WDSF PD Acting Director Alexander Melnikov

REPORT TO THE PROFESSIONAL DIVISION AGM 2012

Dear Professional Division Members, dear Colleagues

WDSF Professional Division was established in June 2010 at the WDSF AGM in Vienna and became operational in August 2010 by taking over the existing structure of the former independent organization IPDSC (International DanceSport Council), including its managing structure (Presidium and Managing Committee) while the title President has been changed by Article 17 of WDSF Statutes to Professional Division Director having the seat also in the WDSF Presidium. During the 1st year of Professional Division's operation all the current activities had been run by its Managing Committee.

With the valuable support by the WDSF President Carlos Freitag and in co-operation with the three colleagues of the PD managing Committee we succeeded to prepare the proposals for the very important operating structures (commissions) necessary to carry on the demanding tasks in the fields of two core activities in our Division: sport and education. Our Sports Director Mr. Marco Sietas prepared the structure for the PD Sports Commission and I am preparing the structure of the PD Education Commission with Mr. Hans Laxholm whom I am proposing to become the head of the Education Commission. In between Sports and Education Commissions there will be the PD Adjudicator's Commission headed by the PD Director. The above described structure is subject to the approval by the PD Presidium to be held on June 14th prior to the PD AGM in Berlin.

I am glad to be able to report that, in spite of the fact that PD operating structures (commissions and administration) are still in the process of being established, our Division has been achieving positive development regarding its membership, competition and education areas as it can be seen from the following facts:

- <u>Membership consolidation:</u>
  In many countries where former IPDSC professional bodies have continued to be our Division members the agreements have been reached between such professional bodies and WDSF National Member Federations regarding the representation of their country in our Division, the most important examples being Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and several eastern countries. I am also very pleased to welcome three new members in 2012, namely Croatia, Germany and Norway.
- <u>PD competitions:</u>
  The overall quality level of the competitions as well as the number of participating couples is increasing, the prizes are getting better and by the support of WDSF in terms of prize money our Division will start Super Grand Prix series with 2 competitions in Standard and 2 Competitions in Latin in 2012. The licensing of WDSF adjudicators to get

also the Professional Division Adjudicators license is progressing very well and there are currently 140 WDSF adjudicators from 22 countries with active PD Adjudicators license and a lot of new applications being in process of approval or payment of the PD license fee. The existing number of WDSF adjudicators with active PD license enables the organisers to strictly follow the decision of the PD Managing Committee that PD Competitions can only be judged by adjudicators with active PD license.

- Teacher & Student Project:
  A working group established by former PD Director Daniele Tondon has written and successfully presented at the 2011 PD AGM in Luxembourg the rules and procedures for Teacher & Student activities and competitions, but unfortunately since then the T&S project remained in the "stand-by" position. Only recently the TS Project Group became active again. They started to promote TS project within PD Member Federations and I glad to be able to announce that there will be at least two international TS events in Russia this year: 10th of June and last weekend in November. I hope this will be a good start for the further progress of the TS project in our Division.

- Education – WDSF DanceSport Academy:
  Educational activities should in the future become the main focus of the Professional Division with the aim to accumulate and develop the best of the world's dancesport knowledge possessed by the top professionals of nowadays and in the future. The mission of the Professional Division should be the systematic distribution of this knowledge within various areas of the world and between older and younger generations by means of education. The education of dancesport coaches and trainers is to be the main objective of the WDSF DanceSport Academy. The Academy will be managed by the Professional Division and the proposed Education Director, Mr Hans Laxholm, is preparing the Academy's Program.

I am looking forward for the continuing support of our Professional Division Members, and after a successful PD event in Manila (Philippines) at the end of 2011 I hope to see PD competitions also in Asia in the near future. And of course, we should find ways to encourage and enable National WDSF Member Federations from Canada, USA, South America and Africa to establish and start developing their professional divisions or departments under the leadership of our Division.

Alexander Melnikov
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