

# Executive Council

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## Minutes

of the Executive Council Meetings held in Paris, France, **20 May 2003**, at 09:00 (suspended after one hour) and continued on **24 May 2003** at 09:00

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

Mr. Adham Sharara said he was pleased with the smooth running of the AGM and the co-operation of all concerned.

### 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
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Neil Harwood	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)
Miguel Delgado	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
Aly Salam	Continental Vice-President (North America)

Aksel Beckmann	Co-chairman Umpires and Referees Committee ( <i>present on 20.5.2003 for item 7.2</i> )
Yao Zhenxu	Chairman Technical Committee ( <i>present on 20.5.2003 for item 6.1</i> )

### Invited to attend

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator

### Absent

Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Continental Vice-President (Asia) ( <i>absent on 24.5.2003</i> )
Miguel Delgado	Continental Vice-President (Latin America) ( <i>absent on 24.5.2003</i> )

### Absent with regrets from meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2003

Sheri Pittman	Continental Vice-President (North America)
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### 3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as presented.

### 4. Minutes

#### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Stockholm, Sweden, 13 December 2002)

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2002, were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

No other business than that covered by Agenda.

### **5. Olympic Games**

#### **5.1 Final World Olympic Qualification Tournament**

It was reported that the final World Olympic Qualification Tournament would be held on 13-16 May 2004 in Innsbruck, Austria.

#### **5.2 Technical Delegates' visit to Athens**

Mr. Neil Harwood reported on his visit to Athens (see document attached) and said that the venue may be the best that table tennis would have had at any Olympic Games.

#### **5.3 Beijing 2008 - Relocation of table tennis venue**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the IOC and BOCOG had asked for the table tennis venue in Beijing to be relocated from its original location in the bid to the University of Beijing. It was decided that Mr. Adham Sharara would visit the new site and a decision would be made after his visit.

### **6. World Championships**

#### **6.1 World Team Championships format**

Mr. Yao Zhenxu explained at length the new team format that had been prepared for the 2004 World Team Championships which would allow for improvement to the current system.

It was decided that this point would be further discussed at the Board of Directors meeting with a recommendation for approval for the next World Championships in Qatar.

#### **6.2 Update reports 2003, 2004 and 2005 World Championships**

Not discussed further as comprehensive reports had been made at the AGM.

#### **6.3 Club Championships**

It was decided that Mr. Nils Bergström would further study the possibilities of reviving this event.

### **7. Committees and Commissions issues and update**

#### **7.1 Future Committees structure**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF would like to propose a new structure for its committees in order to create better working methods and improved interaction between committees as well as all committee members. Paralympics (IPC), Sport for All, Coaching and the Women's Working Group would be added elements that would have to be studied. The President would form a study group including Mr. George Segun and Mr. Neil Harwood to study this item with the assistance of Mr. Colin Clemett who would be requested to draw up the appropriate texts.

#### **7.2 Umpires & Referees - International Referee (Continent)**

Mr. Aksel Beckmann explained that a new level of referees had been introduced and from now on those candidates that lack practical experience or whose English is not up to standard may be able to function as International Referee (Continental) within their own Continents.

## **8. Continental Vice-President update**

### **8.1 Latin-America (Guatemala)**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that due to internal problems within Guatemala, the sports authorities were not recognising the Guatemala Table Tennis Association. He said the ITTF would request the sport authorities to hold elections and a decision would be taken accordingly.

### **8.2 Africa (Solidarity Fund)**

Mr. Chérif Hajem proposed that a solidarity fund should be created in order to help the poorer associations to send teams to the world championships. He said the idea would have to be developed carefully, perhaps by a special working group, in order to figure out how a fund could be created with the ITTF, rich countries and manufacturers.

## **9. New memberships**

With the acceptance of 7 new member associations the ITTF now has a total of 195 member Associations.

## **10. New Headquarters update**

Mr. Jordi Serra said that renovations were progressing well and that the offices were expected to be ready by the end of this year. The museum would be installed progressively in 2004.

## **11. Implementation date of revised Constitution**

The revised Constitution came into effect at the AGM. It was said that in the future Continental meetings should be held before the AGM so that members could discuss items before the AGM.

## **12. New name for Executive Board (Executive Council, EC+)**

According to new constitution the Executive Board will be now known as the Executive Council (abbreviation = EC+).

## **13. Research and experiment update**

The Longer reach table tennis demonstration will take place at Bercy on Thursday and Friday.

## **14. Next Meeting**

The date of the next Executive Council meeting will be communicated at a later date (it would take place either in Chile or China in December 2003).

## **15. Any other business**

Mr. Neil Harwood referred to item 1.7.14 of the Handbook and said that the ITTF shall pay a proportion of the travel costs of Board of Directors members attending Board of Directors meetings, the proportion being decided from time to time by the Executive Council. Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Han Sang Kook were requested to study this possibility and to propose a percentage for airfare each year.

## **16. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2003 was adjourned at 13:05.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

**ATHOC TECHNICAL DELEGATE VISIT – 12<sup>TH</sup> 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2003****12.05.03**

Meeting Chaired by Adam Sotiradis Sport Administration Department Co-ordinator. Others in full time attendance: George Seliniotakis, Competition Manager; Maria Mitakidou, Administration Manager; and Neil Harwood, Technical Delegate.

## VENUE

Progress report given showing plans for expected completion September this year. Site visit planned for 13.5.03.

Detailed plans showing use of space, accreditation areas, movement pathways, drop off zones. Training will be closed to areas as agreed with ITTF (P. Jensen & Z. Cordas) and this will be almost impossible to change. Unlike Sydney pathways are distinct and flow should be easily monitored. Having a new venue is certainly an advantage.

I highlighted a possible problem with sightings for those sitting in bottom seats of stands. Also a possible issue of visibility of spectators to angled sports specific boards. Also noted was the positioning of coaches in the backhand side of the court at TV side of the stadium. I was assured that the air movement and lighting had been included in specifications but I recommend that this be monitored at Test Event – important issue.

## PHOTO SERVICES

Did not attend meeting but I understand position of photographers has been agreed. They will have controlled access to all areas except where TV are operating. I do not know whether they have any lighting issues.

## SPORT EVENT

The 'Test' Event will be the final days of the Greek Open (28.2.04 – 1.2.04). This will, in all probability, be under control of National Federation but will be a joint venture.

ATHOC will test CM/FOP, Technology/Results, site and venue operations. Doping Control and Medical will also be in attendance.

## BROADCASTING

There will only be one TV table and camera positions have been agreed in accordance with ITTF guidelines. The main high camera is certainly lower than in Sydney.

They have 3 issues – colour of taraflex – is it set, and needs to be tested using lighting to be installed;

the lighting itself and the use of graphics to denote which is which of 2 competitors from the same country. They propose to use shirt colours and I told them possibly only 5 – red, black, blue, green and yellow could be used.

## IMAGE AND IDENTITY

Plans developed showing much the same as Sydney with darker blue outer flooring.

Net will have logos;

There will be a combination of bib numbers and players names on shirts;

Time out cards and flags will be very good.

## MEDAL CEREMONIES

Very simple. Within 15 minutes of competition.  
Medalists and presentors march in from top entry.  
After presentation medalists perform lap of honour and exit through top entry.  
Podium will be set up on an angle on court 3 opposite TV side of venue.

## DOPING CONTROL

2 random tests proposed for each of first six days (12 tests) and then all medalists and loser of Bronze Medal Matches will be tested (36 tests).  
Dr. Kahn will be involved in selection of players and oversight of procedures.  
Dr. Kahn to review ATHOC proposal and ITTF to sign agreement.  
In Test Event there will be 18 tests: winners and runners up and random of other finalists.

## HEALTH SERVICES

This area is well catered for.  
Doctor in practice area, one on field of play and one in Venue area. 2 physiotherapists for remedial therapy as well as a nurse. An ambulance is stationed at the venue.  
For spectators there will be a doctor, a nurse and 2 first aid staff.  
Hospital is 15 minutes away.  
There are also areas for NOC physios to work with their athletes.

## LANGUAGE SERVICES

There will be professional interpreters in 4 languages: Greek, English, French and Mandarin.  
Phone service available from a central pool using a speaker phone.  
This functional area seemed to be rigid but I believe that within our family we have resources to meet our needs that may not be provided.

## GAMES TRAINING

There is plenty of capacity with 16 tables in venue Warm up Training site and 8 tables at a remote site close to Athletes Village.  
Training plan set with 2 hourly sessions.  
Familiarisation of all players for one hour in Competition Hall planned for 3 days prior to competition.  
Sessions to be booked by NOC's

## TECHNICAL AND IF ACCOMMODATION

Apparently much work is already done with ITTF already. ITTF hotel is the Stanley in city centre (4 star hotel). It is a large hotel, 17.4 km. From venue, but located adjacent to a Metro Station. There is a ten minute walk from Metro to Venue at other end and also a public bus available. It has a good lounge bar and breakfast was also good – cooked en masse. The rooms are relatively spacious but have no fridge or tea making facilities. The air conditioning, in the room I had, was less than efficient. Over all I think that it is about the same travel time to the venue as from the hotel in Sydney, not as high a standard, but being right downtown is better located.

ITTF has booked 66 rooms (I think) but only 65 are available.

Jury and Medical Officer arrive 2 days before and leave the day after competition.

TD's 5 days before and leave day after Closing Ceremony.

Rooms ITTF have booked have a minimum 20 day stay.

**Jury:** ATHOC will only pay a set amount of 175 euros per person. Rooms cost 309 for a single and 363 for a double, so if a single room is used ITTF (or individual) will be charged 134 euros for if 2 share a double it will be 6.5 euros extra each per day.

Additional accompanying person will be charged for breakfast – I think this will be 54 euros per day

**President and Deputy President** need to co-ordinate arrival/departure with IOC.  
**Technical Officials** will be housed in Cretan College accommodation in a mixture of single and twin rooms. TO's will arrive 3 days before competition and leave day after table tennis finals. Additional days of any umpires wishing to stay need to be negotiated as soon as possible.

Accommodation seemed to be the most stressed and non flexible functional area.

#### TECHNICAL AND IF OFFICIALS UNIFORMS

2 sets required:

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|-----------|---|
| Business: | blazer<br>2 pants or skirts<br>2 shirts (business)<br>tie or scarf<br>hat<br>belt<br>2 pairs socks                            |
| Casual:   | 2 pants (zip off legs)<br>2 polo shirts<br>1 wind jacket<br>1 wide brim hat<br>2 pairs socks<br>1 waist bag<br>1 water bottle |

No shoes to be supplied and needs to be highlighted for standard shoes (sporting sole) for use on taraflex and purposes of presentation.

#### TECHNICAL AND IF TRANSPORTATION

This functional area is not yet at final planning.

George put forward a logical proposal to cater for technical officials at ITTF hotel and for those at Technical Officials Village. Proposal is to be developed in time for presentation to ITTF Olympic Commission meeting in Paris. Accommodation determines type of transport provided.

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|----|--|
| T1 | ITTF President and Deputy President - own car with driver.                         |
| T2 | Technical Delegates – shared car with driver.                                      |
| T3 | Senior IF staff and other VIP's – call-up service (Taxi like) with 4 hours notice. |
| T4 | Jury, Technical Officials – mini bus   |
| T5 | other ITTF staff, etc – public transport.  |

#### RESULTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Whilst this area was not formally covered at the meeting I believe that we will have a much better outcome with SEMA than we did with IBM. The ORIS process has proceeded well and the Homologation test is to be held 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004 and the final system will be actively tested during the Greek Open at the end of January.

Swiss Timing will provide sports and mains score boards in conjunction with Panasonic. Main scoreboards will also be able to be used as video screens. Angled location of sport scoreboard may have to be reviewed to ensure maximum spectator visibility. In Sydney we had a joint approach to technology and sport staffing – not the case in Athens. Both areas are heavily reliant on each other to provide us, the customer, with a result. This arrangement will need to be carefully manned and may require involvement of Venue Manager.

## APPOINTMENT OF TECHNICAL OFFICERS

To enhance uniform, travel and accommodation arrangements ATHOC need advice of appointments by 31.1.04. This includes referees, umpires, jury, racket control and medical.

## ACCREDITATION

I do not know what accreditation is proposed for ITTF executives, staff and guests but I assume Jordi is handling this.

I did, however, ask George to ensure that Technical Operations Manager and 2 referees have access to VIP lounge to ensure meetings can occur between sessions.

It would assist if ITTF office could take up this matter with General Manager of Sports, ATHOC.

## DRAW

The Draw will be conducted in the Press Conference Room on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

It will be a manual draw and the results projected. The Results System will be updated at the time and printed information will be available approximately 5 minutes after completion of the Draw.

The room will be dressed with 'Look of the Games' and the effect for those attending should be most suitable.

The room, which can be accessed by both Media and Sport, can comfortably accommodate 135 people.

### **13.5.03 – VENUE VISIT**

The progress on building is on track for completion at end of August 2003. It will be a sensational venue with more rooms and space than is required. It will be very functional with virtually no conflict of accreditation zones.

The ITTF Offices and VIP area is ideal – the President's office is adjacent to the lounge, as is a special meeting room.

The air conditioning has been designed specifically to meet both Rhythmic Gymnastics and our needs and these are similar. Only the Test Event trial will confirm the final result but I expect it to be good.

My only area of concern is lighting and ATHOC are aware of TV and sport needs and are working on a solution. The Test Event will be very important.

### **Summary**

I think that preparations to this point are very good.

There are some aspects regarding accommodation, results and technology, accreditation, and transport that need to be further developed.

I look forward to the Greek Open, the event that will be used to test progress.

Neil Harwood  
Technical Delegate.