



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION
Headquarters, Operations and Olympic/Paralympic Games

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By e-mail only

**To: ITTF Board of Directors
ITTF Member Associations
ITTF President's Advisory Council
Chairs of ITTF Committees and Commissioners**

Cc: Senior Management

Lausanne, 1st December 2020

Re: Letter from German Table Tennis Association (DTTB) dated 18th November 2020

Dear BoD colleagues, dear Member Associations representatives, dear friends,

The ITTF Executive Committee had an emergency meeting on Friday 27th November to analyze and discuss the letter dated 18th November 2020 circulated by DTTB to the ITTF family, which seems also to have reached commercial partners and media.

In the interest of the table tennis community and the sport – and without prejudice to the necessary actions that the ITTF Executive Committee (EC) may take to protect and preserve the reputation of the ITTF, the ITTF Executive Committee and its staff, the EC confirms as follows:

- 1) In view of the ITTF commercial rights contracts generally finishing by the end of 2020, following a decision taken at the EC in December 2018 in Incheon, Korea, the EC decided to establish a commercial subsidiary World Table Tennis Pte Ltd ('**WTT**').
- 2) The process of development and creation of WTT was characterized by transparency and professionalism, including the engagement of two world-reputed firms, Deloitte Sport Business Group and Withers, to assist us in identifying the best possible business model in light of similar developments in other sports.
- 3) In February 2019, the EC launched a commercial rights tender. In this regard, a tender guide was published seeking interest from over 50 international companies who wished to become strategic partners of WTT with the ability to also become a shareholder of WTT.
- 4) The main goal of this new approach is to assign the commercialization of the rights inherent in our main events and their organization to an entity with the necessary skills and expertise, thereby establishing international partnerships as the best way to succeed in an ever-more-competitive sport market.
- 5) In contrast to the allegations made and impression given in DTTB's letter, the ITTF stakeholders received regular updates during the process, via information sessions, both physical and online and regular email communications which led to the ratification of the work made by the EC at the Annual General Meeting on 28th September 2020.



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- 6) The ITTF is fully committed to protect the interests of its 226 Member Associations. Notwithstanding the disappointing catalogue of inaccuracies and serious and unfounded allegations in, and the unfortunate tone of DTTB's letter, the EC has established two working groups:
 - a. The first will be led by three (3) Executive Committee members and two staff who were not involved in the WTT Selection Panel, to ensure independency. This group will also work with Deloitte and Withers. The group will also incorporate an external expert. The ITTF will provide a response to DTTB's letter once this work is completed. The result of the groups work will be provided to the ITTF Membership.
 - b. The second group, with another three (3) EC members, will engage with European Member Associations, to obtain feedback and listen to any concerns that DTTB's letter may have generated.
- 7) The EC expressed its appreciation for the work of the ITTF staff which has been managing the #RESTART table tennis events in November. After an intense period of three months, and despite the very many challenges, there were three successful events held, with the crowning of the Women's and Men's World Cup, as well as the ITTF Finals taking place in Weihai and Zhengzhou, China.

To conclude, the EC also expressed its satisfaction for the WTT show case event which finished on the weekend in Macao, trusting that the ITTF family, the players, the commercial partners and table tennis fans worldwide will be excited by the glimpse into the future that is planned from 2021.

Yours sincerely,

ITTF Executive Committee