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Your open letter to WDC of 27th January

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GW/Dos

Dear Rudi,

Reading your letter to Donnie Burns and Fred Bijster I was very surprised. It seemed to assume that Donnie and Fred took a single-handed decision, to disqualify the IDSF-judges from adjudicating at the WDC European and World Championships.

Your expertise as an official in various WDC committees is by far great enough to know, that these committees have taken this decision in a democratic way. For many years the presidents of the 45 nations demanded stronger countermeasures, because the IDSF often constricted or even boycotted their work in their own countries.

I was even more surprised by your comment, that all is hunky dory in Germany and everything runs smoothly. The exact opposite is the case. Despite the existing agreement between the WDC and IDSF regarding the recognition of each others adjudication licenses, the IDSF in reality never recognized the agreement.

I witnessed more than once, in Germany and other countries that WDC judges, holding a WDC-license were not allowed to officiate, based on the argument, that they do not hold an IDSF-license.

You yourself were one of the people who criticised this DTV and IDSF practice for many years.

Furthermore there are hundreds of professionals in Germany, who are not acknowledged by the DTV, because they dared to resurrect an amateur organisation for their profession, in answer to their frustration with the DTV. This means that they are even more discriminated against in Germany. It goes as far as qualified teachers, teaching at the BDT Congress, having their DTV/IDSF-License revoked.

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For many years you yourself as a long-standing member of this association – the BDT have been privy to information about these events.

You yourself now criticise the WDC for taking the same measures which the DTV/IDSF have practiced for years. In that time you criticised the DTV and IDSF and asked them to stand together as one. Now, since the WDC and its members have taken the decision, to actively fight against the restrictions imposed by the IDSF you no longer stand by your request and you go as far as stating the opposite.

You know very well that professionals, who officiated at the IDU-Tournaments now are without an IDSF-License. Let me remind you about your pupil Alexander Müller, who had to suffer many professional disadvantages due to this. A long list of names of people exists, who had their professional license revoked by the IDSF and the relevant national committees.

Of course there are exceptions to this, as there always are in the dance sport world.

The IDSF and the DTV went as far as refusing a license for one of the best tournaments in the world – the GOC in Mannheim. Despite financial support for the GOC Mannheim from the town and „m:con“ the event did not receive a license. No, on the contrary the DTV, IDSF and DPV decision makers demanded personal payments from Mr. Maugé, it went as far down in the ranks as the Sportwart and a the head of a national DTV committee. In light of this you still pretend everything in Germany is hunky dory?

During IDU-Tournaments in China the IDSF as far as, pretending in front of the Chinese Government and the Olympic Committee, that the tournaments are illegal. This is no sign for cooperation.

I know that dance, despite being one of the most beautiful and complicated sports in the world, is only a small cog, nationally and internationally, in the huge sports world machinery, and therefore we can only run and represent it together. But this only works on a fair and democratic platform; and we need to work together in order to build it.

Yours sincerely,

Gerd Weissenberg