

Executive Committee

Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Saturday 17th March 2001 at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia, at 09:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (Finance)

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator

2. President's opening remarks

The President welcomed the Executive Committee to Zagreb, Croatia. He introduced Mr. Zdenko Uzorinac, whose book the **Legends of Table Tennis** had just been published in English and distributed to the Executive Committee. The book was specially produced to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the ITTF. The President thanked the author for his tremendous work and hoped the book would be a great success. He also thanked Mr. Nils Bergström who had coordinated the project on behalf of the EC. Mr. Zdenko Uzorinac in turn thanked Mr. Adham Sharara for his immense support, which had made the book a reality in its present form. He said he was honoured that the ITTF had entrusted him with this task and was very happy that the book had been published in time to be launched in Osaka at the World Championships. He also thanked Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. Chandra Madosingh (edited text) and the translator for their valuable help and encouragement. Mr. Adham Sharara invited Mr. Uzorinac to say a few words at the AGM in Osaka.

Mr. Adham Sharara then introduced Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana, the President of the Croatian Table Tennis Association and the host of the Executive Committee in Zagreb. Mr. Sharara explained that the Croatian Association had proposed that the AGM meeting in 2002 could be held in Zagreb during the European Championships and the main reason for holding the present Executive Meeting in Zagreb was to inspect the facilities. Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and hoped that they would have a successful meeting and a pleasant time in Zagreb and hoped to see them again in Zagreb in 2002 for the AGM.

The Executive Committee then made a short visit of the proposed Conference room for the AGM at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of the following items under 5.1.7 (Other) and 11 (Any other business):

- 5.1.7.1 Yuri Posevin's report
- 5.1.7.2 Eligibility requests
- 5.1.7.3 North and South Korea
- 5.1.7.4 Committee nominations

- 11.1 Pro Tour Final
- 11.2 ITTF Digest

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2001 in Yokohama, Japan, were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

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

No other business except that covered by the Agenda.

5. World Table Tennis Championships

5.1 Osaka 2001

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he had visited Osaka in the middle of January and he was pleased with the preparations.

5.1.1 Update

The Osaka Organising Committee (OOC) was awaiting the date and time for the function of the 75th Anniversary. It was decided to inform the OOC that the function would be held immediately after the meeting for the World Championships bid presentations (2003 and 2004).

It was reported that Mr. André Damman was in the process of preparing the Team Ranking Lists.

5.1.2 Issues

It was reported that the draw would be conducted according to instructions given by the ITTF. Mr. Yao and Zlatko Cordas will be present at the draw to assist the Referee. All issues arising from accommodation and hospitality of ITTF officials were being dealt with by the Ottawa office. Several issues arising from television and the design of the Centre court were being dealt with by the Marketing Division. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he was convinced that the Championships were going to be a great success and that television production should be exceptionally good.

5.1.3 Participation levels

It was reported that 93 men's teams and 67 women's teams had been entered so far. Verification and confirmation of some doubtful (incomplete) entries will be made within the next few weeks.

5.1.4 Late entries

It was decided that only the entries received *for the first time* (by fax or by post) after the 22nd February would be considered late entries, excluding North and South Korea, which had special permission. It was decided that the late entries of Albania, Brazil, Madagascar and Turkmenistan would be accepted with the provisions requested by the Organising Committee, in the following manner:

- That all late Associations would send the official entry forms to the Organising Committee and pay their entry fees and extra hospitality costs in advance or upon their arrival in Osaka.
- Accreditation cards would be issued only when payment had been made for entry and extra hospitality.

- That no new entries would be accepted by the ITTF after the Executive Committee meeting on 17th March 2001 in Zagreb, except for the entries from Korea and delegates for the AGM.

5.1.5 Meetings

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the meeting schedule in Osaka was now well in place and that the list was kept regularly updated and posted on the ITTF web site.

5.1.6 Final inspection

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would be visiting Osaka again from the 28th to the 31st of March and making a final verification of all impending issues. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that Mr. Peter Jensen, due to the increased media interest created by the joint Korean team, had expressed the wish to hold a media conference either during the training camp in Osaka or just before the beginning of the Championships. This also meant that it would be necessary to make sure that there were enough English and Korean interpreters available. Mr. Han Sang Kook said that Korea Republic would bring their own interpreters. Mr. Sharara would be informing the Organising Committee of this during his next visit.

5.1.7 Other

5.1.7.1 Yuri Posevin's report

It was reported that Mr. Yuri Posevin and Mr. Nils Bergström would make a joint report to the AGM about the 2003 and 2004 bids.

5.1.7.2 Eligibility requests

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that there were 3 eligibility requests from Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Luxembourg. All three cases were considered according to the Rules of the ITTF and the requests from Bosnia and Croatia were not accepted, as they did not comply with the present rules. The Luxembourg case was different, as the player had been playing in Luxembourg for over 10 years. Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to find out if the player had been registered before August 31st 1997 in Luxembourg or had not played for any other country in the past three years, in which case the request could be accepted.

5.1.7.3 North and South Korea

Mr. Adham Sharara announced that North Korea and South Korea had decided in principle to participate as **one unified team** at the World Championships. North and South Korea would march under the same flag and use the same anthem. However, this decision had important consequences where the organisation was concerned. For example, the number of Japanese journalists asking for accreditation had doubled and it was important to limit accreditation only to professional journalists.

Mr. Han Sang Kook thanked the President and the ITTF for their support for this idea of one unified team and clearly explained the position of the two Koreas and what they were expecting from the ITTF. He said that all eyes were riveted upon the meeting in Zagreb and that both Koreas were impatiently awaiting the decision of the ITTF.

All possibilities and options for forming a unified team were thoroughly examined within the framework of the Rules of the ITTF and it was decided that a decision would be made at a special session of the Executive Committee the next day, without the presence of Mr. Han Sang Kook, in order to avoid any perceived conflict of interest. The decision would then be communicated by Mr. Adham Sharara directly after the meeting (Annex-1).

5.1.7.4 Committee nominations

It was reported that the deadline for sending Committee nominations was over and a copy of all nominations received will be sent to Mr. Yuri Posevin and to Mr. Han Sang Kook, and a copy of their respective lists to Committee Chairmen.

5.2 2003 Selection

Mr. Nils Bergström reported briefly on his visits to all the bid cities. He said he felt sure that all the cities were capable of organising the WTTC. The EC members raised some concern about the organisation of the inspection visit to Qatar and the quality of television production during the Qatar Open.

5.3 2004 Selection

Mr. Yang Shuan reported that Shanghai would be the bidding city in China for 2004.

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that a presentation of bid cities would take place in Osaka on 25 April where the associations concerned would have a chance of presenting their bids. The final decision will be taken by the AGM, the next day, by secret ballot.

5.4 Draft of revised Constitution

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that according to the advice received from the PAC, Rules Committee Chairman and other persons concerned, the general opinion was that it was yet too early to present the revised Constitution to the AGM. Therefore, it was decided that only the most urgent changes, especially those dictated by incorporation requirements and Swiss Law would be presented to the AGM.

5.5 Approval at 2002 AGM

It was decided that the revised Constitution would be presented to the 2002 AGM and according to a schedule to be approved by the AGM.

6. Review Propositions and Resolutions

The draft document of Propositions and Resolutions was discussed in detail and finalised. The document will be sent to all concerned within the next few days.

7. AGM – 2002 proposal (Zagreb)

It was decided that the invitation from Zagreb, Croatia, to host the 2002 AGM would be recommended to the AGM in Osaka. The proposed date: Friday, 5th April 2002. It was decided that the ITTF would cover 4 days of hospitality to all delegates from outside Europe who would be attending the meeting.

8. Audit and Financial Statements

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the audit for 2000 of the Lausanne accounts had taken place. Mr. Han Sang Kook who had attended the audit expressed his satisfaction at the way things had been handled. He congratulated the President and the staff on the increase of income from Marketing and Olympic sources. Mr. Adham Sharara said that the audit of the Ottawa office would be taking place within the next few days and that the final audited statements would be presented in a document by the auditors.

9. 75th Anniversary

9.1 Book (Uzorinac)

It was decided that the book would be distributed to all Associations during the 75th Anniversary cocktail party, which will be held after the WTTC bid presentations in Osaka. A certain number would be available for sale in Osaka and the rest will be available for purchase from the Lausanne Office. It was decided that the book would be sold at USD 50.- per book with a special discount price of USD 40.- for those sold in Osaka. The book would be available to the member Associations, for the first 10 books, at the special discount price of USD 25.-. Additional books would cost the Associations USD 35.-.

9.2 Mementoes

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that apart from the 300 copies of **The Legends of Table Tennis** that would be distributed in Osaka he had ordered 300 medallions and 300 pins as well as 1000 paperweights to commemorate the event. It was reported that there was no room in the main arena to present Mr. Guernsey's collection in Osaka and that it could be done at the AGM (possibly in Zagreb) next year. It was also reported that Mr. Guernsey

would be donating his collection to the ITTF only when a place (museum) had been found to house it permanently.

10. Clothing

10.1 French offer (samples)

Pierre Albertini showed the Executive Committee the prototypes of costumes made by the French Company Ballenciaga. It was decided that due to the ongoing negotiations with Dawei (see below) only one suit each for EC and EB members would be ordered from Ballenciaga.

10.2 Dawei sponsorship

It was explained that our Marketing Director was negotiating a sponsorship offer from Dawei to be the official supplier of clothing for the ITTF.

11. Any other business

11.1 Pro Tour final

It was reported that there had been official applications from Germany and Sweden to host the 2002 Pro Tour Final. However, the ITTF was in the process of negotiating title sponsorship with Liebherr in Germany and if they decided to sponsor the Pro Tour they would be given priority for hosting the Finals. Therefore the decision would have to be taken at a later date.

On a negative note, the French Table Tennis Federation announced that they cancelled the French Open in 2001. The ITTF Marketing Division will immediately find a replacement.

11.2 ITTF Digest

It was decided that the ITTF Digest would not be produced any more and that all articles of a technical nature would be published in the Table Tennis Illustrated.

- Mr. George Segun made a brief report of his visits to South Africa and Cambridge, England. In South Africa, he checked the progress of the "long reach" table tennis experiment, which he said was going very well. A report would be presented in Osaka in order to show the necessity for more such research work. In Cambridge he had discussed racket covering testing with the Head of the Research Department who had agreed to carry out rubber testing for the ITTF. The costs were very low and this would be the ideal opportunity for the ITTF to study the materials used in table tennis and the quality of the equipment used.
- Mr. George Segun proposed that the ITTF should appoint posthumously Mr. Ichiro Ogimura and Mr. Lollo Hammarlund as Personal Honorary Members of the ITTF. It was decided to recommend to the AGM that all past Presidents should be appointed Personal Honorary Members.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17: 45.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

Annex -1

Special meeting of the Executive Committee

held on Sunday 18th March 2001 at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia, from 09:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Present

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator

Excused

Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
	Excused in order to avoid a conflict of interest

WTTC entry from the Koreas

After careful deliberation and analysis and within the confines of the ITTF Rules, it was decided to accept **one unified team** from the Koreas to participate at the 2001 World table tennis Championships in Osaka.

Mr. Adham Sharara issued the following official statement after the meeting:

"The Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation concluded its meeting today in Zagreb, Croatia, by accepting the entry of both Koreas in the 2001 Osaka World Table Tennis Championships to be held next month.

There will be 24 players (12 men and 12 women) representing **ONE UNIFIED TEAM** from Korea throughout the World Championships.

In case of a gold medal ceremony, the famous Korean song "ARIRANG" will be played and a special flag will be hoisted. The flag will feature the Korean Peninsula in blue on a white background. The same flag will be used throughout the Championships within the parade of flags.

At the opening ceremony the Unified Team will march in as one, attired in one uniform, and will be referred to during the entire Championships as Team KOREA.

The ITTF has extended its deadlines to accept the nomination of the players for Team KOREA to 28 March 2001. This is to allow enough time for the selection of the players.

The ITTF is extremely pleased to be able to accommodate **ONE UNIFIED TEAM** from Korea and that the sport of table tennis can continue its tradition of Ping Pong Diplomacy."