

# Bureau International des Expositions



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## THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Paris, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

N° 0276

Dear Delegates,

Following the meeting of the Executive Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and the letter of the President of the General Assembly sent to all Member States yesterday, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the modalities that will be followed for this extraordinary vote of our General Assembly on the resolution to change the date of Expo 2020 Dubai.

As you are aware, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposal to change the date of Expo 2020 Dubai to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 due to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

In accordance with the BIE Convention, Article 28, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph d), votes are acquired by a two-thirds majority, in derogation of the ordinary simple majority rule, for the "authorisation to modify the opening and closing dates of an Exhibition", which, according to Article 5, can only be done "with the approval of the BIE".

Unfortunately, the current sanitary conditions in France and around the world do not permit our Assembly to meet physically to vote on this critical issue. The Executive Committee and the President of the General Assembly have therefore requested that Member States' vote through extraordinary means by submitting their vote via diplomatic letter on BOWS with the original sent to the BIE headquarters in Paris.

To that effect, you may now see on BOWS a new section on the top right of the site which allows each delegation to securely upload a scan of their diplomatic letter. You will also find a link on BOWS that will allow all delegations to follow the current status of the votes submitted in real-time.

I would like to inform you that in accordance with the proposal of the Executive Committee and as you were informed by the President of the General Assembly, all votes must be submitted by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Furthermore, please ensure your diplomatic letter clearly states whether

All delegates

your government votes Yes, No or Abstain on the resolution to change the date of Expo 2020 Dubai to 1st October 2021 until 31st March 2022.

Any Member State wishing to regain their right to vote is kindly requested to ensure that annual contributions are received on the BIE bank account by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 at the latest. After that date, the list of Member States having the right to vote will be updated on BOWS and in accordance with the proposal of the Executive Committee, be fixed for the remaining period of the vote for this particular resolution.

Finally, and in order to assure the safety of your staff as well as the staff of the Secretariat, I would like to offer all delegations based in Paris to keep the original diplomatic letter at their Embassy. Once the confinement in Paris is lifted and the sanitary situation permits, a member of the Secretariat will come to your Embassy to take possession of the original.

In attachment to my letter, you will find a brief guide detailing how to upload your diplomatic letter on BOWS. Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat by phone or email if you encounter any difficulties.

In closing, please allow me to thank the Executive Committee and the President of the General Assembly for their efforts in finding a solution that fulfils the requirements of our Convention during these unprecedented times as well as the countless delegations who have called me personally to offer their support in ensuring that Expo 2020 Dubai can have the impact we all expected, when the time is right.

Yours sincerely,

THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES EXPOSITIONS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kerkentzes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D.S. KERKENTZES