



30th March 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is with great pleasure that Germany will welcome the 700 best table tennis players in the world to the ITTF World Championships, taking place from 29 May until 5 June 2017 in Düsseldorf. On this occasion the ITTF Annual General Meeting will elect a new Executive Board and our friend, current ITTF President Thomas Weikert, will run for a second term as its President.

We are deeply convinced that Thomas Weikert disposes of everything needed to run the biggest International Sports Federation in the world: Having been a table tennis player in the First German League, he perfectly knows what athletes need and expect from their Federation. Having been for many years the Chair of DOSB's Coaches Academy, the institution in Germany which educates the best coaches of our country, he has a deep understanding for today's challenges in the coaching world. Having been first lawyer, Secretary General and then, for ten years, President of the German Table Tennis Federation (DTTB) he has proven to be a great leader in his sport. It was under his leadership that DTTB has developed to one of the world's and Europe's most successful National Federation. To put it in a nutshell: He knows his sport inside-out – on all levels: athlete, coach, professional administrator and leader.

In addition to this vast experience in the table tennis world, Thomas Weikert is a successful lawyer in his professional life. As we all know, the day-to-day management of sports federations is getting more and more complex so legal expertise is becoming one of the key skills in order to meet the challenges an International Federation like ITTF is facing today and will face even more in the years to come.

These outstanding skills are embraced by his attitude as a fair and collaborative team player and his deep love for table tennis which make him not only an extremely professional but also a passionate leader for his sport which, we at DOSB are deeply convinced of, will lift table tennis to an even greater future.

During his current term as ITTF President Thomas Weikert has already taken major steps in this direction: Under his leadership one of the most important sponsorship deals for ITTF was signed, record breaking price money is being paid for the World Tour, a significant increase in development projects has been achieved and crucial measures to safeguard the integrity of table tennis have been taken – just to mention some of his numerous achievements. We believe that this successful work is worth the opportunity to be continued and accomplished in a second term of office.

For all these reasons DOSB would therefore like to express its full support to Thomas Weikert's candidacy and we would very much appreciate if you would consider to encourage your national table tennis federation to also support his candidacy.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hörmann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alfons Hörmann
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Vesper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Michael Vesper
CEO