



## News Release



Sunday, October 9, 2011

### ZVONAREVA AND STOSUR QUALIFY FOR TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Former Championships runner-up Zvonareva qualifies for fifth time
- US Open Champion Stosur makes consecutive return
- Petkovic, A. Radwanska and Bartoli contesting remaining Championships singles spot

BEIJING, CHINA – Today, Russia's Vera Zvonareva and Australia's Sam Stosur became the sixth and seventh players 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. Zvonareva and Stosur join World No.1 Caroline Wozniacki, three-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova, Wimbledon Champion Petra Kvitova, World No.4 Victoria Azarenka, Roland Garros Champion Li Na, and the doubles teams of Katarina Srebotnik/Kveta Peschke and Liezel Huber/Lisa Raymond, all of whom already secured their trip to Istanbul.

Germany's Andrea Petkovic, Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska and France's Marion Bartoli are contesting the remaining spot in the Championships singles draw during the final two weeks of the regular season. All three players are, however, guaranteed to make the trip to Istanbul, two of three as alternates.

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 look to deliver the best season finale in the history of women's tennis to fans all over the world.

"Congratulations to Vera and Sam on qualifying for the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships. Vera is one of the WTA's most consistent players earning her fifth trip to the Championships and Sam's incredible feat of winning the US Open last month is one of the highlights of the season," said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the WTA. "I look forward to seeing incredible performances by both players and the rest of the WTA's best in Istanbul in a few weeks."

#### Vera Zvonareva:

"It's an amazing feeling to qualify for the Championships yet again. Women's tennis is extremely competitive and knowing that I made it to Championships means that I've had a good season and played consistently throughout the year. It's an honor to make it to Istanbul," said Zvonareva.

Zvonareva has won two titles in 2011 – the Qatar Ladies Open (Doha) and Baku Cup, and reached the final of the Mercury Insurance Open (Carlsbad, I. A. Radwanska) and the Toray PPO Tennis (Tokyo, I. A. Radwanska). During the 2011 season, she has reached nine semifinals (second to only Wozniacki) and is one of four players to achieve 50 match wins. The 27-year-old Russian first qualified for the Championships in 2004, and then in consecutive years from 2008-2010. Her best result came in 2008 when she finished as a runner-up to Venus Williams in a three-set final.

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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### Sam Stosur:

"It's very exciting to qualify for Championships for the second straight yet, especially because it will be the first year of this event in Istanbul. I look forward to playing in another unique venue. It's the perfect way to end the great season that I've had," said Stosur.

Stosur is making a second consecutive trip in singles to the Championships after a career season which included winning her first Grand Slam title at the US Open, where she defeated three-time US Open champion Serena Williams in the final. At Flushing Meadows, Stosur became the first Australian woman in 30 years to win a Grand Slam singles title. During the US Open, two records were set during Stosur's matches – the longest match since the introduction of the tiebreak (against Nadia Petrova, 3 hours, 16 minutes) and the longest women's tiebreak in a Grand Slam (against Maria Kirilenko, 32 points).

In addition to capturing the US Open trophy, Stosur reached two finals this year - at the Internazionali BNL d'Italia (Rome, I. Sharapova) and the Rogers Cup (Toronto, I. S. Williams). She won a doubles title at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix (Stuttgart) and reached the Wimbledon doubles final, both with Sabine Lisicki.

### RACE TO THE TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS (as of October 9, 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	5706	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

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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 Téléthon 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.