



Dear Delegates,

As you know, during the elections held at the 64th IVSA Summer Congress in Romania, IVSA Istanbul was elected as the host of the 65th IVSA Winter Symposium with a 71.2% majority vote. During the last 1.5 years, we have worked hard and put forth a lot of physical and financial effort in the form of hotel payments, itinerary preparation, and creating the perfect opening ceremony. We were very excited to share these plans with you during the General Assembly in Vienna, Austria.

As some of you may have seen, we have devastatingly been attacked in our beloved city of Istanbul, Turkey, which draws in more than 6 million tourists each year. Beyond this, the terrorist attacks occurring in other cities around the world have deeply affected our country and our lives.

The IVSA Family, which is comprised of 50.000 members in over 60 countries, is always helpful and supportive. During this difficult time, IVSA Istanbul has felt that level of support very deeply, and for this we would like to thank you. IVSA consistently spreads the best message to the world - without discriminating against anyone based on color, language, religion or race.

The primary mission of IVSA Istanbul is always to maintain the unity and happiness of IVSA Global. Although we feel that we can protect the delegates (much in the way that we are protecting ourselves in our daily travels in Istanbul), we understand the concerns you and your families may have, and we respect those concerns.

Because of these reasons, without regard for our financial expenses, and for the unity, safety, and happiness of our IVSA Family, we regret to inform you that **IVSA Istanbul will be withdrawing as host of 65th Winter Symposium.** We appreciate your understanding and wish good luck to the new 65<sup>th</sup> IVSA Symposium nominees that will be up for election during the 65th IVSA Congress in Vienna.

President of Organizing Committee

Anıl TÜNER

President of IVSA Istanbul

Murat Koray TEKİN