



## Press Release

### 2020 Worldchefs Congress Cancelled due to COVID-19

PARIS: March 31, 2020 Worldchefs Board of Directors announced today the 2020 Worldchefs Congress previously scheduled from July 29 to August 1, 2020 in Saint Petersburg, Russia has been cancelled due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19.

Worldchefs President Thomas Gugler stated, *“We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to President Viktor Belyaev and the Board of Directors of the Russian National Culinary Association for their incredible efforts to plan and provide an excellent Congress for our members. We will look forward to a future opportunity when we can all share in the cuisine, culture and goodwill of the chefs and people in Russia.”*

He further stated, *“Though disappointment and despair in this decision is unprecedented, our friendship and commitment to the Russian National Culinary Association and its members will remain forever strong.”*

Worldchefs also extended its appreciation to Business Event LLC, Formika and the Russian Government in Saint Petersburg and Moscow for their fantastic work, tremendous efforts and collaboration.

For those already registered to attend the Congress, Worldchefs will be providing a 100% refund for all registration fees. Please contact Anastasia at [boryak@formika.ru](mailto:boryak@formika.ru) for refund assistance. Members requiring additional assistance are asked to contact their respective Continental Director.

In lieu of the Congress, Worldchefs will be providing a 3 months' notice for the 2020 Ordinary General Meeting to be held by virtual and/or electronic methods. The meeting format, agenda, reports and all relevant documents will be provided in advance. Congress Bid documents will also be circulated by the Worldchefs Head Office to help prepare for voting to host the 2024 Worldchefs Congress.

Worldchefs also announced alternate fixed venues to host the 2020 Global Chef Challenge Series in Spring 2021 are being considered to ensure all finalists have the opportunity to represent their country and compete in their respective categories. Further details will be provided upon confirmation.

President Thomas Gugler added, *“We all believe in the ‘POWER OF THE WHITE JACKET’ to overcome this difficult and painful situation. May everyone around the world stay safe and stay well.”*