

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

of the ITTF Executive Committee Meeting held in Linz, Austria, 16th December 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed EC members and thanked the Austrian Table Tennis Association for the successful organisation of the World Junior Championships.

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

Invited to attend

Rudi Sporrer	Chairman Rules Committee (for item 13.6)
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In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of items:

- 13.6 Appeal on eligibility
- 13.7 Women's programme budget
- 13.8 Extra day at Zagreb WTTC
- 13.9 Reactivate review of committees

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Magdeburg, 14 November 2005)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following amendments:

Item 1, line 10: remove "Bremen" and replace by "future".

Item 6.4, line 4: replace "handball" by "baseball".

Item 7.3, line 2: to read "Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Christian Veronèse, TMS."

12.1, 2nd paragraph, line 3 to read: "After a detailed discussion it was decided *by the President* that if all EC members unanimously agreed..."

12.1, last paragraph: replace "absolute majority" by "unanimity".

4.2 Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

5. Marketing Update (TMS International)

It was reported that further to the report made the previous day to the Executive Council, TMS had received an agreement in principle to renew the contract with the ETTU until 2009 whereby TMS would handle the marketing of top European events and sell television rights on behalf of the ETTU. The

agreement would be finalised based on the provision that the ETTU would request the hosting of annual European Championships.

6. Representation and reports (verbal)

6.1 Arab Club Championships

Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi reported that he had attended the Arab Federation meeting only.

6.2 Swedish Open

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that the Swedish Open held in Göteborg, Sweden had been very well organised and that the hall was filled to capacity on the Saturday night, with less spectators on Sunday. She had also attended the meeting of the Swedish Board where it had been agreed that the Pro Tour event would be held 3 times successively in the same location.

6.3 Pro Tour Finals

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that the Pro Tour Finals held in Fuzhou, China had been well organised with good presentation. He also said that despite the few Chinese players, the stadium had been full, with an enthusiastic crowd of spectators. The sponsor Volkswagen had been satisfied with the event, however, it was now necessary to ensure that sponsor obligations are fulfilled carefully.

6.4 Francophone Games

It was reported that Mr. Cherif Hajem had flown back to attend the Games that were taking place currently in Niger. It had been reported that the event was running smoothly. Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the ITTF representative Mr. Berthe Bakhary had encountered difficulties on arrival with accommodation and hospitality. It was agreed that in the future, the ITTF would send an official representative to any Games only if the representative would be provided with free hospitality.

7. World Table Tennis Championships

7.1 2005 WJTTC update

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that the Junior Commission had held a fruitful meeting the day before. The Commission was pleased with the host organisers but that the lack of spectators was an issue. Mr. Adham Sharara encouraged the Commission and the host organisers of junior events to give more thought to the promotion of the events.

7.2 2006 WJTTC issues - Egypt TTA

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the concerns about the next World Junior Championships to be held in Egypt in 2006. It was agreed that the ITTF would ask the Egypt TTA to accept the nomination of Mr. Khaled El-Salhy to be to be in charge of the event. If permission were refused, a solution including the possibility of handing over the event to another organiser would have to be envisaged.

7.3 2007 WTTC update and coordination visits

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that a last coordination visit would be made to Bremen together with Mr. Jordi Serra, Mr. Nils Bergström, Mr. Anders Thunström, Mr. Chuck Hoey and Mr. Svend Frandsen, the new Media Manager. She reported that she would also discuss further in Linz with Ms. Britta Gerlach of TMG Germany. She also said that for the 2007 coordination visits, she would find a date with the organisers in the new year.

7.4 2008 WTTC update

Mr. Yang Shuan confirmed that the Guangzhou TTA had expressed the possibility of hosting the WTTC in the first week of March. Coordination visits would now be organised accordingly.

Regarding the 2009 bids, Ms. Claude Bergeret said that she would visit Linz in January 2006 and Yokohama in February and make a complete report to the EC at its next meeting in Barcelona.

7.5 Accreditation system for future

Mr. Jordi Serra distributed a draft document with a plan to harmonise the accreditation system at all world championships. All EC members were requested to provide feedback before the document was finalised.

8. Special ITTF Fund

8.1 Goodwill Fund

It was agreed that the panel comprising Mr. Cherif Hajem, Mr. Yang Shuan, Mr. Neil Harwood, Ms Lilamani de Soysa and Mr. Glenn Tepper would monitor the ITTF Goodwill fund, which would be used for table tennis related assistance only. 5% of the Development funds would be used for the Goodwill fund.

8.2 Tsunami fund

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that approximately USD 259'000 had been donated in cash or in kind to the Tsunami Fund. In agreement with all Tsunami affected countries, it had been decided to use these funds to help 5 targeted associations - Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Maldives and Somalia. Thailand and Somalia had received courses already and building projects were planned for Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Indonesia would let the ITTF know, as soon as Aceh and other badly affected areas were ready for ITTF intervention.

