

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **7<sup>th</sup> December 2008** at the Hotel Husa Princesa, Madrid, Spain, at 11h59.

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

Mr. George Segun welcomed all and wished everyone a fruitful meeting.

### 2. **Roll call**

George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice President

#### **Invited to attend**

Odd Gustavsen	Chairman, Equipment Committee
Tony Yue	Chairman, Junior Commission

#### **In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Judit Faragó	Director of Competitions
Mikael Andersson	Manager Global Junior Programme

#### **Excused**

Adham Sharara	President
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#### **Absent**

Christian Veronèse	TMS Event Marketing Manager
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### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- 13.2 Women's forum
- 16.1 Peace Conferences and Generations for Peace
- 18.1 World Cadet Challenge
- 18.2 Polish Open
- 18.3 Pro Tour Issues

### 4. **Minutes**

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Paris, 11-12 October 2008)**

The Minutes were signed by the Deputy President as a true record of the meeting with the correction to item 12.1 to read 6-8 **September**.

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

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

### 5. **Constitution Working Group**

#### **5.1. Proposals and final timelines**

Mr. Jordi Serra referred to the e-mail sent previously by the President, specifying the timelines for the Constitution Working Group as follows:

1. Reaction to the proposals from FFTT and ETTU as soon as possible but not later than 3 December 2008.
2. Proposals from members of the working group (new or tabled from the last round) for consideration as soon as possible but not later than 15 December 2008.
3. Once the Constitution Working Group agrees on the proposals to be put forward, they will be presented to the EC at its meeting in February 2009 (Doha, Qatar), and prepared as Propositions from the EC on behalf of the Constitution Working Group to be presented at the AGM in Yokohama. Item referred to the Executive Committee meeting in Doha, Qatar.

## **6. Olympic Games**

### **6.1 IOC information. President's meeting**

Mr. Jordi Serra informed that, together with the President, he had attended two meetings at the IOC. Several issues concerning the presentation of table tennis at the London Games had been discussed with the IOC Sports Department, in particular the possibility to have state of the art technological devices for presentation and score boards etc., as well as the number of accreditations. Other issues such as the problem of qualified players who are not sent to the Games by their NOCs and the funding formula for the International Federations had also been discussed together with the President of the IOC.

### **6.2 Youth Olympic Games**

See Minutes of the Olympic Commission (7<sup>th</sup> December 2008).

## **7. ITTF Hopes. Pilot project**

Mr. Mikael Andersson informed that the introduction of a new age category (U-12) at ITTF events was being put in place under the title "ITTF Hopes" in order to give the national associations an opportunity to recruit and promote their very young talents as well as to evaluate talented coaches. A first event would take place at the Safir Open in Sweden and a report would be presented to the EC at its next meeting.

## **8. World Championships update**

### **8.1 Yokohama 2009**

Ms. Claude Bergeret reported that the organisation was running smoothly and that she was in contact with Ms. Sachiko Yokota on a daily basis. The playing schedule had been fixed and meeting schedules were being completed. Several minor issues such as flooring, size of sponsor stands and the cost of accompanying persons for ITTF officials were still pending. A second coordination visit would take place at the end of January (27 – 29 January 2009) with a team comprising Ms. Bergeret, Mr. Jordi Serra, Mr. Didier Leroy, Mr. Marius Widmer and Mr. Anders Thunström accompanied by Ms Etsuko Enami and probably Mr. Steve Dainton and Mr. Chuck Hoey.

#### **8.1.1 Racket controllers**

On a proposal from Mr. Odd Gustavsen, the EC decided that the racket controllers would be offered the same hospitality and indemnity as the IUs in Yokohama, at ITTF cost. However, it was decided that this cost would be included in the directives for future world championships. Mr. Koji Kimura said that the prospectus and 1<sup>st</sup> bulletin had been sent out. However, the financial situation without a title sponsor was still precarious.

## **8.2 Moscow 2010**

It was reported that the Russian TTA had staged the European Championships with success in St. Petersburg and all visas had been delivered although the visa to the Kosovo delegation was received after the start of the event. The ITTF President would be meeting with the Russian TTA in the new year.

## **8.3 Rotterdam 2011**

Ms Claude Bergeret said that there was no recent news, however, the organising committee was already in contact with TMS concerning sponsorship and marketing issues.

## **8.4 2012 candidates**

It was reported that the late cancellation of the Serbian Open had created problems, which put their bid to host the 2012 World Championships on hold. Ms Judit Faragó said that a survey had been done with the 10 Associations that had incurred financial losses due to the late cancellation and who were waiting for reimbursement from Serbia. The survey had given the following results:

Out of the 10 Associations 8 had answered the survey. 8 had travel cost claims (ENG, GER, NED, BEL, JPN, USA, POL, LUX) without reimbursement so far. Two federations (NED, BEL) had claimed for hospitality costs paid beforehand which had been reimbursed. 5 Associations have complained about the lack of communication with the Serbian Association (ENG, GER, POL, NED, BEL).

It was decided that the Executive Director would be requested to inform the Serbian Association that the case of Serbia's WTTC bid would be reviewed by the EC as soon as Serbia had complied with the request of the EC to reimburse the money lost due to late cancellation by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

It was reported that Germany would inform the ITTF of the exact host city at the beginning of January 2009 (the choice being between Berlin, Stuttgart, Dortmund and Bremen) and an inspection visit would be organised soon after.

## **9. World Junior Championships update**

Mr. Tony Yue thanked the EC for its ongoing support to the Junior Programme and thanked Madrid for stepping in and hosting the Junior World Championships at short notice. It was reported that the team from Nigeria had not arrived and the course of action to be taken against the team would be decided at a later date. It was said that at least one month's payment in advance should be enforced for all events in the future. Mr. Tony Yue also made a brief report on the event in progress where the presentation was very good and players satisfied with playing conditions. The state of the flooring received from Stag had created problems, which should be avoided in the future.

## **10. ITTF-TMS contract renewal**

Mr. Neil Harwood explained that the majority of sponsorship contracts had already been signed however many companies were affected by the global financial situation. The ITTF – TMS contractual renewal plan presented by TMS was approved as presented for 2009-2014 period.

## **11. Racket control update (Glue, Boosters and Tuners)**

Mr. Odd Gustavsen explained that from the experience of the past months it was clear that speed glues were disappearing and that manufacturers had reported

that they could not sell speed glues anymore. However, boosters were still an issue but were being checked and controlled through thickness tests. The decision for one voluntary test per player was reinforced, however, the EC decided that each player could have at least 2 rackets tested.

Mr. Odd Gustavsen made a proposal to the EC to make the Equipment Committee a more policy making body with more staff support and the support of neutral experts. Mr. Odd Gustavsen was requested to further study the proposal and make concrete recommendations to the EC at its next meeting.

**12. Court Case (TT-Master)**

It was reported that a brand of rubbers TT-Master was found illegal and removed from the ITTF authorised List. The manufacturer of the said brand was contesting the case in court and a hearing was scheduled on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**13. Women's Working Group update**

**13.1 Budget 2009-2012**

The budget presented by the Women's Working Group was accepted as presented.

**13.2 Women's Forum**

It was reported that the international Women's Forum would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Yokohama, Japan, dedicated to the athletes. The programme and other necessary information would be sent out in due course.

**14. Ranking Penalty Commission**

On recommendation from Mr. Jordi Serra who had investigated the ranking penalty case from Australia, the EC agreed to maintain the sanction proposed by the Ranking Penalty Commission.

**15. World Cup playing system**

The playing systems for 2009 for the World Team Cup and the Men's and Women's World Cups proposed by the Competition Department were discussed at length and several items modified and then approved (**see amended approved document attached**).

**16. Continental Development Agreements of Understanding**

Mr. Glenn Tepper informed that the Agreements of Understanding had been signed except for Asia and Europe. He said further meetings would be held between the two Continents and the ITTF in Madrid and all agreements would be signed in the near future.

**16.1 Peace and Sport Conference and Generations for Peace**

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that he had made a presentation at a conference organised by "Peace and Sport" and that the ITTF was now a recognized partner of Peace and Sport and a first joint programme would take place in Colombia in 2009. He said the ITTF was also working together with "Generations for Peace" and that an ITTF certified coach (Ms Dilmini Direckze from Sri Lanka) had attended their last conference and made a presentation on table tennis.

**17. Next Meeting (Doha, Qatar, 20 -21 February 2009)**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Doha, Qatar on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

**18. Any other business**

### **18.1 World Cadet Challenge**

Ms Claude Bergeret reported that she had attended the well organised World Cadet Challenge held in Helsingborg, Sweden but regretted the absence of the Chinese players.

### **18.2 Polish Pro Tour Open**

Ms Claude Bergeret reported on the Polish Open she had attended, which had been organised very well in Warsaw. However, she had received many complaints from coaches and players regarding the Andro show-court table used at the event. She also urged TMS and the Equipment Committee to clarify the approval status of the San-Ei show-court table for Yokohama.

### **18.3 Pro Tour Issues**

- Ms Judit Faragó reported that an evaluation sheet was given to all players after the Pro Tour and that 3 replies had been received after the German Open and 4 after the Polish Open.
- It was reported that an unpleasant racket control incident had taken place at the German Open due to the incorrect implementation of racket control procedures and the winner had been disqualified after he had failed the after-match test.
- It was reported that based on the wish of the Competition Department and the URC, a system for implementing sanctions for repeated misbehaviour would be put in place. A report would be made to the EC after an experimental period of 6 months where all yellow and red cards would be registered.

## **19. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17h20.

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Meeting Chairman, George Segun