



## News Release



Wednesday, October 5, 2011

### LI NA QUALIFIES FOR TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS-ISTANBUL

- *Roland Garros Champion making Championships debut*

BEIJING, CHINA – The Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) announced that Li Na has become the fifth singles player to qualify for the prestigious TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships, which will be hosted at the state of the art Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey from October 25-30, 2011. China’s star joins World No.1 Caroline Wozniacki, three-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova, Wimbledon Champion Petra Kvitova and World No.4 Victoria Azarenka and the doubles teams of Katarina Srebotnik/Kveta Peschke and Liezel Huber/Lisa Raymond, all of whom already secured their trip to Istanbul.

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. 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.

“I congratulate Li Na on qualifying for the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships, marking a perfect end to her truly historic season,” said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the WTA. “Li Na’s success is credit to her incredible talent, determination and perseverance and she is an inspiration to millions of people around the world and in China.”

“This year has been the most successful of my career so far and I’m very happy to have qualified for the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships. I’m proud to be the first Chinese woman to qualify in singles for this event and I look forward to some tough matches in Istanbul against the best players of the season,” said Li Na.

A true trailblazer for tennis in China, Li Na made history in June by becoming the first Asian player to win a Grand Slam title when she defeated four Top 10 players en route to the Roland Garros title. According to CCTV, Li Na’s victory over Italy’s Francesca Schiavone in the Roland Garros final was watched by a record-breaking 116 million viewers. Li Na also won the Medibank International Sydney and reached the final at the Australian Open, losing in three sets to Kim Clijsters. The 29-year-old also equaled the highest world ranking ever held by an Asian woman at World No.4. Li was named as an alternate at the 2010 WTA Championships in Doha, but did not play a match.

### RACE TO THE TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS (as of October 5, 2011)

SINGLES			DOUBLES		
PLAYER	POINTS	RACE STANDING	TEAM	POINTS	RACE STANDING
Caroline Wozniacki*	7285	1	Peschke/Srebotnik*	8541	1
Maria Sharapova*	6370	2	Huber/Raymond*	6573	2
Petra Kvitova*	5691	3	Azarenka/Kirilenko	5490	3
Victoria Azarenka*	5590	4	King/Shvedova^	5330	4
Li Na*	5351	5	Dulko/Pennetta^	5256	5
Vera Zvonareva	5190	6	Mirza/Vesnina	4788	6
Samantha Stosur	4975	7			



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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).

**WTA**  
One Progress Plaza  
Suite 1500  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701 USA  
TEL +1 727 895 5000  
FAX +1 727 894 1982  
[www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com)

Marion Bartoli	4455	8
Andrea Petkovic <sup>^</sup>	4130	9
Agnieszka Radwanska <sup>^</sup>	4080	10

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes player/team has already qualified

<sup>^</sup> Denotes player/team still competing at China Open

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mary Jane Orman, WTA, +44.207.386.4124, [mjorman@wtatennis.com](mailto:mjorman@wtatennis.com)

Amy Binder, WTA, +1.727.502.1234, [abinder@wtatennis.com](mailto:abinder@wtatennis.com)

#### **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.