



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Mrs María José Rienda Contreras
Presidente del Consejo Superior de
Deportes
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Lausanne, 7 September 2018

Participation of Kosovo sporting delegations in international sports events in Spain

Dear Mrs Rienda,

The IOC has been informed of a very serious issue concerning the participation of the delegation from the Kosovo Table Tennis Federation in the forthcoming European Championships, which are due to take place in Alicante from 18 to 23 September 2018; and you received a self-explanatory letter from the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) in this regard on 23 August 2018.

The IOC is extremely concerned by this situation, as we understand that the ITTF has not received a positive response so far. We wish to reiterate that the ITTF position is fully supported by the IOC and the Olympic Movement as a whole, in accordance with the fundamental principles of non-discrimination within the Olympic Movement and of the autonomy of sport, which must be free from any undue political interference.

As you certainly know, the IOC position was clearly expressed in previous communications with the Spanish government (attached for your reference) in relation to the participation of the delegation of the Kosovo Olympic Committee in the Mediterranean Games, which took place a few months ago in Tarragona; and we see no reason why what was successfully accomplished for the Mediterranean Games could not be repeated for the ITTF European Championships and other upcoming international sports events in Spain (including the Karate World Championships due to take place in November this year in Madrid).

In view of this, we respectfully call for your immediate intervention to ensure that the delegation of the Kosovo Table Tennis Federation can go to Spain and participate in this event, without any discrimination and in the same conditions as all the other participating delegations. Failing this, the IOC would be constrained to officially inform all International Sports Federations about this recurrent issue, which would seriously call into question the hosting of future international sports events in Spain.

Your urgent action and positive response would be greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support for the fundamental values of sport and the Olympic Movement.

Yours sincerely,

Pere MIRÓ
IOC Deputy Director General
NOC Relations Director

Cc: IOC President / Comité Olímpico Español / ITTF / WKF