is the work that first revealed to me the true beauty of diving: Philippe Diolé – *The Underwater Adventure* (Serbian translation from the French). The book was published in Belgrade in 1958 by the publishing house Tehnička Knjiga and was offered for sale at the first Belgrade Book Fair in 1957. The original French edition was Philippe Diolé – *L'Aventure Sous-Marine*, Éditions Albin Michel, Paris, 1951.

§19 I respectfully request that all CMAS bodies to which this application has been submitted acknowledge its receipt by replying to the Gmail address from which this application was sent. The required CMAS Nomination Form, together with my application for certification as a CMAS Four-Star Instructor, as provided for in Paragraph 5, Section 5.1.3 of the applicable Standard, was completed on 3 August 2026 and submitted electronically to the above-mentioned CMAS authorities. **I respectfully ask all competent CMAS institutions to accept this application, approve my certification, and issue to me the CMAS Four-Star Instructor Diploma.** I further propose that all future correspondence relating to this certification be conducted by email. My email address is: panic.slobodan@gmail.com

In Belgrade, on 5 August 2026. Submitted to:	Submitted by:
CMAS (three copies)	Slobodan Panić
Diving club "Hidroarheolog"	Graduate Archaeologist
Educational commission of SOPA RS	Master of Archaeology
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REFERENCES USED IN PREPARING THE APPLICATION

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9. *C.M.A.S. – TRIMIX, Standards and Requirements Training Program; CMAS TRIMIX DIVER*, Version 11/2001.
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11. *C.M.A.S.–GASBLENDER & SERVICE – TECHNICIAN Standards and Requirements*, Training Programme, Version 11/2002.
12. *C.M.A.S. – UNDERWATER NAVIGATION, Speciality Course, PART I (STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS)*, Version 2003/04.
13. *C.M.A.S. ONE STAR DIVER – TWO STAR DIVER (TRAINING PROGRAM)*.
14. *C.M.A.S. ONE STAR DIVER HANDBOOK*, including: Course Aims and Administration; Introduction to Equipment; Elementary Signals; Pressure/Volume Relationships; Principles and Use of SCUBA; Basic Physiology; Buoyancy Devices; Diving Suits and Other Equipment; Equipment Care; Self-Rescue and Buddy Rescue; Safe Diving Practices; Site Selection; Conservation.
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16. *POVEZ BR. 11/14. CMAS. STATIČKA APNEJA; DINAMIČKA APNEJA (SA ILI BEZ PERAJA); BRZINSKA IZDRŽLJIVOST U APNEJI*, International Rules, Version 2016/02 CA 192. Obtained at the 2016 instructors' seminar.
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STATEMENT OF GROUNDS FOR ISSUANCE OF CMAS FOUR-STAR INSTRUCTOR CATEGORY FOR
SLOBODAN PANIĆ