

## International Table Tennis Federation EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Minutes** of the Executive Committee meeting held on Saturday 1 March 2014 at 09h00 in the Lencia Room, Hotel Plaza, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the Slovenian TT Association for hosting the meeting particularly after a very successful World Cadet Challenge in 2013.

**2. Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Thomas Weikert	Deputy President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Senior Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Vladimir Samsonov	Athlete Representative – ex officio

**In attendance**

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Polona Cehovin Susin	Director (Education and Training)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Alison Burchell	Director (Operations and PTT)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)

- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda with the addition of:

- 6.7 Update on ranking
- 6.8 World Club Championships
- 13.1 Sports Science Congress
- 13.2 Financial request

**4. Minutes**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2014 were approved and signed.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no further business not covered by the agenda. The Executive Committee noted that that the President would separately explain the issue of underage policy for the Hopes program to concerned parties.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings: the Executive Committee noted that:
  - All tasks were either in process or that there would be a report later in the meeting.

- All umpires who had been selected for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games were still active either as an umpire or as a referee.

**5. Operations Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 Continental affiliation agreements update: the ATTU had not yet signed the agreement but this would hopefully be done before or at the world championships in Tokyo.
- 5.2 Audits, Risk Assessment, Finance Committee and outstanding debts:
  - Invoices had been sent to all associations with outstanding debts, copied to the continental presidents, resulting in some paying the amounts owed and others requesting more information.
  - Congo Democratic had paid the debt outstanding from 2012 WTTC in Dortmund but not from 2010 WTTC in Moscow so the President and ATTF President would work to resolve this matter.
  - The audit for the office in Singapore was previously done as part of TMS's audit, from this year ITTF Asia-Pacific Office is included in the ITTF Audited Financial Statements.
  - The Singapore audit had not yet been performed and this had delayed the overall audit schedule, which for the 2013 financial year, would be a consolidated audit of all 3 offices.
  - Due to delay in audit, the Audited Financial Statements for 2013 would be presented for approval together with the ones for 2014 to the 2015 AGM in Suzhou.
  - The auditors would present a proposal for the risk assessment process, which would be undertaken probably at the Executive Committee meeting to be held in December 2014.
  - The auditors had recommended that the ITTF register with the Swiss commercial register but following the advice of the former president of ASOIF, a lawyer and specialist in such matters, as well as the advice of the current ASOIF Executive Director, this would only be done when it would become mandatory.
  - In terms of Swiss practice, there were 3 levels of audit and the ITTF audit was a review engagement, which is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> level based on the size and financial turnover of the ITTF.
  - The annex house on the Lausanne property had been rented out (CHF 3,500 per month) with effect from 1 March 2014, and most of the ground floor space (CHF 7,000 per month) with effect from 1 May 2014 (CHF = Swiss Franc)
- 5.3 Professional Staff update:
  - All program directors had submitted reports on their activities in the period of October 2013 and February 2014.
  - In the Singapore office, a new finance and administration assistant had been appointed in the middle of February 2014 and a website designer with effect from 1 March 2014.
  - A new marketing assistant had been appointed with effect from mid-March 2014 as Ms Koh had moved to TMS full-time to focus on business development and another person will be appointed in Singapore to provide direct support to our sponsors, especially GAC.
  - As a result of the new appointments, there was a shortage of office space but the lease had been extended for 15 months with an option to move to the Singapore Sports Hub in 2015.

- The Staff Structure Matrix will be updated and posted on the ITTF website as usual.
  - Interviews had been held for the Oceania PTT development officer post, funded by the Australian Government, and an appointment made which would be reviewed in 6 months.
  - Four nations had been targeted for PTT development in Oceania and hopefully the funding would continue for a further 3,5 years.
- 5.4 Museum move:
- At the end of January 2014, the Shanghai Government had been advised that, in order to overcome the legal and financial issues identified, they should purchase the content museum but this seemed not to be an attractive option.
  - In particular, the ITTF did not have any legal status in China although the Shanghai Government believed that in 2 years' time, this would change.
  - Legal advice received would suggest that a "bond" be implemented with the Shanghai Government paying an amount equivalent to the value of the museum into an account held in escrow to protect the ITTF's rights as related to the museum. Mr Sharara and Mr Shi will further explore this matter in order to find a good solution.
- 5.5 AGM and BoD: the meeting booklet and agenda would be distributed electronically on 3 March 2014 and by post around 10 March 2014 with the translated versions to be posted on the website as soon as possible.
- 5.5.1 Chair position proposal: if the new position of Chairman is accepted by the AGM and created, Mr Sharara expressed his interest in this position, in which case, he would resign as President with effect from 1 September 2014. The Deputy president would then become the president on that date according to the constitution, and would name a new deputy president. The vacancy in the Executive Committee would be filled by the BoD in Tokyo to take effect on 1 September 2014 from nominations received from North America to maintain the principle of having at least one EC member from each continent. Representation from North America will be considered to maintain the continental balance on the Executive Committee upon the resignation of the President.
- 5.5.2 BoD replacements:
- Mr Ronald Kramer would automatically replace Mr Stefano Bosi as continental president.
  - The Serbian Association had indicated that it has withdrawn the nomination of Mr Matkovic for all ITTF positions.
  - There may be more changes anticipated before the BoD meeting in Tokyo.
  - A replacement for the OTTF president would be discussed at the OTTF AGM and presented before the ITTF BoD in Tokyo.
- 5.5.3 New PAC members:
- Mr Walter Rönmark thanked the president in writing for his appointment to the PAC, but he preferred to stay a member of the BoD and would take up the PAC appointment on retirement from the BoD.

- Mr Igor Levitin would be appointed to the PAC in Tokyo together with the confirmation to the PAC of Mr Neil Harwood and Mr Koji Kimura.
- 5.5.4 Special advisor to the Sports Science and Medical Committee: the proposal by the Serbian TTA for Dr Branko Sbutega to become a special advisor would be presented to the BoD with support from the EC.
- 5.5.5 Review Propositions and Resolutions:
- The proposal for the chair of the Athletes' Commission to become a member of the Executive Committee would include the list of elected AC members to be presented to the AGM for approval because AC elects its chair a few days later.
  - The condition that participation at the continental championships or Games is a prerequisite to enter for world championships should apply for those continental events taking place in 2014.
  - After discussion with top associations, the proposal for entries at future individual WTTC was discussed again with two different options for amendment and adding option for doubles composed of different associations.
  - The proposal to have players from different associations playing doubles was discussed and not favoured by the majority of the EC.
  - There is a fear that the positive intention of creating shared doubles would lead to negative reactions from the media and general public and misinterpretation.
  - Having players from different associations would help to promote doubles at the World Tour or Open events, but for World Championships, the value of the medal may decrease and would be difficult to explain to NOCs.
  - A two-coloured ball proposal from China TTA would be good for spectators, but further experiments were needed.
  - A proposal from Germany had been received after the deadline and would be recorded by the BoD but not considered.
- 5.5.6 Future world team championships (Working Group):
- The concept of having 72 men's and 72 women's teams had previously been agreed by the EC and a working group had been established to propose how best to implement this.
  - Using the continental championships as qualification would increase the value of these events.
  - The continental quota proportion based on the Olympic Games quota system was an established principle to follow.
  - The Working Group's proposal provided 3 qualification streams as follows: results of the continental championships (27 teams), results of the previous World team championships (top 36 teams plus top 2 of Division Three), the host association and World Team Ranking (6 or more to fill all remaining places).

- The world individual championships would be open to all associations whereas the world team championships would be through qualification.
- 5.5.7 Anti-Doping Rules:
- The changes to the World Anti-Doping Code had necessitated extensive changes to the ITTF's Anti-Doping Rules.
  - Section 5.18.1 allowed the Executive Committee to approve these changes and the BoD to ratify them.
  - A small booklet with the amendments would be circulated for the BoD to consider.
  - Recommendations on the level of fines to be implemented would need to be finalized by the BoD.
  - The "clean" version of the Anti-Doping Rules would be printed in the new handbook and the version with amendments put on the website.
- 5.5.8 Confirmation of nominations for:
- 5.5.8.1 Athletes Commission:
- By the deadline, 7 players had been nominated for election and 5 players for appointment for a total of 12 nominations.
  - The nominees came from each continent except Africa.
  - Election and appointments would take place during the world championships in Tokyo.
- 5.5.8.2 Nominations Committee: the appointment of the Nominations Committee would be done in Tokyo.
- 5.6 National Associations recognition issues:
- The Indonesian NOC had confirmed the outcome of the association's elections with a copy to the Government.
  - The IOC was facilitating the resolution of the Egyptian NOC dispute, through an IOC tripartite commission.
  - The IOC and Government of Pakistan were working to resolve recognition issues in the national associations and NOC.
  - As the ITTF had recognized the PTTF under Mr Sibtain as president, this recognition would be maintained.
- 5.7 Directives for Match Officials: after discussion, this was deferred to allow consultation with the Competition Program.
- 5.8 Junior Commission and other committee terms of reference:
- The proposed amendments were to clarify that the 6 members included the chair, that the Executive Vice-President had no voting rights and that, should a member not be able to attend a meeting, an alternate member would be invited.
  - All terms of reference should be amended to ensure that the chairperson was appointed from the members of the committee.
  - In the Athletes' Commission's terms of reference, it should be clarified that only the PTT representative may come from the same association as another member.
  - However, the Athletes' Commission believed that having 2 nominees from 1 association should be accepted as long as only 1 per association, except for the PTT representative, was elected or appointed.

**1-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee agreed that the full 2014 allocation for development in Asia would be made available if the continental agreement was signed before the world championships.

**2-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the AGM that the President, upon resignation, be appointed chair of the AGM in case the proposition to create this position is accepted effective 1 September 2014.

**3-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to amend the proposal for the number of entries to the 2015 world individual championships:

Year	Basic for all associations	Extra for Top 100	Extra for Top 20	Total
Now	5		2	7
2015	3	1	1	5

**4-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to propose to the BoD the system of qualification in the team event at the 2016 World Team Championships.

72 men's teams and 72 women's will take part and will qualify as follows:

- 27 through Continental Championships results (4 Africa, 8 Asia, 8 Europe, 4 Latin America, 1 North America and 2 Oceania)
- 38 through previous World Team Championships results (top 36 teams plus top 2 of 3rd Division)
- 1 Host nation, if not already qualified
- 6 or more through the ITTF Team Ranking to fill all remaining places.

As an exception, for the 2016 World Championships, the top 2 teams from the 4<sup>th</sup> division of the 2014 World Championships will be included, if not already qualified, bringing the total to 74 teams.

**5-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved not to accept the late proposal from the German Association.

**6-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to accept the amendments to the Anti-Doping Rules and to recommend to the BoD that they be ratified.

### **7-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the updated terms of reference for the Junior Commission and to present to the BoD for ratification.

### **8-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Board of Directors that it approve the amendment to confirm that the chair of committees and commissions be appointed from among the number of members of the committee.

## **6. Competition Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 6.1 2014 World Championships update:
  - Entries closed on 28 February 2014 and the online entry system would close finally on 17 March 2014 after which amendments to the information could be made only through the Competition Manager.
  - The final inspection would be held 13 and 14 March 2014.
  - The draw would be broadcast live in TV Tokyo's studios on 15 March 2014 for the Championships division.
  - 145 associations had entered with 124 men's and 102 women's teams (509 and 398 players respectively) although these numbers were expected to be reduced.
  - The competition schedule had been issued.
  - Media accreditation was open.
  - The JTTA had proposed a humanitarian project, which the ITTF would support, for children to attend on 5 May 2014 and meet the top players.
  - With 2 halls, 800 volunteers were needed.
- 6.2 2014 World Tour update:
  - 3 events had been completed with good entries at each.
  - The China Open had been confirmed for 4 to 8 June 2014 in Chengdu.
  - The host for the World Tour Grand Finals had to be confirmed by the end of March 2014 due to political unrest in Thailand.
  - The Eurosport coverage of the Super Series events had started and was of good quality.
- 6.3 2014 World Cadet Challenge:
  - Barbados had fulfilled the requirements to host the event.
  - The association had, in the meantime, changed its leadership and so another inspection would take place 5 to 9 March 2014.
  - If all the conditions were satisfied, the contract would be signed in Tokyo.
- 6.4 World Championships 2017 Bid confirmation:
  - The German city still had to be selected and the final selection would probably be done after Tokyo.
  - A budget had been developed and distributed to interested host cities in Germany.
  - An update would be presented to the AGM.
- 6.5 Continental Championships prerequisite to WTTC start date:



- This would be presented to the Board of Directors.
  - Provision for this had already been made in the prospectus for the Latin American and Oceania Championships.
- 6.6 2015 World Junior Circuit:
- Most of the events organized by the ITTF had been re-named “world” for marketing reasons.
  - The only event not re-named “world” was the Global Junior Circuit and for consistency, this too should be changed.
- 6.7 Ranking issues update:
- Various issues had been corrected leading to a delay in the publication of the first automated ranking list in February 2014.
  - As the March 2014 ranking list would be used for the world championships, the new inactivity period and equal positions would be activated for the March ranking.
  - With the new system, proposals for changes could be tested in parallel at any time to assess the impact of such changes.
- 6.8 World Club Championships:
- The proposal presented was to link the existing national and continental club competitions to a world event.
  - The proposal would be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

**9-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee approved the change in name to “World Junior Circuit” with effect from 2015.

**10-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee approved the team ranking being calculated on the rating points only and not on the ranking points (i.e. excluding bonus points) effective 1 July 2014.

To start to produce and to publish an Olympic Team Ranking list, taking into consideration only Olympic eligible players as of January 2016.

**7. Marketing Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

## 7.1 New developments:

- With a new promotion company appointed, a new income stream was being optimised for the ITTF YouTube channel.
- The number of YouTube subscribers had increased.
- Some matches in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> divisions in Tokyo would be viewed through YouTube.
- The Trick Shot campaign would be run again.
- A promotion and marketing course would be held after the German Open for the organizers of identified ITTF events.
- The Star Awards had been successfully held in Dubai.
- If the Awards were held at the world championships, this would ensure attendance and that all events in the previous calendar year were included.
- The Awards should be separated from the fundraising drive.



- 70 applications had been submitted for the media scholarships to go to the world championships and the 3 selected candidates would be given specific work to do.
  - Videos would be developed to promote the profile of several players.
- 7.2 TMS International Sponsorship update:
- A presentation had been done to Maurice Lacroix and this would not conflict with Tissot.
  - TMS made presentations to Liebherr for sponsoring the European Championships.
  - A new floor supplier would have to be found for the world cups in 2014.
  - Preparations for Tokyo were proceeding well and TV Tokyo would provide a good service.
  - A presentation would be done to Red Bull and possibly Nike.
  - Gulf Air had declined to sponsor ITTF but may sponsor the Bahrain association.

**8. Development Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 8.1 Dream Building dinner project: while the total raised had not been finalized, 2 projects were already being planned for UAE and Syria.
- 8.2 New ITTF members: US Virgin Islands had applied to become a member and USA TT had supported the application.

**11-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend that US Virgin Islands be accepted as a member at the 2014 AGM.

**9. Education and Training Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 9.1 Road to Nanjing and YOG update:
- The approval of NOCs for scholarships for 2014 was awaited for those who had qualified for Nanjing.
  - The reports for scholarship holders for 2013 had been submitted to Olympic Solidarity.
  - Jorgen Persson and Wang Liqin had been appointed the Athlete Role Models for YOG and would also attend the Road to Nanjing training camp in China in June linked to 2 China Junior Circuit events.
- 9.2 ITTF Hopes evolution:
- The contract for the 2014 World Hopes Week in Slovenia in June had been signed and the prospectus was being finalized.
  - The [www.ITTFEducation.com](http://www.ITTFEducation.com) Hopes platform release would be available by Tokyo.

**10. Athletes' Commission report:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- The elections would be held during the world championships probably over 2 days in the players' dining hall.
- The new Athletes' Commission would meet on 4 May 2014 and would elect the chair.
- There would need to be coordination between the Athletes' Commission and Executive Committee to confirm the appointed members.

- The services for top players at events could be expensive but shared cars and access to the lounge could be implemented.
- An athlete services person should take on the responsibility of services to top players as the competition manager was focused on the event.
- Initially the responsibility should be undertaken by the competition manager and added to their checklist.
- Belarus and Belgian Opens would be used to test the proposed service rule, the two-coloured ball proposal from the CTTA and the "let" proposal.

**11. Plastic ball update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- At least 4 brands of the balls had been approved, 1 seamless and 3 with seam.
- Many associations wanted to purchase the balls now to practice but the manufacturers wanted to release the balls to the market after the world championships.
- Some Chinese players had recently tested the balls and other players should receive some to test.
- One company had produced a large number of balls and these should be tested randomly on the market to ensure quality and consistency.
- With the decision not to use the new ball at the Youth Olympic Games, this affected other junior events leading up to the Games.

**12-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the recommendation that random testing be done for all new plastic balls once they were approved.

**13-EC-03-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved that Junior Circuit events after 1 July 2014 and leading to the Youth Olympic Games use the current celluloid ball (Korea, Hong Kong, Guatemala and El Salvador).

**12. Planning 2014-2017, P5 and DBI:** the Executive Committee deferred this item to its next meeting but noted that a large number of proposals had been received and the Athletes' Commission and national associations would be consulted as part of the next phase.

**13. Any other business:** the Executive Committee noted that:

13.1 Sports Science Congress:

- In the recent past, the ITTF financial contribution to the Congress had not been agreed in writing.
- As a result, a draft agreement had been produced for the next Congress scheduled to take place immediately before the 2015 World Championships in Suzhou.
- The Sports Science and Medical Committee had requested from the Executive Committee a €10 000 ITTF financial contribution towards the costs of organizing this event in 2015.
- The Congress would be combined with a conference on racquet sports.

- 13.2 Financial request: the ITTF president and the Vice president (Chérif Hajem) presented a special request from an ITTF member association for financial assistance from the ITTF in the form of a refundable loan to be provided in March and reimbursed in December. Although the EC understood the request it could not approve it in order not to establish a precedent and because it was not within the ITTF's financial policies to provide loans. The president would inform the association in question.
- 13.3 ETTU representative for the Junior Commission: the ETTU would appoint a new representative by the end of March 2014.
- 13.4 Qualification for the 2016 Olympic Games:
- The qualification system document had been approved by the IOC and published.
  - The playing system proposed had not been approved yet as it required additional days for the table tennis team event. This request would be discussed at the next visit to Rio.
- 13.5 Francophone Games: table tennis had received a rating of 95% in the assessment of the 2013 Games.

**14-EC-02-2014**

The Executive Committee approved a financial contribution of €10 000 towards the costs of organizing the 14<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress and the 5<sup>th</sup> World Racquet Sports Congress to be held in Suzhou in April 2015.

**15-EC-02-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved not to provide a loan to any association.

- 14. Adjournment:** there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 16h58.

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Adham Sharara  
President

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Date