



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held in the Al Madar Room, Torch Hotel, Doha, Qatar at 09h00 on Saturday 23 February 2013.

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all members and thanked the Qatar Table Tennis Association for hosting the meeting and for the very high level of hospitality. The meeting coincided with the Qatar Open marking the 19th year since the QTTA hosted the first Qatar Open. It was promised that in 2014 the event would be organised at an even higher level to celebrate 20 years.

Mr Khalil Al Mohannadi, President of the Qatar Table Tennis Association, thanked the Executive Committee for attending the meeting in Qatar during the Qatar Open. In celebration of the 20th Qatar Open in 2014, the prize money would be increased to US\$500,000. 20 years ago, the Qatar Open was hosted only for men but over time, the event had developed to include both men and women.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Neil Harwood	Deputy President and EVP (Finance)
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President
Vladimir Samsonov	Athlete Representative – ex officio

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Alison Burchell	Director (Operations and PTT)
Anders Thunstrom	TMS

- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda as presented with the addition of:
 - 14.3 Update on the plastic ball.
 - 14.4 Relations with other sports organisations.
 - 14.5 PTT communications.
 - 14.6 Stag payments.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2012 were confirmed and signed.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no business arising from the minutes, which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings:
 - The meeting involving the Athletes Commission Chairman and staff from Competition, Marketing and TMS to discuss guaranteed participation of top players at identified events would be held on 24 February 2013.
 - The search for investing the US dollars surplus from the Olympic Fund was ongoing.
 - The branding guidelines had been updated for equipment.
 - Negotiations on the involvement of the laboratory in Singapore were ongoing.

5. Competitions: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 2013 World Championships update:
 - The next inspection would take place on 5 and 6 March 2013 with 6 ITTF representatives to finalise details about the facilities, technical issues including results management, TV-production, meeting facilities with side meetings on specific issues.
 - A press officer had been identified by the organisers.
 - L'Equipe TV had been secured as the host broadcaster and media partner.
 - The entry process had been opened with preliminary entries being higher than in Dortmund so far.
 - The bulletin had been issued.
 - Invitation letters for visa applications were being issued as necessary.
 - In the first 2 days, matches would be played in two venues and this could present some challenges for transport.
- 5.1.1 Participation of Monaco:
 - the Monaco team had come to Moscow in 2010 and could not participate as the players had French passports.
 - the Monaco team had preliminary registered 2 men and 2 women players who could possibly have French passports.
 - the FFTT supported the principle of Monaco participating but only with the existing eligibility rules, with Monaco passports only, as FFTT had a strict selection procedure, they do not want that players not selected to compete for France to play for Monaco.
- 5.1.2 associations with outstanding debts:
 - there were several associations, which had outstanding debts to the ITTF including Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Congo DR (the latter was suspended).
 - other associations, which did not arrive in Dortmund and had not paid the cancellation fees included Liberia and Sri Lanka.
 - Chile had not yet paid its accumulated debt.
 - Ecuador and Barbados owed debts to the organisers of other ITTF Sanctioned events.
- 5.2 2013 World Junior Championships:
 - an inspection would take place in April 2013.

- the Moroccan Open in June 2013 would be the test event for the world junior championships.
 - the signature of the contract was planned during the visit in April.
- 5.3 2013 World Tour update:
- the 3 tiers of the World Tour had been implemented with high participation at the first 4 tournaments.
 - Continental Federations cooperate well in the challenge series
 - ETTU decided not be involved in 2013 Euro-Africa events this year.
 - Challenge series will be extended to Asia-Pacific region in 2014.
- 5.4 2013 World Cups update, qualification and playing system:
- for 2013, players would qualify through continental cups except the reigning world champion, one wild card and the host player if otherwise not qualified.
 - the playing system at a continental cup was decided by the relevant continental federation.
 - the world champion, 17 players from the continental events, a player from the host, if not already qualified, and 1 wild card would qualify.
 - the winner of each continental cup would qualify, together with the top 3 finishers from Asia and Europe plus the 7 highest ranked players in order of finish from the continental cups.
 - a maximum of 2 players per association could qualify (exceptionally in 2013 the wild card could be a 3rd player from the host).
 - first stage of play would be 4 groups of 3 players with the winner of each group going forward to the second stage to join the top 8 seeds in 4 groups of 3 players leading to the knock out for quarter-finals on.
 - there would thus be 32 matches played.
 - the dates for the "Top Europe" event had to be changed by the ETTU due to a clash with another event.
 - commercial and marketing agreements had been signed with 4 continental federations for continental cups (Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania).
- 5.5 Bids for 2016 World Championships:
- inspection visits had been taken place in both Halmstad (Sweden) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).
 - both bids were assessed as being realistic and both organisers were highly motivated.
 - the main venue in Kuala Lumpur needed refurbishment and a tent would need to be constructed for the practice venue.
 - there would be a smaller number of hotels used and police escorts would be available in rush hours.
 - in Halmstad, a new venue was available with all competition venues in one place.
 - several hotels would be used in order to meet the accommodation needs in and around Halmstad.
- 5.6 Confirmation of eligibility: the decision of the Eligibility Commission taken on the appeal received from USATT on when a player may compete for the USA in world title events was confirmed as from the date of registration not from the date of citizenship.

1-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved, on the participation of a team from Monaco:

- not to allow any exceptions and to follow the advice of the French TTF.
- to accept entries only for players eligible for world title event with a Monaco passport or with the grandfather rule (eligible before the new rule).

2-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved:

- To allow Chile to enter the world championships.
- To ask the President, Deputy President and CEO to propose a payment plan to the Chile Table Tennis Association and to report on progress at the next meeting.

3-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to ask the CEO to inform in writing associations with pending payments to pay outstanding debts before the next EC meeting and to check if the associations were due to receive funds from the ITTF, in which case the debt would be deducted, failing which the association would be considered for suspension.

4-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the qualification system and playing system for the 2013 world cups as proposed.

5-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to submit both bids (Malaysia TTA and Swedish TTA) for the 2016 world championships to the AGM for decision.

6-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to confirm its decision on the USA player that the player would be able to represent USA at world title events from 24 January 2016. The USATT will be informed accordingly.

- 6. Athletes' Commission report:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- a proposal on hand signals for the umpires had been submitted as a result of problems encountered in the Olympic Games about explaining decision on service fault.
 - more support was being expressed by players for the letter submitted at the last meeting about conditions of the World Tour.
 - the ETTU had established a committee to organise elections for its Athletes' Commission.
 - a players' meeting would be held during the World Championships in Paris for the first time.
 - the Athletes' Commission was investigating possible changes to the service rule and would submit proposals once they had been tested.

- The Athletes' Commission proposes a resolution asking for the Athlete representative to have voting rights at the EC effective after the AGM in 2014, which coincides with the next election of the Athletes' Commission.

7-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to ask the Athletes' Commission to request from the rubber manufacturers, and their sponsors, to produce some thicker rubbers and sponges to assess the difference in spin and speed, if any, for players to test and for the results to be submitted to the Executive Committee.

7. Global Junior Programme: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 7.1 2013 Global Junior Circuit and GJC Finals:
- in 2012, the Global Junior Circuit Finals and World Cadet Championships were organised as separate stand-alone events for the first time.
 - bids to host the 2013 GJC Finals in January 2014 would be opened with a deadline of end of March 2013 following which presentations would be made by the bidding associations at the Board of Directors' meeting.
 - this event would also be held in conjunction with the qualification tournament for the Youth Olympic Games.
- 7.2 Bids for 2013 World Cadet Challenge:
- this event would take place at the end of October 2013 and so the decision on awarding the event had to be decided before the Board of Directors' meeting.
 - Barbados and Turkey had submitted bids.
 - for Barbados, one hall would be used which would be divided for competition and practice.
 - the budget had been re-assessed to ensure it was balanced.
 - for Turkey, there would be 8 competition tables and 16 training tables in an adjacent hall in Istanbul.
 - the Competition Program recommended the 2013 event is awarded to Turkey due to the short time within which to organise the event and to allocate to Barbados the 2014 event provisionally.
 - Both associations will be requested to make presentation to the Board of Directors.
- 7.3 Ranking points proposal from the CTTA to increase the rating for Premium Junior Circuit events: the Competition Program would study the proposal, which could only be implemented in 2014 if approved.

8-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to allocate:

- the 2013 World Cadet Challenge to Istanbul (Turkey) and recommend that this be ratified by the Board of Directors.
- the 2014 World Cadet Challenge to Barbados provisionally, subject to the Board of Directors approval and a representative attending the 2013 event and other events held in Latin America as part of the preparation process.

- 8. TMS International update:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- as Tokyo and Suzhou preferred to have local title sponsors, discussions on changing the commercial contract were underway with GAC for the world championships in 2014 and 2015 respectively.
 - the sponsorship agreement with Liebherr was extended till 2015.
 - a new flooring sponsor, Enlio had been signed.
 - TSA had not yet agreed with CCTV on TV rights for China.
 - the bid had been sent out for the table supplier for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the successful bid will be announced in March.
 - Double Fish had replaced Stag as the equipment sponsor in North America, and Double Happiness replaced Stag in Latin America.
- 9. 2013 AGM and BoD:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- 9.1 Continental federation affiliation:
- 4 continental federations had met the requirements for affiliation and would sign the agreements being entitled to receive benefits retroactive 1 January 2013.
 - some issues raised by the ETTU had been noted and all changes requested by the ETTU were made. A modified new criteria document was sent to the ETTU for consideration.
 - following discussion with representatives of the ATTU the autonomy of the continental federation had been confirmed.
 - the agreement approved at the last meeting had been amended following feedback from the ATTU.
 - the policies of the ITTF could be adapted for use by the continental federations.
 - where a development activity was assessed as being essential to implement before May 2013, the funding could be channelled to the association directly.
 - 2nd round of formal applications by Continental Federations expires 1 May 2013 to receive benefits starting 1 July 2013.
 - if the agreements were not signed in Paris, the next deadline, in preparation for 2014, would be the DCC meeting in Morocco.
- 9.2 Review of the anti-harassment policy:
- the policy had been re-focused to cover all forms of harassment.
 - the approach was to resolve issues of alleged harassment internally and then, in line with other disputes, by going to CAS.
- 9.3 Propositions and resolutions:
- All propositions and resolutions were reviewed and discussed.
- 9.4 New member: Bonaire had submitted an application to be an ITTF member.
- 9.5 Hall of Fame nominations: 3 new players had become eligible for the Hall of Fame having won at least 5 gold medals in world championships and/or Olympic Games (Ma Long, Zhang Jike and Li Xiaoxia).
- 9.6 Election procedures and CAS directives:
- no observers would be allowed at the AGM once the formal proceedings of the meeting start.
 - as a result, the presentations would be done early in the meeting and all media, presenters and observers would leave after the informal part of the meeting.

- a step-by-step procedure would be finalised for the elections, which would be aligned with the CAS directives from 2006.

9.7 Terms of reference:

9.7.1 Athletes' Commission: the main changes proposed were:

- to have no more than 1 player per association except if the PTT representative and 1 other player came from the same association.
- to enable the Commission to replace an inactive member after 1 year rather than 2 years.
- to enable the newly elected Commission to appoint 2 athletes and the Executive Committee 3 athletes in order to ensure continuity for the Commission.
- in order to ensure continental representation, the appointees should be from different continents.

9.7.2 Veterans Committee:

- From the last Board of Directors' meeting, there was no unanimity from the Committee on the terms of reference but since then, a compromise had been reached on the terms of reference as presented.

9-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Board of Directors that it approve the anti-harassment policy as amended and to include it as a new section of the Handbook.

10-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the AGM that Bonaire be accepted as a member association.

11-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to induct Ma Long, Zhang Jike and Li Xiaoxia into the Hall of Fame.

12-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to request the President, CEO and Director (Operations and PTT) to finalise the guide for the election process to comply with the CAS directives.

13-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the changes proposed to the Athletes Commission terms of reference except for the proposal for the Commission representative to vote, which would need to be referred to the AGM.

14-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the amended terms of reference proposed by the Veterans' Committee.

