



Media release

## FESPO and Golfmesse on hold until 2022

**Bern, 27 October 2020 – The FESPO and Golfmesse trade fair in Zurich, originally scheduled to take place in mid-January 2021, will be taking a break next year. Due to the latest developments of the coronavirus pandemic and after thorough examination of all options, the BERNEXPO GROUPE is eliminating uncertainty for its partners in the travel industry by postponing the event.**

With 60,000 visitors making their way to the trade fair each year, FESPO and Golfmesse is the largest tourist platform in Switzerland. Its next edition was originally scheduled to take place at Messe Zürich from 14 to 17 January 2021. Because of the current situation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the travel industry finds itself faced with extraordinary circumstances. The quarantine rules, entry bans and risk-country classifications mean that the majority of travel providers lack the basis for making any offers to the public. Moreover, travellers tend to be increasingly cautious due to the ongoing pandemic. Against this backdrop, the BERNEXPO GROUPE cannot guarantee that the FESPO and Golfmesse trade fair can be successfully staged in 2021. Consequently, the organiser decided to postpone FESPO and Golfmesse until 2022, following a similar decision with regard to the holiday and travel fair in Bern.

“We deeply regret having to make this decision,” explains **Jennifer Somm, CEO of the BERNEXPO GROUPE**. “Until the last reasonable point in time, we tried to do everything we could to enable the successful hosting of the event. Postponing the trade fair until 2022 is anything but easy for us, as we are the largest travel platform in Switzerland and thus play a significant role as a point of sale and meeting place for the industry. However, the postponement allows us to afford clarity and planning security to our partners involved, especially the exhibitors.” The BERNEXPO GROUPE gave special consideration to the possibility of reducing the scale of FESPO and Golfmesse or postponing the event until spring or summer 2021, but successful implementation in this form would not have been possible under the current circumstances.

**Exhibition Director Stephan Amstad** adds: “As the largest tourist platform in Switzerland, FESPO and Golfmesse relies on the attendance of a wide variety of exhibitors from all over the world. Some 60% of our exhibitors travel here from abroad, which is not possible this time due to the current and constantly changing travel restrictions.” The Golfmesse trade fair, which is held in parallel with FESPO, will also be suspended for a year. “From the point of view of both the visitors and exhibitors, holding Golfmesse on its own as a stand-alone event would not have been a satisfactory solution,” Stephan Amstad continues. The next FESPO and Golfmesse will take place from **27 to 30 January 2022**. “We are looking forward to holding the event in 2022, which will ensure that it will be worthwhile for our exhibitors from an economic standpoint and meet our visitors’ expectations for an exciting experience with a great deal of variety.”

### Further information

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