

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

of the Executive Council Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on 15th December 2005 at the Steigenberger Hotel, in Linz, Austria at 09:00 a.m.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed the Executive Council members as well as Committee Chairpersons and staff to Linz. He transmitted the apology of Mr. Miguel Delgado for his absence.

The President officially thanked the Austrian Table Tennis Association and Mr. Rudi Sporrer in particular for the high quality event staged and said that the Junior World Championship was gaining in stature. Mr. Rudi Sporrer in turn thanked the ITTF for placing its confidence in the Austrian TTA and wished all a fruitful meeting.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Ivo-Goran Munivrana	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
Choo Wee Khiang	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice-President (North America)
Patrick Gillman	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)

Invited to attend

André Damman	Chairman Ranking Committee
Tony Yue	Chairman Junior Commission
Yuri Posevin	Chairman Nomination Committee
Sachiko Yokota	Chairwoman Athletes' Commission
Rudi Sporrer	Chairman Rules Committee
Khaled El-Salhy	Chairman Calendar Working Group
Cindy Leung	Chairwoman Umpires and Referees Committee

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager
Christian Veronèse	Event Marketing Manager (TMS)

Apologies for absence

Miguel Delgado	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
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3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of item 8.0 Ranking Committee.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Shanghai, 4 May 2005)

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive Council held in Shanghai, China, 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. Planning and Evaluation

5.1 P4 plan 2005-2008

5.2 Positioning Table Tennis in the Olympic Movement

5.3 IOC Sport Evaluation report and follow-up

The three items above were discussed together as follow-up to the IOC Sport Evaluation report received after the Athens Olympic Games and presented to the EC by Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra. The report explained the strengths and weaknesses of each sport and compared the position of each sport within the Olympic movement. Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra presented 20 recommendations to the ITTF, based on the IOC report, on how to improve table tennis while ensuring that table tennis preserved its strong position within the Olympic Movement.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the P4 plan would be updated to include the recommendations and would be presented in Bremen.

Ms Claude Bergeret requested that the report and the recommendations should be sent to all national associations.

6. Development Plan

6.1 General overview

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that 2005 had probably been the most successful year of the development programme, where 101 courses had been held and equipment assistance distributed to over 40 countries. He said that the ITTF level 1 manual had been translated into English, French and Spanish and had sold over 4000 copies. He said that several projects had been done and several were underway through the Tsunami fund, including building projects in the Maldives and Sri Lanka. He explained that the Tsunami fund would be made a permanent fund called the "ITTF Goodwill Fund" and that 5% of the development funds would be allocated to the Goodwill fund.

6.2 Agreements of understanding 2006-2008

Mr. Glenn Tepper explained that a new objective formula had been established regarding the distribution and usage of the development funding. Some agreements of understanding had already been signed and some were still being negotiated. Mr. Glenn Tepper thanked the Continental Vice-Presidents for their assistance and cooperation. Mr. Stefano Bosi expressed his satisfaction at the progress made through the development plan and said that Europe would be discussing at a meeting in February how to further improve the European Development plan. Mr. Tony Yue said that there should be more flexibility in the ITTF development plan to cater to special needs in Asia. On request of Mr. Chérif Hajem, Mr. Glenn Tepper was requested to contact a manufacturer in Algeria who was supposed to make inexpensive but good quality tables.

6.3 Pilot project for Latin America

It was reported that in order to help the expansion of table tennis in Latin America and to find new sources of income, Mr. Miguel Delgado, through his private company, would represent TMS to run a pilot marketing

project in the region. Mr. Miguel Delgado would resign his position as President of the LATTU and would be replaced by Mr. Osvaldo Arce of Chile, the current Deputy President. Mr. Stefano Bosi pointed out that even though the idea was a good one, the ITTF should not encourage a situation where elected officials earn a living from the ITTF.

7. TMS International

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that Mr. Karl Jindrak may be hired by the ITTF to complete the team of Competition Managers and that he would also be a part-time representative of TMS in Europe.

Mr. Christian Veronèse reported that discussions were being held with the ETTU to extend the current contract for another 3 years. He said a contract had been signed with the EBU and there were ongoing negotiations with Japan and Hong Kong for the WTTC. TV sales and commercial rights were in place for Bremen. The Liebherr contract would end in 2007 and new discussions had begun with a view to extending the contract. He reported that the revenues from the web site were close to USD 140'000 per year and that the ITTF Chinese web site would also be a future source of income. All Pro Tour documents had been updated and were available on the web site. In order to improve the presentation of events, TMS was controlling the surrounds and ensuring that the presentation was uniform at all events. It was said that all Eurosport contracts were signed for both their channels.

8. Committees, Commissions and Working Groups update (Verbal reports)

8.0 Ranking Committee

Mr. André Damman reported that in general the ranking was going well and that he was pleased with the collaboration with all ITTF staff members. He explained that there were minor problems related to eligibility and team ranking and the ranking point procedure but no major complaints regarding ranking. He reported that the scheduling for the 2006 ranking list was already on the ITTF web site and that the doubles ranking for Pro Tour events will be published on the web site as frequently as possible from 1st January 2006.