15-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to submit the terms of reference for both the Athletes' Commission and Veterans' Committee to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

The Executive Committee witnessed the signature of the affiliation agreements signed with ATTF, LATTU, NATTU and OTTF.**10. Finance:** the Executive Committee noted that:

10.1 Olympic allocation and investment:

- The 30% increase had been communicated to the continental federations.
- An additional allocation had been received from the IOC and would be used to build up an investment and reserve fund for the ITTF.

11. Equipment: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 11.1 Revised technical leaflets: following the request of the Executive Committee in 2010, the Equipment Committee had updated the remaining technical leaflets covering table, net assembly, balls, racket coverings and racket control.

16-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee resolved to commend the Equipment Committee for the update of the technical leaflets and to recommend to the Board of Directors that it approve the technical leaflets as amended.

12. Staff update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- the new staff structure had come into effect from 1 January 2013 with the CEO transferring all competition program responsibilities to Karl Jindrak.
- there were now 4 directors covering competitions, development, education and training, operations.
- the new Promotions Manager had taken up his appointment on 15 February.
- the new Administration & Finance Assistant for Singapore would take up her appointment in early March 2013.
- a new position would be appointed in the Headquarters in Renens (Lausanne), either as an Administration & Finance manager, or as an assistant to the Director of Operations & PTT.

13. Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted that meetings would be held on 12 May (14h00), and 20 May 2013 for the new Executive Committee (09h00) in Paris.**14. Any other business:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 14.1 Continental representatives for the Technical Commissioner: the continental representatives would be nominated by the continental federations.
- 14.2 Merit award: the nominee from the USA had already received a merit award and an alternative would be investigated.
- 14.3 Update on the plastic ball:

- a company had been established to develop a seamless ball.
- samples had been provided and tested by the players and feedback sent to the company.
- the Equipment Committee had recently developed procedures to test seamless balls, which would be approved with the technical leaflet in Paris.
- the production of plastic balls with seams was also possible.
- players would be involved in the testing of the balls as they were developed.

14.4 Relations with other sports organisations:

- following the recommendations of the IOC, and the recommendation of Mr Kimura in relation to the world Deaf table tennis championships, contact had been initiated with the International Committee of Sport for the Deaf (Deaflympics) to develop a memorandum of understanding.
- similarly, contact had been made with Special Olympics International to develop a memorandum of understanding.
- this process would re-emphasise the ITTF as the governing body for table tennis worldwide.
- in relation to the International Association of Sport for the intellectually disabled (INAS), discussions had begun about transferring the responsibility for class 11 to the ITTF which would clarify responsibility for intellectually disabled players and their participation in the Paralympic Games.

14.5 PTT communications:

- in some countries, PTT was independent from the association but linked to the national Paralympic committee (NPC).
- since 2007, some associations had integrated PTT into their operations and a number had not.
- cooperation was now being encouraged more systematically using the competition process of hosting events and entering players for events in line with the regular ITTF process.
- cooperation was often in place for some administrative functions but the process was incomplete without the transfer of funding to cover the additional work undertaken.
- the funding should follow the transfer of the function and the International Paralympic Committee supported this process so that NPCs would fund associations in the same way as many NOCs did.
- where there were challenges in the integration process, this should be reported to PTT so that the IPC could be alerted to address the issue with the relevant NPC and vice versa.
- the funding for PTT had to be used on PTT activities in line with good governance and systems should be put in place to ensure accountability.
- the guiding principle should be that PTT players should receive better service.

14.6 Stag payments:

- an initial payment of 50% of the amount owed had been made to TMS and the balance should be paid by the end of March 2013.
- if the second payment were not received on time, TMS would recommend to the ITTF that Stag be suspended as a recognised manufacturer.

- 14.7 Prize money to players: in general, the organisers would pay prize money to players but if paid by ITTF, a 10% service fee deduction was made.
- 14.8 Russian Open 2012: all players, except one, had received their prize money directly from the organizers.

17-EC-02-2013

The Executive Committee requested the Director (Operations and PTT) to remind the continental presidents to submit nominations for the continental representatives to be correspondents to the Technical Commissioner.

15. Adjournment: there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 17h01.

Adham Sharara
President

Date