



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Unclassified

Mr Alfons Hörmann
President
Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund

Norway, 26 March 2021

Dear President Hörmann,

Recent statements in the German media have been brought to my attention, including the virtual press conference you gave on 1 March 2021, following the IOC Executive Board's decision on 24 February 2021 to open and invite Brisbane into Targeted Dialogue for the Games of the XXXV Olympiad 2032. Given that various inaccurate declarations have been expressed in the public domain, I feel compelled to write to you today, on the one hand to express my surprise and disappointment and, on the other hand, given the very clear nature of our discussions, to ask you to set the record straight.

Following the adoption of the New Approach to future host elections by the IOC Session in June 2019, and the subsequent IOC Executive Board meeting in October 2019, the DOSB was informed in detail about the New Approach in a letter dated 1 November 2019 (**Annex 1**) which was communicated to all National Olympic Committees through the IOC's NOCNET site. As mentioned in the letter, continuous dialogue for Olympic Games or Youth Olympic Games is exploratory in nature, non-edition specific and non-committal for either party. It provides for an open dialogue with any Interested Party that has the support of its respective National Olympic Committee (NOC).

As stated in the Olympic Charter, the NOC remains the body ultimately responsible for a future project. Indeed, bye-law to Rule 33 states the following:

- *Any candidature to host the Olympic Games requires the approval of the NOC of the country concerned.*
- *Should there be several potential candidatures in the same country for the same Olympic Games, only one candidature may apply, as decided by the NOC of the country concerned.*
- *The NOC of the country concerned shall supervise and be jointly responsible for the candidature-related actions and conduct of the public authorities of its country and other parties involved in the candidature to host the Olympic Games.*

It is therefore the responsibility of the National Olympic Committee of an Interested Party to reach out to the IOC to officially enter Continuous Dialogue. I understand the IOC President explained the new process to you personally during your meeting with him at Olympic House on 6 February 2020. He had explained that it is up to the DOSB to decide whether or not to enter with Rhein Ruhr City or any other city/region into the Continuous Dialogue. It was repeated by myself in subsequent meetings which I refer to below.

Whilst the IOC and the Future Host Commission had no obligation to engage with the DOSB and the Rhein Ruhr City project as DOSB had not officially entered Continuous Dialogue, we did so in the spirit of good faith and good partnership to offer our assistance and expertise for a project we felt corresponded very well to Olympic Agenda 2020. In fact, this was something we have done with other NOCs in the same position as you – NOCs who were not yet ready to enter Continuous Dialogue but who greatly appreciated – and continue to appreciate – the opportunity to openly share ideas, discuss options and learn about latest developments in Olympic Games planning and delivery without having to make any commitments at this stage. This allows us and them to better ensure any project benefits from the latest information, can best align with long-term local development plans and is best suited to the long-term needs of the respective community.

During a number of discussions with DOSB and the Rhein Ruhr City project, it was pointed out and acknowledged by the DOSB that an official letter would be required to enter Continuous Dialogue. Indeed, in our video-calls on 7 January and 15 January 2021, you confirmed that the DOSB could not support the Rhein Ruhr City project at this stage by joining Continuous Dialogue as such official approval was contingent on securing federal government backing following elections in September 2021 and on the outcome of a referendum also in September 2021, which the DOSB requested should be privately organised. I informed you on 7 January 2021 that there was a

possibility the IOC might decide to open a Targeted Dialogue for 2032 in the near future. You acknowledged this and reiterated your timeline by sharing the attached information (**see Annex 2**).

The Future Host Commission has been kept fully apprised of the evolution of the Rhein Ruhr City project. As stated in my letter dated 24 February 2021, I was impressed by the enthusiasm and ambition of the project, and the momentum it has gained, despite being at a relatively early stage, with the venue masterplan clearly aligned both with Olympic Agenda 2020 and the legacy needs of the Rhein-Ruhr region. The role of the Future Host Commission is to monitor interest for the Olympic Games and to report to the IOC Executive Board about opportunities and developments. Both my Commission and the Executive Board were aware of the interest in Germany and your internal decision-making timeline.

We have both been very clear and open in our discussions. The Commission is continuing our dialogue with Interested Parties and NOCs who are moving forward with their projects for future Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games. We are very open to doing so with Rhein Ruhr City and DOSB as well. But before this I must ask you to ensure that the misinformation stops and is clarified so that we can move forward in a spirit of good partnership and good faith to recreate a strong relationship of trust between the DOSB and the Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Kristin Kloster Aasen

Chair

Future Host Commission for the Games of the Olympiad

Encl. Annex 1 – Letter to NOCs dated 1 November 2019
Annex 2 – Timelines provided by the DOSB

Cc: IOC President
DOSB Presidium
Mr Michael Mronz, Rhein Ruhr City GmbH CEO

ANNEX 2 – Timetable provided to IOC by DOSB on 7 January 2021 and also presented during meeting on 15 January 2021