9. Committees and Working Groups

9.1 U&R Committee update

Mr. Neil Harwood reported that the URC would like to replace one of its members in Bremen, by Mr. Richard Scruton (ENG). Mr. Harwood was requested to inform the National Association concerned to withdraw the person from the committee lists to be submitted next year.

On recommendation of Mr. Neil Harwood, the EC agreed that an additional USD 24'000 would be given to the Development Programme in order to integrate basic umpire courses in the Development Programme.

9.2 Integration of IPTTC in ITTF (Timelines)

Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to contact Mr. Raul Calin and ask for an integration plan to be discussed in Bremen. Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that he had attended an IPTTC coaching conference in Norway and that an additional 6 hours of coaching for disabled table tennis would be added to the ITTF level 1 coaching manual.

9.3 Integration of Veterans WG in ITTF (Timelines)

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had met with Ms Diane Schöler, President of the Swaythling Club and that several points were discussed such as the future of the Veterans World Championship as well as possible areas of partnership - ranking, web site, sponsorship and marketing, television, umpire structure for World Veterans Committee etc. He said that a proposal would be made by the Swaythling Club to

the ITTF in Bremen regarding the future partnership of the ITTF at the 2010 World Veterans Championship.

10. Brazil TTA appeal and Arbitration

Further to the information provided the previous day at the Executive Council meeting, Mr. Adham Sharara added that the ITTF was now awaiting the date for the arbitration from the CAS which should be some time during the 2nd week of January 2006.

11. Proxies system (AGM)

Ms. Lilamani de Soysa presented the results of a brief survey done among other International Federations regarding procedures at their general meetings/congress concerning proxy voting. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Executive Committee together with the Rules Committee would make a proposal to the AGM to abolish the proxy system. The proposal would be accompanied by a resolution to study the possibility of offering financial assistance in the future to delegates to attend the AGM in election years.

12. Next Meeting (Barcelona, 27 February 2006)

It was reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be held on Monday the 27th of February 2006 in Barcelona.

13. Any other business

13.1 Mr. Ramanujan's proposal for WTTC

Mr. Ranga Ramanujan's proposal, to provide funding for federations that have never participated in the world championships to attend the worlds, was studied at length and the following decided:

- 1) The ITTF would approach the countries that have never participated and investigate the reasons for non participation and ask for report on recent activities of the association
- 2) The Development Manager would analyse the report and provide an activity list
- 3) Based on the results, the Executive Committee would decide on a course of action
- 4) The responses from the associations would be tabulated and distributed to all concerned.

13.2 Directives for match officials

It was reported that Ms Cindy Leung, Chairwoman of the URC, would submit a revised document for approval in February 2006.

13.3 Appeal Ranking Penalty Sanction

Based on current rules of the ITTF, the appeal from Bastian Steger was rejected. However, Ms Claude Bergeret was requested to contact the members of the Ranking Penalty Points Commission in order to study deeply the acceptance of reasons for a late withdrawal and report to the EC in Barcelona. Mr. André Damman would be requested to review the policy, in particular the wording "circumstances beyond his/her will".

13.4 Sport and Development

Ms. Lilamani de Soysa reported that she had attended the 2nd Magglingen Conference organised by the United Nations on sport and development, held in Magglingen, Switzerland. She had presented table tennis at a panel discussion on economic development and sport. She encouraged the ITTF to get actively involved in the UN Sport for development programmes and to address the UN Millennium

development goals through table tennis. She said that table tennis should be at the next Sport and Development Conference to be held in 2008, which was a high profile platform of national sports leaders.

13.5 Electronic voting system

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that accompanied by Mr. Rudi Sporrer visited a company in Vienna, Austria that could provide an electronic voting system to be adapted to the special needs of the ITTF. They are awaiting an answer from this company by February 2006.

13.6 Appeal on Eligibility

The appeal made by Jeff Huang, resident of the USA and holder of Chinese passport, was rejected as he had not been eligible by 1st September 1997 according to previous ITTF rules, where eligibility was by residence.

13.7 Budget for the women's programme

The budget for the women's development programme presented by Ms Claude Bergeret was approved. The activities covered by the budget included the following:

- 1) A bonus for increasing female participation in coaching courses
- 2) Continental Women's Forums
- 3) An annual Women's Working Group meeting
- 4) Costs of participation of a certain number of women's delegates to the AGM

13.8 One extra day in Zagreb

Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana reported that he had discussed with the organisers the possibility of extending the Zagreb World Championship by one day but regretted to inform that the costs were too high. However, the organisers were willing to consider covering half the costs if the ITTF would match the amount. The Executive Committee decided that the costs were too high for both parties and therefore the event would not be extended by one day.

13.9 Reactivate the review of committees

Mr. Neil Harwood requested the EC to reactivate the working group as well as the work on the Review of Committees and Commissions.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h45.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara