



## News Release



Tuesday, October 11, 2011

### **DULKO AND PENNETTA QUALIFY FOR TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS-ISTANBUL**

- *Defending champions return for second year*
- *Two teams competing for final doubles spot*

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM – The Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) today announced that Gisela Dulko and Flavia Pennetta are the third doubles team to secure their place at the prestigious year-end TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships, to be hosted at the state of the art Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey from October 25-30, 2011.

Dulko/Pennetta join the teams of Kveta Peschke/Katarina Srebotnik and Liezel Huber/Lisa Raymond who have already qualified for the Championships. The teams of Victoria Azarenka/Maria Kirilenko and Vania King/Yaroslava Shvedova are competing for the final doubles spot.

The WTA’s year-end finale, to be held in Istanbul through 2013, will feature the world’s top eight singles players and top four doubles teams competing for the coveted title and a share of the \$5 million in prize money. So far, Caroline Wozniacki, Maria Sharapova, Petra Kvitova, Victoria Azarenka, Li Na, Vera Zvonareva and Sam Stosur have qualified in singles for the year-end event. The WTA and partner Turkish Tennis Federation’s goal is to deliver the best finale in history to fans of women’s tennis in Turkey and all over the world.

“It is terrific that last year’s doubles champions will be back to defend their title in Istanbul,” said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the WTA. “Gisela and Flavia broke through to win their first Grand Slam doubles title at the Australian Open, held the World No.1 doubles ranking between them for eight months, and have hit great form recently to reach consecutive finals at Premier tournaments in Asia.”

“Prior to the trip to Asia, we didn’t think we would have a chance to make it to Championships, but since then we’ve played very well and reached two finals. We are so happy to get back to the Championships together and hope to play well. We usually do well when the pressure is high, so it will be a great opportunity to play in a new city and new venue,” said Gisela Dulko.

Defending champions Gisela Dulko and Flavia Pennetta return to the season-ending Championships for the second time. Last year they defeated Kveta Peschke and Katarina Srebotnik to take the title, one of seven titles they captured in 2010. At the start of the year the duo won their first Grand Slam doubles title at the Australian Open with a thrilling come-from-behind win over Victoria Azarenka and Maria Kirilenko. They also reached back-to-back finals at Toray Pan Pacific Open (Tokyo, I. Huber/Raymond) and China Open (Beijing, I. Peschke/Srebotnik). Dulko and Pennetta held the World No.1 doubles ranking, either individually or jointly, from November 2010 until this year’s Wimbledon.

The WTA is the global leader in women’s professional sport with more than 2,400 players representing 99 nations competing for more than \$90 million in prize money at the WTA’s 53 events and four Grand Slams in 33 countries. More than 5 million people attended women’s tennis events in 2010 with tens of millions more watching on television and digital channels around the world. The WTA competitive season concludes with the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, from October 25-30, and the Commonwealth Bank Tournament of Champions in Bali, Indonesia, from November 3-6. Further information on the WTA can be found on [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com).

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## RACE TO THE TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS (as of October 11, 2011)

| SINGLES             |        |               | DOUBLES            |        |               |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| PLAYER              | POINTS | RACE STANDING | TEAM               | POINTS | RACE STANDING |
| Caroline Wozniacki* | 7395   | 1             | Peschke/Srebotnik* | 9291   | 1             |
| Maria Sharapova*    | 6370   | 2             | Huber/Raymond*     | 6773   | 2             |
| Petra Kvitova*      | 5691   | 3             | Dulko/Pennetta*^   | 5776   | 3             |
| Victoria Azarenka*  | 5590   | 4             | King/Shvedova      | 5530   | 4             |
| Li Na*              | 5351   | 5             | Azarenka/Kirilenko | 5490   | 5             |
| Vera Zvonareva*     | 5190   | 6             |                    |        |               |
| Samantha Stosur*    | 4975   | 7             |                    |        |               |
| Agnieszka Radwanska | 4940   | 8             |                    |        |               |
| Andrea Petkovic     | 4580   | 9             |                    |        |               |
| Marion Bartoli      | 4455   | 10            |                    |        |               |

\*Denotes player/team has already qualified

^Includes Points from Linz

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### About BNP Paribas:

BNP Paribas ([www.bnpparibas.com](http://www.bnpparibas.com)) is one of the strongest banks in the world\*. The Group has a presence in more than 80 countries and more than 200,000 employees, including more than 160,000 in Europe. It ranks highly in its three core activities: Retail Banking, Investment Solutions and Corporate & Investment Banking. In Europe, the Group has four domestic markets (Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the leader in consumer lending. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated retail banking model across the Europe-Mediterranean zone and boasts a large network in the western part of the United States. In its Corporate & Investment Banking and Investment Solutions activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas and solid and fast-growing businesses in Asia.

\* Rated AA by Standard & Poor's i.e. 3rd rating level on a scale of 22.

### About Türk Ekonomi Bankası (TEB):

Türk Ekonomi Bankası (TEB), a reputable and prestigious institution in the Turkish banking sector, was established in 1927. Since its establishment, TEB, with its expanded network of branches and a diversified range of products and services, pursues operating in various fields of the banking sector as investment, leasing, factoring and portfolio management. In February 2005, BNP Paribas, one of the top 10 most important banks in the world and the largest in the Euro zone, operating in 85 countries, became a partner of TEB which went public in February 2000. In the wake of its partnership with the BNP Paribas, Türk Ekonomi Bankası carries its expertise in foreign trade, corporate, commercial and private banking over into the fields of retail banking and banking for small and medium-sized businesses. Following the merger between TEB and Fortis, New TEB embarked on its 'New Life' starting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2010, as Turkey's 6<sup>th</sup> largest private bank with an asset size of 31.2 billion TL and more than 10,000 employees. New TEB also has become Turkey's fifth private bank in terms of network coverage with more than 600 branches and 1,000 ATMs.

### About BNP Paribas and Tennis:

Long-standing partner to the sport of tennis since 1973, BNP Paribas is actively involved in the game at both local and international level, and in club, schools and social tennis as well as professional events. BNP Paribas has gradually become the number one sponsor in world tennis: official sponsor of Roland Garros since 1973 and sponsor of five ATP Masters 1000 events - the BNP Paribas Masters since 1986, Monte Carlo Masters since 2005, Internazionali BNL d'Italia in Rome since 2006, BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells since 2009 and the Shanghai Masters since 2010. The Group is also title sponsor of the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas since 2001 and the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas since 2005, as well as being actively involved in many other international competitions including the Bank of the West Classic in California, the Grand Prix Hassan II in Casablanca, the Open 13 in Marseille and the BNP Paribas Showdown in New York. BNP Paribas is also an official partner of International Wheelchair Tennis, such as the "BNP Paribas World Team Cup". Through its support for more than 20 national tennis associations, 2000 clubs, 550 amateur tournaments, plus schools and social programmes around the world, BNP Paribas helps to promote tennis and encourage widespread participation in the game. The Group's commitment to social values is reflected in the sports sponsorships it has undertaken in numerous projects, including Yannick Noah's 'Fête le Mur' Association and the tennis Téléthron in France, the Oberer Tennis Camp in Switzerland and the BNP Paribas 'Taste of Tennis' in the United States. As part of its creative sports sponsorship policy, BNP Paribas is launching a website "[wearetennis.com](http://wearetennis.com)" entirely dedicated to tennis news. The Group's new sponsorship slogan 'We are tennis' underlines the fact that BNP Paribas promotes tennis for all, at all levels.