

# Executive Committee

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Paris, France, **18 May 2003**, at 14:00

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

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed all to Paris. He reported that except for minor problems that were being solved the organisation seemed to be going according to plan. A record entry of 140 countries would be participating in Paris.

**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

**In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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

- 12.1 Visas
- 12.2 World championships in general
- 12.3 Elections

**4. Minutes**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Doha, 5 and 6 March 2003)**

The Minutes of the Executive Meeting held in Doha, Qatar 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. World Table Tennis Championships**

**5.1 Paris 2003**

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that there were two relatively serious problems which would have to be solved by the organisers, first being the inadequate lighting in the practice hall and the second being the uneven status of the floor. Mr. Adham Sharara said that this proved once more the necessity for a test event before the main event in order to test the installations. Mr. Nils Bergström added that, except for these two problems, the rest of the organisation was well in place, including the accreditation which had started smoothly.

A special meeting was convened with the Organising Committee in order to find solutions concerning teams that were having financial problems.

## **5.2 Qatar 2004**

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he would be meeting with the Qatar delegation in order to discuss certain unsettled items such as charge for extra hospitality, and change of dates for the Qatar WTTC. He reported that he had made an inspection visit to Qatar last May and that preparations seem to be advancing well. He said that the lack of volunteers could pose a problem as well as the training of volunteers and staff. Mr. Adham Sharara said that another issue still to be settled was sponsorship but that he was happy to announce that DHS had accepted to be the equipment sponsor for both Qatar 2004 and Shanghai 2005.

## **5.3 Shanghai 2005**

Mr. Yang Shuan said that several members of the Shanghai Organising Committee would be visiting Paris during these championships as observers.

## **5.4 Applications WTTC 2006**

### **5.4.1 Serbia & Montenegro and Germany (Draw for presentations at the AGM)**

It was decided by draw that Serbia & Montenegro would make the first presentation followed by Germany. The ITTF had been informed that the name of the Yugoslav Association had changed to the Association of the Table Tennis Association of Serbia and the Table Tennis Association of Montenegro.

## **6. 2003 AGM and meetings update**

### **6.1 AGM and BOD agenda**

AGM and BOD Agendas were studied and final preparations discussed. Most Propositions and Resolutions for the AGM and BOD were discussed in detail.

#### **6.1.1 Application for membership. Kosovo**

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that according to a letter received from the UN, Kosovo was now under the jurisdiction of the UN and that according to the Constitution of the ITTF, Kosovo could be accepted as an independent Association. However, the former Yugoslav Association was not favourable to this motion. The item was referred to the Board of Directors.

#### **6.1.2 Future Committees Structure**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF was looking for ways to improve the functioning of the ITTF Committees by grouping together certain committees dealing with similar issues such as human resources, competitions etc. It was decided that a plan would be prepared for 2004.

## **6.2 Propositions and Resolutions**

### **6.2.1 Technical Committee propositions. Addendum**

It was explained that due to an administrative error, two propositions from the Technical Committee had not been included in the documents to the AGM and would be added:

- That the ball may be struck only with the racket.
- That the requirement for the ball in service to be projected "without imparting spin be deleted".

### **6.3 Audit**

Mr. Han Sang Kook explained why the ITTF had changed auditors from BOD Dunwoody to Price Waterhouse Coopers. He said he had attended the auditors meetings in Lausanne and was satisfied with the outcome. He said that the reserve fund had now been invested in real estate in Canada and Switzerland. He said that the total assets of the ITTF had increased and even if the income would be less in 2003 the ITTF was maintaining a steady position. He said that the ITTF should start thinking of how it would use the Olympic funds that it would receive in 2004. He also said that in order to better manage the Olympic funds and to provide for better budgeting the Olympic income should be divided into a 5 or 6 year transition period and revert to a quadrennial distribution starting with the year following the Olympic Games (2009-2012).

### **7. Women's Forum**

Ms Lilamani de Soysa reported that all was in place to hold the Women's Forum and gave necessary practical information.

### **8. World Club Championships**

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he had been trying, together with a small working group, to find out if it was feasible to revive the World Club Championships once more. He said that from the information gathered, it was not a suitable time to re-organise the World Club Championships as financial implications even for European clubs seemed to be of a largely dissuasive nature. He said he would continue discussions in Paris. The EC members were requested to think of ways to solve the financial problems and attract more media coverage for this event.

### **9. Directives for match officials**

Mr. Jordi Serra forwarded further information received about the document concerning "Directives for Match Officials" which he requested the EC members to read carefully. The item was referred to the next Executive Committee meeting.

### **10. Research and experiments update**

Mr. George Segun referred to the report distributed and thanked all those that had helped and encouraged him in this project. He said that in Paris there would be demonstrations of the longer reach team play as well as a special system for controlled open air table tennis. He said a video would be shown at the next Board of Directors meeting together with detailed explanations from Prof. Toriola.

### **11. Next Meeting (Paris, 24 May 2003)**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May at 9:00 at the Sofitel Forum Rive Gauche Hotel.

### **12. Any other business**

#### **12.1 Visas**

Mr. George Segun wished it to be noted that there had been several incidents where those requesting French visas had been subjected to humiliation at French Embassies.

#### **12.2 World Championships in general**

Mr. Anders Thunström said that even if TV revenue would not be great in Paris, which would have to be shared with the Organising Committee, the exposure was excellent.

**12.3 Elections**

This item was discussed "in camera".

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17:10.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara