

# Executive Committee

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2001 at the Yokohama Grand Inter Continental Hotel, Yokohama, Japan, at 09:00 a.m.

### 1. Roll Call

#### Present

Adham Sharara  
Pierre Albertini  
George Segun  
Nils Bergström  
Yang Shuan  
Han Sang Kook

President  
Deputy President  
Executive Vice-President  
Executive Vice-President  
Executive Vice-President  
Executive Vice-President (Finance)

#### In attendance

Zlatko Cordas  
Lilamani de Soysa  
Etsuko Enami  
Peter Jensen  
Li Tiefeng  
Jordi Serra  
Anders Thunström  
Christian Véronèse

Competition Manager  
Administrative and Project Co-ordinator  
Office Manager and Assistant to the President  
Media & Communications Manager  
Interpreter  
Executive Director  
Marketing Director  
Marketing Manager

### 2. President's opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara opened the meeting by thanking the Japan Table Tennis Association for providing the ITTF with very good facilities. He said that the general standard of hospitality and playing conditions were very high. Mr. Sharara informed the Executive Committee that since the Games in Sydney, the ITTF had successfully held the World Cup as well as the World University Table Tennis Championships, both in China. Mr. Albertini represented the ITTF at the University Championships. Mr. George Segun and Mr. Anders Thunström had visited Beijing to meet with the Beijing bid committee. Mr. George Segun had also visited Barcelona to finalise the agreement with the CAR and to authorise them to begin work on the long reach table tennis project. Mr. George Segun had attended the African Championships on behalf of the ITTF. Mr. Pierre Albertini represented the ITTF at the Polish Open, while Mr. Bergström represented the ITTF in Germany at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the German TTA. Mr. Nils Bergström had made a final visit to Hastings to complete his work with the archives and Mr. Sharara and Mr. Jordi Serra had also visited Hastings twice before the archives were dispatched to Lausanne. Mr. Adham Sharara announced that the French Table Tennis Association had elected a new President, Mr. Gérard Velten, and Mr. Stefano Bosi had been re-elected President of the Italian Federation.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items:

13.1 General insurance

13.2 Uniforms

13.3 Long reach table tennis

**4. Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of previous Minutes (September 2000, Sydney)**

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2000 and 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2000 in Sydney, Australia, were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

**4.2 Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)**

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

**5. AGM**

**5.1 Preparations (Osaka)**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would go again to Japan in February to meet and finalise arrangements for the AGM. Mr. Nils Bergström would also be inspecting the facilities one more time in a few days. In order to gain time, Mr. Adham Sharara asked the Committee Chairmen to hand in forthwith a list of their meetings to be held in Osaka for Mr. Bergström to transmit to the Organising Committee.

**5.2 2002 AGM date and place**

Mr. Adham Sharara announced that Croatia had proposed to organise the AGM in Zagreb in 2002 during the European Championships. He said the idea was very good, as it would minimise costs given that all the European delegates would already be there. Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana will be making a proposal in due course. Mr. Adham Sharara said that Mr. Munivrana had also requested to host the Executive Committee meeting in March 2001 during the Croatian Open, thus enabling the ITTF to inspect the facilities.

**6. New Constitution**

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief update on the new Constitution saying that it would be discussed in detail at the Executive Board meeting the next day. He said that Mr. Colin Clemett had done a very good job of making the necessary changes according to the new demands of incorporation etc. and had presented a draft, which would be used as a basis for the detailed discussion of the EB. The report would be sent out in a few weeks time and discussed in further detail at the EC meeting in March. Mr. Adham Sharara said that the National Associations would also be asked for their ideas and input which would enable the ITTF to know the majority opinion before the AGM in Osaka. He said that unfortunately the ITTF was running late where the new Constitution was concerned and may not be suitably prepared in Osaka to have it passed. However, a final decision will be made at the Executive Committee meeting in March.

**7. 2003 and 2004 WTTC selection and procedures**

Mr. Adham Sharara referred to his fax sent on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2001 to the World Championships Selection Committee and said that even though 7 Associations had asked for the 2003 bid documents only three had sent them in before the deadline (France, Brazil and China). However, China had then retracted its bid and France and Brazil were left. Mr. Nils Bergström who had already visited the facilities in France said that the arena and hotels were excellent. He would be visiting Brazil in the course of February. Mr. Adham Sharara said that if the two candidates met the minimum requirements for hosting a World Championship, then both bids would be presented to the AGM for the final decision. Mr. Sharara said that all bidding Associations for 2003 and 2004 would be given the opportunity in Osaka one day before the AGM to present their bids to all the National Associations present.

Mr. Adham Sharara then gave a brief update on the bids for the 2004 Team competition. He said that three very well presented bids had been received by the deadline (China, Brazil and Qatar) and a fourth submission of intent, which arrived after the deadline had been refused. Mr. Nils Bergström would have to decide when to visit the three bidding associations. Mr. Adham Sharara suggested that at the Executive Meeting in March the decision should be made whether to present all three bids to the AGM or to present only two. Mr. Sharara recommended to the Executive Committee that those Associations that do not win should be given priority to host a World Cup or Pro Tour Final in that year.

**8. Finances**

**8.1 Olympic Fund and investments**

Mr. Adham Sharara announced that there was very good news where the Olympic funds were concerned. The Olympic money had been paid in full and a little over 4 million US dollars were now accumulating interest in Switzerland. The money had been invested in the short term in two banks. He said that a written proposal would be sent out shortly and a decision would have to be made in March on how best to invest and use this money as well as the two-and-a-quarter million reserved for the Legacy Fund. Mr. Jordi Serra said that there was more in the bank accumulating interest than expected because the VAT, which should be paid by the ITTF, was being paid for the time being by the IOC. Mr. Adham Sharara said that after the Games in Athens the ITTF would hopefully reach its 5 million goal in reserve.

**8.2 Payments to Continental Federations**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the payments to the Continental Federations would be done shortly and that the Continents would also be receiving more than expected as was decided at the last EC and EB meetings. Mr. Jordi Serra would meet with all the Continental Vice-Presidents in order to make the final arrangements for payment. Mr. Sharara said that the last field-audit had shown some mistakes and discrepancies in the Hastings financial operational system such as double payment to Oceania. Therefore, according to the Auditor's recommendation, the overpayment will be deducted from Oceania's Olympic funds of this year.

### 8.3 Membership fees due

Mr. Adham Sharara referred to his letter of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2001 addressed to Mr. Han Sang Kook and said that in order to avoid the unfair situation where some Continents do not receive the full Olympic funds due to the non payment of membership fees of some of their Associations, the Continental Federations should be given the option of paying all the membership fees for all their Associations and collecting the full Olympic funds or having the due amount deducted from the yearly Olympic fund amount. In either case it would be the responsibility of the Continental Federations to collect the membership fees. The advantage of this procedure being that the ITTF would be able to pay the Continental Federations their full allocation of Olympic money.

The travel reimbursements for Council members would be decided by Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Jordi Serra according to the suggestion made by Mr. Adham Sharara: *75% of an economy airfare to be reimbursed to Council members attending Council meetings (when they are held separately from the World Championships)*. The Continental Vice-Presidents attending EB meetings and the AGM meetings held separately from the World Championships will be reimbursed 50% of an economy airfare.

### 8.4 Audit update

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the dates for the 2000 Lausanne audit would soon be fixed in conjunction with the auditors and Mr. Han Sang Kook, in February. Ottawa will be audited subsequently and all three (including Hastings) audits merged. He said that the ITTF was hoping to send the Audited Financial Statements to everyone a month before the AGM. Mr. Sharara said that it would then have to be decided how often internal financial statements would be presented to the Executive Committee.

### 8.5 New financial and travel policies

Mr. Adham Sharara said that Mr. Jordi Serra had prepared a draft policy and Mr. Han Sang Kook and he (President) would examine it before it is sent to all concerned.

## 9. Transfer from Hastings

### 9.1 Archives

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the archives had been dispatched from Hastings but they had not arrived in Lausanne to date. The archival material taken by Mr. Jean-Marc Sylvain had not been received yet but he had promised to send them.

### 9.2 Files and Finances

Due to the transfer, the timelines for the AGM had also not been respected and preparations were falling behind schedule and the files had not reached Lausanne to date. The financial details for December would have to be retrieved.

### **9.3 Sale of building**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the building in Hastings had been sold and expressed his satisfaction that it had been done at a good price (£ 55,000) with little cost and little inconvenience.

## **10. Olympics**

### **10.1 Athens Inspection visits**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that in spite of the bad press that Athens had been receiving, he had been reassured at the ASOIF meeting he attended in Monte Carlo where the Sports Director of Athens had given an update report. The ITTF had requested to visit Athens, and Mr. Zlatko Cordas and Mr. Jordi Serra will make the first visit from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of January. The table tennis venue had not been built yet. However, Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the first construction plans had been received. Land appropriation and construction work would begin in April 2001 and end in February 2003. Mr. Adham Sharara said that a test event could be organised for December 2003 or January 2004, preferably the Pro Tour Finals.

### **10.2 Greek officials proposal**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF had received a letter from Greece, requesting the ITTF to use Greek officials more often and train them. Mr. Sharara said that the new Umpires and Referees Committee would be asked to work closely with them. It was decided that one observer referee would be sent to Osaka with the suggestion that the Greeks pay for his/her airfare and the ITTF his/her hospitality.

### **10.3 Bidding cities visits**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that 3 of the 5 bidding cities had been visited. Mr. George Segun and Mr. Anders Thunström had visited China, Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Anders Thunström had visited Toronto and Mr. Pierre Albertini and Mr. Jordi Serra had visited Paris. Osaka had not been officially visited but the facilities were known because of the World Championships. The invitation from Istanbul came late and there had been no time to visit. Mr. Jordi Serra reported that all the proposals had been sent to the IOC with positive recommendations for all by the ITTF. The Istanbul bid came late and though it is very good, it will be approved with some reservation.

### **10.4 Mixed Doubles update**

Mr. Adham Sharara gave an update saying that this item would be thoroughly discussed at the Olympic Commission Meeting in two days time. He reported that a written request had been made to the IOC and that a very positive meeting had been held with the Sports Director of the IOC, Mr. Gilbert Felli. Following this meeting a more detailed request had been made to the IOC Programme Commission. Three new sports (provisional in Sydney: Triathlon, Taekwondo and Softball) have been accepted for the Games in Athens and 14 new applications had been rejected. However, the table tennis mixed doubles event was still on the list of events under consideration by the Programme Commission. Mr. Sharara said that the IOC would include any sport that increased women's participation or which gave new NOCs a chance to win more medals. Furthermore, the addition of a new event should not increase the number of days, the number of participants or the number of

officials. It would, therefore, be wise to decrease the number of doubles pairs to one per NOC and allow one mixed pair per NOC. He also said that the mixed doubles could be incorporated in the Pro Tour in order to assert the firm intention of the ITTF to have the mixed doubles event included in the Olympic Games. Mr. Sharara said that an answer from the IOC Programme Commission could be expected after its meeting in April.

## **11. Events**

### **11.1 World Junior Championships proposal (India)**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that India had put forward a proposal to host a first World Junior Table Tennis Championship. It was decided to ask the Executive Board to study this item carefully and make a recommendation to the AGM. Mr. Sharara said that the Executive Board should also think of ways of putting the existing junior events together in a junior circuit.

### **11.2 2002 Team Challenge event**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that as a Team World Championship will not be held in 2002 a special team challenge could be organised. He asked the Executive Committee to give the matter sufficient thought so that it could be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in March.

## **12. Professional Staff**

### **12.1 Development Manager position**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that a Data Base Manager, Mr. Tim Gautreau had been hired. He works on a 4 days a week basis for the ITTF in Ottawa. The Canadian Government pays 1/3 of his salary. Mr. Gautreau had already visited the Lausanne office to meet with the staff and Mr. Jean-Jacques Hubermann and to assess the work to be done. He will be going to the English Open in order to study the results database and find ways of building a better and more centralised system. Mr. Adham Sharara also said that the ITTF was now seeking a Development Manager and not a Technical Co-ordinator and a proposal had been received by Mr. Glenn Tepper.

### **12.2 *Evaluations and contract renewals (in camera)***

### **12.3 *Severance payments (in camera)***

## **13. Any other business**

### **13.1 General insurance**

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that as it was the responsibility of the ITTF to have insurance for Olympic Solidarity experts he had consulted the firm BJD Services, which had been recommended by the IOC and which already worked with several International Federations. BJD Services had not only made a proposal for the experts but also for the Committee members, staff and AGM members. The Executive Committee requested Mr. Jordi Serra to finalise such an agreement with BJD Services and make a report to the AGM.

**13.2 Uniforms**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that on suggestion by Mr. Pierre Albertini the ITTF would have an official dress for Executive Committee, Executive Board, Committee Chairmen and staff members. Mr. Pierre Albertini had received a proposal from the French Company Ballenciaga, which he presented to the EC. Mr. Sharara asked all present to study the proposal. A further decision would be made regarding Council members at the next Executive Committee in March.

**13.3 Long reach table tennis**

Mr. George Segun reported that the project in South Africa had not been started yet due to the African Championships but work would begin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. He also said that the Centre in Barcelona would be submitting its plans in the very near future.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara