

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting room Franklin (1st floor), Nikko Hotel, Düsseldorf, Germany  
09h00, Sunday, 28th May 2017

### Minutes

#### **1. President's welcome and opening remarks**

- The President welcomed all the Executive Committee Members and Staff to his home country and the meeting and noted that everything in the venue is quite impressive and everything looks promising for a successful event.
- The President further welcomed the DTTB President and DTTB General Secretary with special notes of thanks addressed to DTTB for hosting the WTTC, this EC meeting, but also helping with the first official TTX event.

#### **2. DTTB TTA President's welcome**

- The DTTB TTA President welcomed everyone to Germany and the WTTC and thanked ITTF for allocating the event to Germany. He further noted that he believes that DTTB and TMG are very well prepared for the event, in terms of presentation, visas, security and all other details, for which the DTTB General Secretary will inform about.
- The DTTB General Secretary also welcomed everyone and gave some brief information about the event;
  - 4 different halls will be used for the event,
  - Special days are planned for special groups,
  - 8,000 seats are set,
  - Last four days are now sold out with a total of 50,000 people expected to attend on these days,
  - 50,000 pieces were used for the setup of the 8,000 seats,
  - 350 volunteers will help with the event,
  - More than 400 media will be accredited.
- The DTTB General Secretary finally noted that DTTB and TMG are looking forward to making this WTTC a great success and that they are happy that the playing conditions and venue dressing are of very high standard. Once more, everyone was welcomed and invited to the Opening Ceremony.

#### **3. Roll call**

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Bruce Burton	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
Vladimir Samsonov	Athletes Commission Chairman

#### **In attendance**

Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing & Commercial)
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Vicky Eleftheriade	Recording Secretary

## **Hosts/Guests (Only attending the opening part)**

Michael Geiger DTTB President  
Matthias Vatheuer DTTB General Secretary

## **4. Approval of the agenda**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) noted that since 2015 all EC meetings are recorded, only for verification purposes and highlighted that the recording is confidential. The recording is only used in case there is an appeal on something noted and in such cases only the part that is questioned is shared for verification purposes.
- The Executive Committee approved the agenda, with the addition of one new item:
  - 12.3. Legal advise for Oceania

## **5. Minutes**

### **5.1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (11 March 2017)**

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the President.

### **5.2. Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda**

- There was no further business.

### **5.3. Report and review of task from past EC meetings**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:
  - The action list was not included in the minutes, because the minutes of the previous meeting were distributed quickly.
  - The only point to be noted is that everything is already in progress for the Service Working Group's work to start, including the addition of the video recording study.

## **6. 2017 AGM and BoD (TW, GT, RC)**

### **6.1. AGM preparations**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:
  - All preparations are running smoothly, with the cooperation of DTTB and TMG.
  - Written communication with the flow for the elections is already sent out and everything is prepared.

### **6.2. Election procedures**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
  - As noted before, a detailed document with the voting process was prepared and sent out.
  - It was decided to have a circular flow, with three different stages, so that people won't mix up.
  - 5 scrutineers and 1 ITTF staff will supervise the votes' counting.
  - A preparation and briefing meeting is planned with all ITTF Staff and Officials on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.
  - Elections for the President and Executive Committee members should finish before lunch and following lunch the election procedure will be repeated for the BoD.
- The ITTF President noted that:
  - The ITTF Chair appointed Mr Gianni Fera (attorney-at-law), to be the Independent Elections Supervisor and further noted that this is not in line with the ITTF Constitution, as it was an appointment and not a suggestion for the AGM to approve. He noted that the Executive Committee needs to decide if they agree to suggest to the AGM the appointment of Mr Gianni Fera as the Independent Election Supervisor.

### **1-EC-20170528**

The Executive Committee (with two abstentions) resolved to suggest to the AGM to appoint Mr. Gianni Fera to be the Independent Election Supervisor at the 2017 AGM.

### **6.3. Presentations**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) reported that:
  - The presentations for the 2018 WTTC, Tokyo 2020, Merit Awards and Sponsors' Recognitions will all take place during the afternoon session.
  - The only video, which will be shown during the morning session, will be the one for the presentation of the ITTF full membership.

### **6.4. Chair proposal procedure**

- The Deputy CEO noted that:
  - The normal procedure is that the new Executive Committee should propose the new ITTF Chair.
  - The problem is that the new Executive Committee won't have the time needed to think and discuss during the AGM, therefore it is recommended that the EC meets just after the OPC meeting (1<sup>st</sup> June) and therefore the suggestion should be made at that point, announced at the 2017 Board of Directors meeting and ratified at the 2018 AGM.
- One of the Executive Vice Presidents suggested that:
  - The Executive Committee should ask the AGM to give the right to the BoD to approve the new ITTF Chair, based on the nomination from the new Executive Committee.

### **2-EC-20170528**

The Executive Committee resolved to ask the AGM to give the right to the BoD to approve the new ITTF Chair, based on the nomination from the new Executive Committee.

## **7. Operations Program (PS, GT, RC)**

### **7.1. 2016 audited financial statements**

- The Executive Vice President in charge reported that:
  - The 2016 auditors report was ready and a brief summary followed, covering the points already listed in the letter already included in the agenda and supporting documents of this meeting.
  - On behalf of the ITTF she would like to thank all who contributed to the audited financial reports and noted that with the finance system still being in Canada, the Chair's help was important.
- It was noted that for International Umpires/Referees revenues there is a difference year after year, because of the exams taking place every second year, but it was noted that in the future this should maybe be reflected in the financial statements in a different way, deferring 50% of the income to the non-exams years.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) highlighted that the ITTF should make a big change in the way the accountings are handled and hopefully have a completely new system in the future, as the current one is obsolete and does not provide the necessary information.

### **7.2. Auditors report**

- The Executive Vice President in charge reported that:

- The report from the auditors is very good and extensive and she further noted that she would only like to focus on one item, the positive fact that under "Quality of the accounting closing process" there is no "red lights".
- Only two points are yellow and those can be improved if we are ready to learn from the past and also have a better system in place.

### **7.3. Budget**

- The Executive Vice President in charge reported that:
  - Normally the budget for the following year is done at the end of the previous year.
  - There should normally be a budget planning for the period 2017 to 2020 as a long term budget, but it's now very difficult to make such a long term plan, therefore the suggestion is to make the 2017 budget separately and then the new Executive Committee should prepare the 2018-2020, based on the strategic plan which will be set.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) presented the 2017 estimated budget:
  - With an estimated income of ~ US\$ 16,162,400 (from which US\$ 11,000,000 will come from marketing agreements) and an expenditure foreseen at ~US\$ 15,890,000.
  - It was noted that deferred revenues regarding Olympic fund (17.2 millions for 4 years) will be allocated to the reserve fund, a fund that should be ~15 millions.
  - It was further noted that for 2017 the net profit for the period is expected to be lower because USD 5,200,000 are allocated to the reserve fund.
- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) noted that:
  - In regards to the marketing income he is very happy to see all promotional activities and two new staff already working on Marketing.
  - Four major sponsors signed for the Liebherr 2017 WTTC, is maybe the first time that happens and further noted that the event will probably be a success in marketing and financial.

### **7.4. Appointment of auditors 2017-2018**

- The Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) presented some information about Mazars, the new company recommended. The following points were noted:
  - According to Swiss law a company needs to change its main auditor every seven years.
  - Michael Ackermann, currently working for Ernst & Young Ltd, has been involved on ITTF audits for the past years and from 01 June 2017 he is moving to Mazars. It's important to have a person, who understands how ITTF operates.
  - Mazars has presence internationally and most importantly they also have presence in Singapore, which is interesting as all ITTF Marketing activities are happening from Singapore office, therefore it may be possible to have the audits of Singapore office also done from the same firm if the pricing is reasonable. It was further noted that this would be ideal, because having the audits done by two separate firms takes more time for everyone and complicates procedures.
  - Mazars is a smaller company, compared to Ernst & Young Ltd and therefore the ITTF will be a bigger customer.
  - Mazars offers other services and they can also help ITTF with double taxation rates, consultation about a new financial system etc.

#### **3-EC-20170528**

The Executive Committee resolved to propose to the AGM that Mazars will be the ITTF financial auditor for 2017 and 2018.

### **7.5. Membership recognition issues (GT)**

- The Deputy CEO reported the following issue about Dominica:

- Dominica NOC contacted ITTF regarding governance issues related to their president.
- After consultation with LATTU, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to suspend Dominica TTA pending the removal of the president and plans for a new election.
- Dominica TTA immediately removed the president and was therefore reinstated prior to the World Championships.
- On of the Executive Vice Presidents raised the question why ITTF asked the opinion of the Caribbean Table Tennis Federation, and it was noted that it was also a request from the Continental President of Latin America, Juan Vila, to consult him. In the end, the decision was a joint suggestion with the Continental Federation and the Caribbean Federation.

## **7.6. Code of ethics – implementation**

- The Executive Vice President in charge reported that:
- As previously reported the work on the document is done and will be presented to the BoD on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 for approval. It was just noted that the Code of Ethics commissioners will be one Executive Vice President, one Rules Committee representative and one Athletes Commission representative. Three reserves will be appointed, for cases where one of the three main commissioners will have conflict.
- Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games) thanked the Executive Vice President in charge for the work done and confirmed that 1 July 2017 is the implementation date.

## **8. Competition Program**

### **8.1. LIEBHERR 2017 World Championships update (KA, SD)**

- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:
  - Basically the update from the DTTB General Secretary earlier in the meeting covers most of the points.
  - The main hall is great and it is very promising this will probably be the best WTTC ever.
  - Everything from technical point of view looks good and a joint meeting with the OC will be held if not every day, every after day, therefore if anyone from the Executive Committee has any comments should report to the Director (Marketing and Commercial) or the Director (Operations & Olympic/Paralympic Games).
- The Athletes Commission Chairman confirmed from his side that everything looks indeed great and the conditions are of high quality.
- Petra Sörling noted that a team from 2018 WTTC OC, Swedish TTA and the city of Halmstad will be attending the 2017 WTTC and it's important that this event is so good, because they will take a very good impression and will learn a lot from it.

## **9. Marketing and Promotion Program (TW, SD)**

### **9.1. Marketing update**

- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:
  - A verbal agreement was reached an American company, GoDaddy, and the press release should be sent out soon. He thanked USA TTA CEO, Gordon Kaye, who introduced GoDaddy's agency to ITTF.
  - Everything is going well with Seamaster and noted that Mr. Frank Ji, Chairman, Seamaster Group, is in Germany to enjoy the 2017 WTTC and the TTX event. He further noted that this agreement adds more pressure to resell the rights and was noted that more sales staff should be added to the team, for markets where needed.
- One of the Executive Vice Presidents noted that this one of the reasons why it's important to allocate events in different continents as this cooperation started because of the 2016 WWC taking place in USA.

### **9.2. TTX – urban table tennis**

- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:

- TTX is getting to life and it was a good fun at the event held in Düsseldorf.
- There are still some things to conclude like licensing of events and equipment but in 2018 we should be able to start with the events.

### **9.3. Marketing Cocktail Reception**

- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:
  - Marketing Cocktail Reception will be held for presenting the Marketing activities and give a full update to stakeholders.

### **9.4. WTTC Marketing Update**

- The Director (Marketing and Commercial) reported that:
  - 120 countries will be broadcasting the 2017 WTTC.
  - Eurosport will not cover the event due to the clash with Roland Garros, but with help from Lagardere now 15 countries will be broadcasting in Europe.
  - Some more regional broadcasters in Germany are keen to add more hours.
  - In cooperation with DTTB, TATA Tongchuang signed as a new sponsor for the 2017 WTTC and a signing ceremony took place in Chengdu, China. It was further noted that there is some potential that the company will like to become a long-term partner and already an additional small extra contract was signed for some media activation activities, during the 2017 WTTC.
  - An extra agreement was signed with Liebherr and starting from Day 3 of the 2017 WTTC there will be a kind of talk show with players, coaches etc., to discuss the day's action.

## **10. Development, Education & Training Program (GT)**

### **10.1. ITTF Administration Course**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
  - After many years of focusing on athletes career path, the ITTF released the administration course, last week, in four languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic) and some other languages' groups already approached for having the program translated to other languages.
  - Noted that this is a great step forward for filling a gap that was missing.
- The login, numbers and statistics can be found here:
- <https://dna.ittfeducation.com/?lang=en>

### **10.2. Young Umpires Project**

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
- Both times, 2010 and 2014 this project was successful, with online courses as a fast track way to get into international umpiring and should the finances be available, the project should be continue.
- On a question if the tutors are appointed in conjunction with the URC it was confirmed this is the case.

#### **4-EC-20170528**

The Executive Committee resolved to continue with the Young Umpire Project for 2018 YOG.

## **11. Athletes' Commission Report (VS)**

The Athletes Commission Chairman reported that:

- As usual there will be several meetings organised during the 2017 WTTC; two AC meetings, one meeting with players and two IOC ACP Workshops with the presence of IOC Entourage Commission member Claudia Bokel and Zoran Primorac and the second one, might also be attended by Ryu Seungmin.
- DHS D40+ balls are already used and so far the comments are positive, but more feedback will be collected after the upcoming WT Platinum events.
- It is very positive that every team attending the 2017 WTTC as well as the TOP 60 Men and Women will get DHS D40+balls for practice.
- The propositions regarding eligibility were amended, as discussed at the previous EC meeting, and to be in line with the Code of Ethics and the IOC rules. It was noted that the difference now is that any member of any ITTF committee should disclose in advance a conflict of interest. It is in our best interest, also for the ITTF to the IOC, to have this proposition passing with as higher number of positive votes as possible.
- Ryu Seungmin will represent the Athletes Commission at the 2017 AGM.

## **12. Any other business**

### **12.1. ITTF CEO**

- The ITTF Staff were requested to leave the meeting room and this was a closed session.

### **12.2. Next EC meeting**

- The next EC meeting is planned to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 09h00, in Dusseldorf, Germany.

### **12.3. Legal advise for Oceania**

The ITTF President reported that:

- The Oceania TTF President asked the ITTF President for advise for the case of USD 30,000 paid from TMS International to Oceania TTF and eventually the ITTF and OTTF have sought legal advise from a lawyer for the case of USD 30,000 paid from TMS International to OTTF.
- A summary from the legal advice received was distributed to be discussed
- It was noted that in the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017 there were several e-mails communications that the money should be paid back. At some point, it was mentioned that the money were not from TMS International but from DHS, but actually the money were from TMS International with the intention of paying tickets for the delegates to travel to the 2017 WTTC.
- The Executive Vice President from Oceania reported that:
  - Until March 2016 he was responsible for Marketing in OTTF and therefore was trying to increase marketing income. He further noted that as done in the past there were signed agreements with TMS International and DHS. It was a subsidy to find money for attending the Oceania meetings and the WTTC because it's good for Oceania TTF delegates to attend such meetings.
  - The Oceania TTF Management committee, at which him personally was not a member, decided to allocate this money for meetings in Fiji and the 2017 WTTC but also volunteers and players to attend the Oceania Cup.
  - Surely this money came from TMS International, as other money from agreements with the same company. TMS International just reported that this money came from DHS, in July 2016. In January 2017 he received an email from Adham Sharara that he does not want this to be considered as having something to do with elections.
  - Highlighted that 14 months before he could not think about elections.
  - Only four countries out of twenty-four took profit of this.
- The ITTF President noted that:

- From good governance point of view if money are paid to a Continental Association for paying the airfares of delegates can be linked to voting individuals involved.
- On discussion it was noted that the fact that TMS International asked that the money be returned, but then in another e-mail recalled with a note that the money comes from DHS, complicates the situation.
- It was further noted that when money is involved it's always easy to mix with the elections. What is most important, following this case, is how to avoid similar situations in the future and this should be an item to be discussed at the next EC meeting and think of ways on how ITTF can contribute for each National Association to help attend the meetings and even perhaps allow no proxies on election years. Not only because this is not good for our sport and a matter of transparency but also because IOC does not like such situations.
- The Executive Vice President from Oceania raised the question whether then the Continental Federations should then never pay any tickets for delegates, but also not being able to work on raising money if when making such decision one has to also think if and when he/she will be a candidate for elections.
- The ITTF President re-instated that the problem is when one candidate is involved in such cases then there is conflict and also when a decision of paying the money back will be made post elections. He further noted that from good governance point of view the goal should be to find regulations and clear guidelines how to prevent this in the future. Even sponsors mention that if there is any manipulation in the ITTF they would immediately stop their contracts and this is a risk. The ITTF President noted that it is understandable that Mr. Gillmann may have not think about it when done, but it's the responsibility of EC members to raise this point as it's not good for the ITTF.

#### **12.4. Other**

- It was noted that in regards to the BoD elections currently 3 Continents have more candidates than the maximum quota and the AGM will vote for each of these Continents separately. The Executive Vice President from Africa suggests that each continent should first vote for their continent, but according to the constitution this is not possible.
- On discussion it was noted that a higher number of candidates means that, already in the Continent, there is no consensus therefore if the Continents can agree in their meetings prior, then the additional numbers can be withdrawn. If not then the final arbiter are the AGM delegates.
- It was further noted that the ITTF cannot restrict the right to any member to be a candidate and any withdrawals need to be done personally through the National Associations, so the Continents should solve these situations in their respective meetings prior to the AGM, otherwise the elections will take place as planned.

#### **13. Adjournment**

- With this being the last meeting of this Executive Committee, the President thanked everyone for the cooperation over the past years, with special notes of thanks addressed to Chérif Hajem and Melecio Rivera, who are not candidates for the Executive Committee. The President finally expressed his best wishes to everyone for the future.
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12h05.

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Thomas Weikert  
President

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Date