

# Executive Committee

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at the Opera Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia, at 14:00.

### 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

#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator
Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Christian Véronèse	Marketing Manager
Mikael Andersson	Global Youth Programme Co-ordinator

#### Invited to attend

Yuri Posevin	Chairman Standing Orders Committee
Patrice Iseli	Director of Sports, City of Lausanne

### 2. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed the Executive Committee and staff to Zagreb and explained that Mr. Yuri Posevin and Mr. Patrice Iseli had been invited to draw for the presentation order for the 2005 World Championships at the AGM the next day. Mr. Posevin explained that both candidates were excellent. He asked the Executive Committee to consider the possibility of asking one of the two Associations to present its bid for 2006. The draw decided that Switzerland would make the first presentation at the AGM. It was reported that Sweden would make a small presentation explaining why they withdrew their candidacy and wished to bid for 2007.

*(Mr. Posevin and Mr. Iseli left the meeting at 14:15).*

### 3. Approval of Agenda

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

12.1	Yugoslavia	12.6	Bad Behaviour Policy
12.2	Palestine	12.7	English Eligibility Case
12.3	Lesotho	12.8	Research
12.4	New office	12.9	Finances
12.5	Dictionary		

### 4. Minutes

#### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Tianjin, January 2002)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2002 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 than that covered by the Agenda.

### 5. Equipment Committee

#### 5.1 Legal Action (Dunlop, other)

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that there were several pending problems with manufacturers who did not respect the regulations and used the ITTF logo without

authorisation. It was decided that Mr. Sharara would seek legal advice on how to deal with the problem.

**5.2 Approval Fees (FIT meeting)**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he and Mr. Odd Gustavsen had met with the Manufacturers regarding the new fee proposal prepared by Mr. Gustavsen. The FIT had made a counterproposal. The Executive Committee decided to mandate Mr. Gustavsen to make a final proposal to the FIT including the recommendation from the auditors for annual invoicing. Item referred to the BOD.

**5.3 Technical Leaflets**

The Executive Committee gave the authority to Mr. Odd Gustavsen to update, change and delete if necessary the ITTF Technical Leaflets. Item referred to the BOD.

**6. AGM Resolutions and Propositions**

**6.1 Olympic Commission recommendation (Italy's and Israel's Resolutions)**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the Olympic Commission in Tianjin, at a heated meeting, made the decision to recommend two doubles entries at the Athens Games but drawn in the same half. There were counterproposals to the AGM from Italy (asking for one entry in doubles) and Israel (asking for 2 entries only in the Singles) which were not in agreement with the Olympic Commission's decision. Therefore, it was important for the Executive Committee not to be in contradiction with the decision made by the Olympic Commission

**6.2 Recognition of "Umpires & Referees Committee"**

The proposal from the Executive Committee, was briefly explained, requesting that the Umpires & Referees Commission should be made a Committee that would then benefit from all rights accorded to Committees at World Championships. The interim Chairman (Mr. Neil Harwood) would continue to function in his position until one was elected in Paris in 2003.

**6.3 Recognition of "Junior Commission"**

The Executive Committee was proposing that the Junior Working Group should be made into a Commission with the possibility for them to be hosted at the World Junior Championships.

**6.4 Service Rule**

Mr. Adham Sharara briefly explained the different propositions that were being made to the AGM concerning the service rule. The Executive Committee decided to ask a Working Group (C. Clemett, Yao Zhenxu, A. Salam, C. Veronese and one more person to be named by the President) to produce written and visual material within the next two months, which would clearly demonstrate this rule. This material would be distributed to all the Associations by June this year.

**7. BOD Resolutions and Propositions**

The BOD Resolutions and Propositions were discussed. Mr. Adham Sharara said that most of those proposed by the Executive Committee were related to the WTTC and had been prepared by Mr. Nils Bergström. They did not request any major changes but were aimed at adapting to the new situation created by the separation of the Individual and Team Championships. Mr. Bergström requested the following correction to Proposition BD-14 pertaining to articles 4.1.2.2.1, 4.1.2.2.2 and 4.1.2.2.3 of the Handbook. The Proposition should read:

**"That the organisers of World Championships provide an Association with free hospitality for up to 3 men and 3 women players in that event."**

**8. 2005 WTTC selection**

**8.1 Inspection reports**

Mr. George Segun reported on his visits to Lausanne and Shanghai and said that both cities were worthy of serious consideration by the AGM. It was said that Mr. Yuri Posevin would distribute a brief written report during the AGM.

**8.2 AGM Procedures (presentations and voting)**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained AGM procedures and voting procedures that would be followed using the "secret ballot" method.

9. **2003 Junior WTTC selection (BOD Meeting)**  
It was decided that the BOD, instead of the Executive Board, should make the final decision on the Host City for the First Junior World Championships. Mr. Mikael Andersson reported that there were three bids received from Austria, Chile and India. The event would take place from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2003. 16 teams qualified from Continental Federations would participate. The idea of establishing a Continental rotation for hosting the event was discussed. The Working Group was asked to come up with a concrete proposal. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had met with a manufacturer who had guaranteed sponsorship for the Junior Programme and that the agreement would be finalised before the end of the present event in Zagreb. He said it would be good if the entire programme could be funded through sponsorship. Mr. Jordi Serra said that it would also be possible to secure some funds and training activities for juniors through the Olympic Solidarity programmes.
10. **Revised Constitution**  
Mr. Adham Sharara referred to the survey document sent out on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2002 to all the Associations and said that several controversial points would have to be decided by the AGM such as an age limit for elected officials, if Committee Chairmen should have a vote, etc. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would request the AGM to adopt the revised Constitution as a whole and not item by item, with a choice of implementation date.
11. **Future meetings**  
It was reported that the next Executive Committee and Board meetings would take place in Stockholm in December 2002 during the Pro Tour Finals. Mr. Nils Bergström reported that the city of Stockholm would offer free hospitality for Executive Committee and Board members (12 persons). An Executive Committee meeting may take place at the end of September only if there is a need.
12. **Any other business**
- 12.1 **Yugoslavia**  
Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the ITTF had received a letter from a new Association that had been formed by Serbia and Montenegro claiming that it was now representing the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Serra was asked to answer the letter informing them that a formal decision would be taken once a real political decision was made regarding Yugoslavia and once the NOC concerned had been consulted.
- 12.2 **Palestine**  
It was reported that Palestine, which had been represented by Mr. Rabee Al Turk, also member of the Board of Directors, was now being contested by a new Palestinian Federation represented by a new President, Mr. Michel Karkar. Both parties were expected at the AGM. The problem would have to be resolved together with the IOC, the Palestinian NOC and the Government authorities in Palestine, but at the moment due to the political situation it was impossible to communicate with the Palestinian authorities.
- 12.3 **Lesotho**  
It was reported that Lesotho had applied for membership after the deadline date. Formal applications for membership would be presented by Lesotho and Niger in Paris 2003.
- 12.4 **New Office**  
Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the purchase date for the Château de Renens (future site of the ITTF headquarters) had been set for 9<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The plans were being prepared by an architect, which would have to be approved by the city. The final cost of the purchase would be CHF 2.1 million. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF would be exempt from taxes in Renens.
- 12.5 **Dictionary**  
It was announced that the first edition of the table tennis dictionary (English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese and Hungarian), prepared and published by the Hungarian Association and financed by the ITTF, would be distributed to all attending the AGM. A second edition was being planned in other languages to include Russian, Chinese and Arabic.
- 12.6 **Bad Behaviour Policy**  
Mr. George Segun explained and summarised the draft policy that had been drawn up. Mr. Adham Sharara's suggestion to adopt the draft policy for Pro Tour events

was accepted and referred to the BOD for a decision. A formal proposition would be made to the AGM in 2003.

**12.7 English Eligibility Case**

The situation of an 11 year old boy with a British overseas (Hong Kong) passport who would like to play for England was presented again for consideration by the Executive Committee. It was observed that the current passport had expired and it was decided to wait for the boy to obtain his new passport before any decision was taken. If he obtained a British National passport the problem would be solved, if not, the case would have to be considered once more.

**12.8 Research**

Mr. George Segun reported that, as planned, research on the Longer Reach Table Tennis Project was continuing and Japan had accepted the proposal from the ITTF to complete the project and present a report. Mr. Segun said that a manufacturer from India had developed an enclosure for outdoor table tennis. Mr. Segun asked for the approval of the Executive Committee to try out a new experiment where 3 players would play on the table at the same time in a new team format and they would play on two tables with a gap and a net that would span the width of both tables. A demonstration had been planned in Zagreb.

**12.9 Finances**

It was reported that the financial situation was in general healthy but that cash-flow problems may arise at the end of the quadrennial period. It was reported that the Audits had been done in a very detailed manner. The auditors had proposed that invoicing for manufacturers should be done on a yearly basis.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that there would be a small profit for the ITTF from the title sponsor and television rights at the European Championships. He reported that some television rights had already been sold in China, Canada and Slovenia for the WTTC in 2003.

- Mr. Adham Sharara congratulated the Croatian Table Tennis Association on the organisation of the European Championships, and especially the presentation of the centre court, which was excellent.
- Mr. Pierre Albertini informed the EC that Mr. Manuel Nuñez Pérez of the Spanish Table Tennis Federation had been elected President of the Mediterranean Table Tennis Union and that Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana was one of the newly elected Vice-Presidents of the European Table Tennis Union.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16:55.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara