

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2003** at the Maritim Hotel, Bremen, Germany beginning at 09:00.

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

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the DTTB for having invited the EC, welcomed all to Bremen and explained meeting procedure.

Ms Beatrix Frisch, the person responsible for Marketing for Volkswagen AG gave a comprehensive report on the activities of the company in the Asia Pacific region and explained why the company had been motivated to work with the ITTF.

### 2) **Roll Call**

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)
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice President

#### **In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director
Peter Jensen	Media & Communication Manager

#### **Invited to attend**

Dorte Kronsell	Chairwoman, Women's Working Group (for item 10.3)
Jean-François Kahn	Chairman, Sport Science Committee (for item 8)
Khaled El-Salhy	President, Egyptian Table Tennis Association (for item 8)
Rudi Sporrer	Chairman, Rules Committee (for item 12.1)
Beatrix Frisch	Responsible for Marketing, Volkswagen AG

### 3) **Approval of Agenda**

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

- 10.4 Junior Commission
- 14.1 Request from Odd Gustavsen

### 4) **Minutes**

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Paris, 18 May 2003)**

The Minutes of the Executive Meeting held in Paris, France, 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) 2004 World Table Tennis Team Championships. Qatar.**

### **5.1 Inspection visit**

Mr. Nils Bergström gave a report of his last inspection visit to Doha, 17-19 September. Next visit will take place middle of January 2004. He said the Exhibition Centre where the event would take place was big enough to hold the planned 24 competition tables together with 3 more tables in a special TV court. He said he had seen the plans for the ITTF Offices. He said that the organisers seemed to be very well prepared in some aspects but still behind in others.

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he encouraged the Organisers to offer packages to attract spectators, as one of the problems in Qatar would be the low number of spectators.

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that preliminary entry forms had been received so far and 89 delegations had confirmed their intention to attend, including 75 men's teams and 63 women's teams for a total of 867 participants.

### **5.2 Visas**

Mr. Nils Bergström explained that the visa procedure for Qatar had been under discussion but now all problems were solved and the visas could be obtained through the Qatar Association for a payment of US\$ 35.

### **5.3 Development Workshop and Women's Forum**

It was reported that a Development Workshop run by Mr. Glenn Tepper and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Forum would be held in Qatar. The Women's Forum would take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March and preparations were underway for both activities.

### **5.4 Team ranking**

It was confirmed that the ranking from January 2004 would be used to create the teams seeding for the Qatar World Championships, regardless of the players that would actually represent the team at the event. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he hoped the system used would be successful so that it could be used in the future without anymore change.

## **6) Finances**

### **6.1 Current**

Mr. Jordi Serra briefly explained the current financial situation.

### **6.2 2003 Audit**

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that due to the early WTTC it would be difficult to send the audited financial reports in advance next year. They may not even be ready for the AGM. Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Serra were asked to write a letter explaining the situation to all concerned.

### **6.3 Air Travel Policy for BOD & EC+**

It was decided that all BOD and EC+ members attending the WTTC would receive 25% of the airfare. All Committee Chairmen would receive 100% of airfare.

It was decided that at meetings other than at World Team or Individual Championships, the Continental Vice Presidents would receive 50% of the airfare and that all Committee, Commission, and Working Group Chairpersons invited to attend the meetings would receive 100% of economy airfare.

## **6.4 Investment Policies**

Mr. Adham Sharara briefly explained the real estate investments made up to now in Ottawa and Lausanne. He said the renovations to the new Headquarters in Lausanne were progressing and he was hoping to find sponsorship for the Museum. Mr. Pierre Albertini warned that the ITTF should be careful with maintenance costs of buildings in Ottawa and Lausanne.

### **6.4.1 International Training Centres**

Mr. Adham Sharara said he was discussing several options about investing in International Training Centres in Malta, Hungary and Brazil and asked the EC to think in detail about the idea so that a concrete proposal could be discussed at the next EC meeting.

## **6.5 Olympic Funding**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that there was a 50% expected increase in Olympic funding, which would permit the ITTF to reimburse the mortgage and make further real estate investments. He said that an agreement had been made with the Continental Federations to give them 15% of the Olympic Fund up to 2 million and 20% on any amount exceeding 2 million. The distribution would be done over a period of 5 years. A more detailed distribution plan would be presented in December so that the Continental Vice-President's would know clearly how much each Continent would be receiving.

## **7) Marketing**

### **7.1 ETTU Marketing Co-ordinator**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that plans for hiring a joint Marketing Co-ordinator for the ITTF and the ETTU had not worked out and that the ETTU had hired a person on their own.

### **7.2 TMS International**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that TMS was now bringing in a lot of money to the ITTF and that the auditors had requested that the ITTF should have a formal written agreement with TMS to make sure that TMS guarantees a minimum amount to the ITTF every year.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that the Qatar WTTC would be covered by at least the same TV companies as the Paris WTTC and there was interest from several others in Asia and Europe.

## **8) Doping case**

A doping case had been reported about the player Ali Saleh from Egypt. After hearing the player's position through his representative Mr. Khaled El-Salhy, President of the Egyptian TTA, and after hearing Dr. Jean-François Kahn who explained the nature of the substances involved; it was decided that the player would be suspended for a period of 2 years from the day of infraction, effective July 31, 2003 from all ITTF international events.

Ms Lilamani de Soysa proposed that all ITTF Coaching courses should include education about doping so that players and coaches are fully aware of the forbidden substances and are made aware of the consequences of a doping infraction.

## 9) Structure

### 9.1 Committees

It was reported that Mr. George Segun, Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Colin Clemett had been nominated to review the structure of ITTF Committees and that the group should soon meet in order to prepare a first proposal that would be presented to the EC in Qatar by Mr. George Segun. The new plan would be implemented after Shanghai WTTC.

### 9.2 Staff

Mr. Adham Sharara said that it was time to start thinking of redesigning the staff structure. He said it was necessary to develop a body of work and to identify exactly what is being done by whom and to update all existing job descriptions. He said that due to the high costs in Switzerland, it would be better to employ some staff on a consultant basis, which would give them the opportunity to seek employment also with other sources. It was reported that Mr. Chuck Hoey, the Museum Curator, would move to Lausanne in January. He would be accommodated free of charge at the ITTF Headquarters and would receive an indemnity. An apprentice from Germany would also be based in Lausanne for a 6-month internship to help with the Olympic Games preparations. It was also said that a Competition Management Unit would be formed and two Competition Managers would be hired one for the Junior events and one for the Pro Tour, WTTC and Olympic Games.

It was decided that Ms. Lilamani de Soysa's title would be changed to Project Manager and Mr. Mikael Andersson would have the title Junior and Youth Programme Manager effective immediately.

### 9.3 New Headquarters Update

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the staff would be moving to the new Headquarters during the first week of December. The Curator would be arriving in January and the Museum would be ready for public visits by May. The official opening ceremony of the Headquarters is planned on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2004. He said that a company in Lausanne was assisting the ITTF in fund raising and all other aspects of the establishment of the Museum. He said the budget was respected and the renovations of the new Headquarters building would cost between 2.2 and 2.4 million Swiss francs.

### 9.4 ITTF Asia Office

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the Shanghai Organising Committee had agreed to the offer from ITTF sponsorship that would be shared on a 25% to ITTF and 75% to OC basis. The Shanghai Organising Committee had offered the ITTF office space free of charge in Shanghai and the ITTF would like to use this space to co-ordinate World Championships and Marketing Activities in China and Asia.

## 10) Committees/Commissions

### 10.1 Directives for Match Officials

Mr. Jordi Serra was asked to contact the concerned individuals and ask them for specific recommendations, corrections and additions to the text. It was decided that a final decision would be made in Qatar.

### 10.2 Research and experiments update

Mr. George Segun reported that he had gone to India and met with Stag. It had been resolved that there would be three types of enclosures for

outdoor table tennis, and the flooring would be interlocking floor mats. Stag was also making smaller tables that could be used for other purposes. Mr. Segun said he was sure that in the future, more people would suggest different ways of playing table tennis.

### **10.3 Women's Working Group report**

The President introduced the Chairwoman of the Women's Working Group, Ms Dorte Kronsell from Denmark, to the Executive Committee and Ms Dorte in turn thanked the EC for trusting her with this responsibility and said she was looking forward to working closely with the ITTF.

Ms. Judit Faragó explained in detail the progress made by the Women's Working Group since the Forum and the action plan until the next Forum to be held in Qatar. Ms. Lilamani de Soysa explained that she was in contact with the City of Lausanne, the University of Lausanne and the International Academy of Sport Science Technology to organise an education programme for women together with all the International Federations.

### **10.4 Junior Commission**

Ms Judit Faragó reported that she had represented the ITTF at the World Cadet Challenge and World Junior Circuit Final in Malaysia, which had been a very successful event and had attended a fruitful meeting with the Team Managers. She reported that it had been decided to continue with the same team formats of the World Cadet Challenge and the World Junior Circuit Final with a similar playing system and as a joint event in the future. She said there would be further discussions in Chile.

Ms Faragó also said that the Junior Working Group strongly recommends the formation of an official platform for coaches such as a Working Group or Commission. She also complimented Mr. Raul Calín for the good work done in Malaysia.

## **11) Olympic Games**

### **11.1 Accreditation and Priority List**

Mr. Jordi Serra said that arrangements for accommodation for Athens had now been finalised. It was decided that the same priority system as the one used for Sydney would be used to allocate extra rooms, as follows:

1. Executive Board Members (if not already a Jury member)
2. President's Advisory Council
3. Members of the Board of Directors
4. Presidents of National Associations
5. Chairpersons of Committees, Commissions, Working groups and panels
6. Committee members

### **11.2 2008 Venue**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that BOCOG had requested a change in the original venue for table tennis in Beijing for the following reasons:

- to be in line with the IOC President's concept of leaving a legacy to the host city;
- the University of Beijing wishes to provide funds to construct the venue;
- the venue at the University would be built as a permanent, multi-purpose sports hall.

Mr. Sharara said that having heard all the arguments from all sides he felt convinced that the change would be for the best and that the ITTF could ask the University to establish a table tennis academy in China.

It was said that the ITTF would inform the President of the IOC of its willingness to change but with the conditions that a giant screen be set-up in the Olympic Park so that people could watch table tennis and also the possibility in the future to use the venue for ITTF purposes.

Mr. Adham Sharara also said that he had spoken to the IOC President about the team event replacing the double at the 2008 Games and the reaction had been positive and the final decision will be made after Athens. Mr. George Segun asked Mr. Sharara to appeal to the IOC to encourage the NOCs to send all qualified players to the Games.

## **12) AGM and BOD**

### **12.1 Eligibility rules**

Mr. Rudi Sporrer presented the draft for a new text for eligibility, which had to be updated due to contradictions and unclear sections in the Handbook and also due to the vast changes in world political geography. It was decided that Olympic eligibility would be separate from ITTF eligibility. It was said that further issues such as the reduction of the waiting period for juniors and who should be responsible for final decision on eligibility issues would be further discussed in Chile and final version of the document would be presented to the BOD and AGM in Qatar.

### **12.2 WTTC. Bids 2007**

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that four applications had been received from Croatia, Korea R, Sweden and USA. It was decided that inspection visits would be made in order to make recommendations to the AGM in Qatar. Sweden would be visited by Claude Bergeret and George Segun, Croatia by Claude Bergeret and Jordi Serra, USA by Adham Sharara and Anders Thunström and Korea R to be decided soon.

### **12.3 Proposals**

Several proposals already received for the next BOD were reviewed, namely a proposal from the Equipment Committee regarding pimple rubbers and one from the Executive Committee regarding the nomination of more than one candidate from the same association for the Executive Committee. The final list of proposals shall be reviewed in Chile.

## **13) Next Meeting (Santiago, Chile, 19 December 2003)**

It was reported that Ms Dorte Kronsell would represent the ITTF at the Women's World Cup in Hong Kong.

The next EC meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2003 in Santiago, Chile.

## **14) Any other business**

### **14.1 Request from Odd Gustavsen**

It was decided that Mr. Gustavsen's request for support from the National Associations in order to avoid false advertising by manufacturers should be presented as a resolution to the BOD.

### **14.2 On request from Mr. Yang Shuan it was decided to ask the URC to give the Associations more time to implement the criteria imposed by the URC for umpires selected for the Olympic Games.**

### **14.3 EVP responsibilities from 2003-2005 were presented as follows:**

Adham Sharara      General responsibilities

Pierre Albertini	Deputise for President Multi-Sport Games
George Segun	Committee Re-structure Research and Development International Relations
Nils Bergström	World Championships Historical Records
Yang Shuan	Olympic Games World Cup events
Han Sang Kook	Finances Marketing Investments
Judit Faragó	Global Junior Programme Women's Programme Calendar Working Group

- 14.4 Mr. Nils Bergström said he would present a more detailed report on his visit to China (2005 Shanghai) at the next EC meeting.
- 14.5 It was decided that the Handbook would be translated into German and made available on the ITTF web-site.
- 14.6 Mr. Anders Thunström said that TMS was planning to collaborate with a company that was going to produce a creative computer game, which would generate income for the ITTF at no risk.

**15) Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17:35.