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and Director of
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Hindenburgstr. 1b
D-22303 Hamburg

Hamburg, July 24th, 2013

Dear Trustees of the Birmingham Museums Trust,

Just recently I had the privilege of Mario Di Maggio visiting Hamburg Planetarium and we discussed at length strategies for success and innovation in planetarium content and operation. I have to tell you that I am deeply impressed by his vision and what he is doing at Thinktank Planetarium. He truly is a pioneer propelling our planetarium business into the future with unique presentation formats like Dome Club and Fulldome UK. His reputation and the reputation of Thinktank Planetarium hence is well-known far beyond the UK and an invitation for collaborating in domeclub and networking it with Hamburg events has been expressed.

In collaboration with EVA (Electronic Visualisation and the Arts) and the city of Hamburg we were already aiming towards joint Projects which would be developed with EU funding and would build on and strengthen the innovative concepts which the current team in Birmingham has developed.

Therefore it came to me as a surprise to hear that there seem to be plans to change the staffing of the museum/planetarium. Within the worldwide community of the International Planetarium Society (IPS), Thinktank Planetarium and Mario Di Maggio play an important role and as President of this nonprofit organisation, which is the largest organisation of planetarium professionals worldwide, I do hope that the groundbreaking work in Birmingham will receive your continued support. Using the necessary resources and appropriate staffing Thinktank Planetarium will continue to be a vital partner with global assets for our envisioned international network of domes which combine the arts with science and education.

I would be delighted to discuss this in further detail and am available along with my fellow officers at the International Planetarium Society if you want to contact us.

Kindest Regards



Thomas W. Kraupe
President