8.1 Athletes' Commission

Ms Sachiko Yokota explained that the committee had a new structure since the Shanghai WTTC with a total of 10 members. She reported that she had corresponded with the players on many issues such as the IOC Athletes' Commission meeting and the work of the glue working group. She said that many players had complained about the lack of information regarding the implementation of the new glue rule and that there would not be enough time to test the new glues before the 2007 WTTC.

8.2 Calendar Working Group

Mr. Khaled El-Salhy reported that the 2006 calendar was almost full and was already available on the web site. He thanked all those who contributed to the calendar for their cooperation and said that the collaboration with the working group was efficient. He said that the World Junior Circuit now had 14 events. Mr. Stefano Bosi requested a meeting with the group in order to discuss the dates of the European Championships, which if ratified by the ETTU congress, would take place annually.

Mr. Rudi Sporrer pointed out that the dates of the Women's World Cup had been decided late and had clashed with the Junior WTTC and top players like Ai Fukuhara were missing. Mr. Chérif Hajem pointed out that

the Tunisian team had to miss the Francophone Games in order to attend the Junior WTTC.

8.3 Glue Working Group

A summary report of the work of the Glue Working Group prepared by Mr. George Segun, Chairman of this Group, was distributed. It was reported that glues without volatile organic solvents were already being produced by manufacturers. The Glue Working Group is working on the development of a user-friendly inexpensive device to test glues to be presented in Bremen. However, the disadvantages of abolishing the gluing area from 1st September 2006 was discussed and the Chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. Koji Kimura and the Glue Working Group were requested to study the possibility of reintroducing a gluing area close to the playing venue.

The Glue Working Group was requested to provide more information in Bremen concerning the situation, however, the date of implementation would be maintained.

8.4 Junior Commission

Mr. Tony Yue thanked the ITTF for hosting EC and EC+ meetings in Linz which enabled officials to watch the high level of play of the Juniors. He thanked the host organisers for the superb organisation of the event and said he was happy that all except one qualified team had been able to participate. For the first time, CCTV had covered the event in China. However, some inconsistency in the umpiring had been reported. He also reported that the "Hello Future" coaching conference had been a success where about 80 coaches had participated. He said that the Junior Commission would be discussing the gradual expansion of the number of teams at the Junior WTTC. He thanked all those responsible for the ranking and also the ITTF Publications Manager for covering the junior events extensively. The Junior Commission was requested to address the issue raised by Mr. Koji Kimura whether it was necessary to include the mixed doubles at the JWTTTC.

8.5 Nomination Committee

Mr. Yuri Posevin reported that a final proposal for the review of Committee Structures would be made ready by February 2006.

8.6 Technical Committee

All matters related to the Olympic Games were referred to the Olympic Commission meeting. Mr. Yao Zhenxu reported that one more day of competition at the Beijing Olympics may be necessary to be requested to the IOC.

8.7 Umpires & Referees Committee

Ms Cindy Leung thanked the President and Mr. Neil Harwood for assisting her to overcome some hurdles faced by the URC and confirmed that business was continuing as usual. She said that 10 Advanced Umpire Training (AUT) courses had been organised since the Shanghai WTTC, some development courses and that a basic umpiring course model will be developed together with the Development Manager. She said that the quality and presentation of umpires had improved but consistency in umpiring was still a problem. She reported that a new database was being created and the Handbook for Match Officials and the Handbook for Referees was being updated. An electronic examination system was being studied and a technical manual for referees and competition managers was being produced. She said that the newly qualified umpires would be

used whenever possible at Junior events. She thanked the Austrian TTA for helping to host the URC meeting and evaluations. It was said that basic umpiring courses would be included in the continental development programmes.

8.8 Women's Working Group

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that she would be presenting a budget for 2006-2008 for approval to the EC for the Women's Working Group that would include continental women's forum, bonus for increased female participation in coaching courses, annual meeting of the women's working group and for participation of WWG members at some international conferences.

9. New memberships applications: Myanmar

The application from Myanmar was recommended to the Board of Directors.

10. Suspended associations

Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to seek legal advice on how to deal with associations that are suspended by a Continental Federation.

11. Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS)

It was reported that further to the decision made at the last EC meeting in Magdeburg, the Arbitration procedure is now back in effect and the ITTF was awaiting the dates of the Arbitration from the CAS. The final decision of the CAS was expected around the 15th of February.

Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi said he was very uncomfortable with the situation and that if his integrity were questioned he would resign from the ITTF and the Qatar TTA.

12. Next Meeting (Bremen – April 2006)

The exact date of the meeting to be held in Bremen, would be communicated in due course.

13. Any other business

- Mr. Koji Kimura reported that a new centre for rubber testing had been established in Japan, in order to test the increasing number of rubber tests that have to be undertaken by the ITTF. He reported that Mr. Odd Gustavsen, Chairman of the Equipment Committee, had visited the laboratory and had already started using their services and was satisfied with the efficiency and costs.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 13h20.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara