

Executive Committee

Minutes

Of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on **23rd February 2008** at the Baiyun Convention Centre, Guangzhou, China at 10h00.

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

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed all to Guangzhou and expressed his satisfaction at the facilities and organisation of the event observed so far.

2. **Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS - Managing Director

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved with the addition of item "10.1 Kosovo flag". In answer to Ms Claude Bergeret's question about the letter of warning to be written to Russia by the ITTF President, in anticipation of visa problems for foreign participants at the World Championships as it happened at the Russian Open, the President said that he would be meeting with the Russian Federation in Guangzhou to clarify matters further.

4. **Minutes**

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Palo Alto, 9 December 2007)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

There was no other business than that covered by the Agenda.

5. **World Table Tennis Championships**

5.1 2008 WTTC Guangzhou. Update and Issues

Ms Claude Bergeret informed about the meeting held with the Organising Committee to deal with pending issues such as slow internet connections, change for press conference format, number of persons on field of play, distribution of back numbers, etc.

5.3 2011 WTTC candidates

M. Adham Sharara explained that Qatar had officially withdrawn its bid for 2011, which made Rotterdam (Netherlands) the organisers of the 2011 WTTC pending AGM approval. A press release would be made immediately after the present meeting (see attached inspection visit report).

6. Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting in Guangzhou

6.1 Proposals and resolutions for BOD and AGM

6.1.1 Final wording Proposition No.6

The President pointed out that a correction was necessary to Proposition 1.10 as follows:

To insert a new paragraph:

1.10 "DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINENTAL COUNCIL" and to renumber subsequent paragraphs.

1.10 DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINENTAL COUNCIL

1.10.1 The Development and Continental Council shall be composed of the President, the Executive Vice-President in charge of Development and the Presidents of Continental Federations or their designees.

1.10.2 The Development and Continental Council shall propose development programme initiatives and future development orientations of the ITTF in cooperation with Continental Federations.

The Development and Continental Council will also discuss all other matters of common interest to the Continental Federations and the ITTF.

An amendment will be proposed by the President at the AGM to reflect the correct text.

6.1.2 Audit Committee

This item was referred to the next EC meeting where Mr. Neil Harwood would report after his meeting with Mr. Han Sang Kook and Mr. Hans Giesecke, both previous Finance VPs of the ITTF.

6.1.3 Eligibility rule proposal

Ms Judit Faragó explained the work done in order to formulate the eligibility rule that would be proposed to the Board of Directors. It was said that the rule would have to be fully clarified and all consequences considered and further discussed with the Rules Committee Chairman before printing in the Handbook. It was confirmed that the new rule would only apply to World Title events.

6.1.4 New member: BELIZE

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that a late membership application had been received, with approval from the LATTU, from Belize. It was decided that the AGM agenda would be amended to include the late application, depending on acceptance from the Executive Council. Item referred to EC+.

7. TMS International. Update

7.1 Russian Open payments

It was decided that all ITTF events in Russia would be suspended until the Russian TTA paid the outstanding invoice for the 2007 Russian Open.

7.2 General update

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that the Guangzhou WTTC was one of the best from a financial point of view. All sponsorship around the courts had been sold and TV rights sold to several TV networks. The title sponsorship had been secured by the GOC. CCTV was the host broadcaster and several regional TV stations had also bought TV rights including Guangzhou TV. There was also live coverage on iTV free of charge on the ITTF's website.

Mr. Thunström said that negotiations with Volkswagen were ongoing and fruitful discussions had been made with LIEBHERR. A Chinese clothing company, Erke Hongxing had been secured as title sponsor for 3 Pro Tour events, beginning in 2008. Mr. Adham Sharara said that it should be possible to create a reserve fund with the incoming Olympic income to cover the amount equal to the fixed assets without reducing the Continental allocations.

8. Reports

8.1 Pro-Tour Finals/Olympic test event, Beijing, CHN

Mr. Neil Harwood reported on his visit to the Pro Tour Grand Finals and Good Luck Beijing test event and said that the events gave the ITTF the best ever opportunity to test preparations for the Olympic Games. He mentioned several pending issues to be tested at the next inspection visit in particular the lighting, air movement and air conditioning, size of the field of play, size of the racket control area and preparation area etc. He reported that the Olympic Result System (ORIS) had been used at both events and had worked very well and catered for the team competition. A final test would be done in Beijing the following week. He said that a final visit would be made together with Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis where outstanding venue issues would be followed-up. It was agreed that in the future an EC meeting in Olympic years would be held at the Olympic test event.

8.2 Global Junior Programme

8.2.1 World Junior Championships (Palo Alto (USA))

Ms Judit Faragó made a comprehensive report about the World Junior Championships in Palo Alto, USA, and said it had turned out to be an exceptional event and hoped the ITTF would be able to organise more events in the USA. She suggested that the eligibility of players should be done with stricter and faster procedures. She mentioned that an International Umpire from Pakistan had been taken sick and had undergone surgery during the event and thanked the USATT for the very professional and generous care given to the person. However, she suggested that insurance for participants should be clarified and clear procedures put in place.

8.2.2 German and Hungary Junior Opens

It was reported that these two events together with the Swedish Junior Open had been used for the new racket-control testing system and that 1/3 of the rackets had been tested positive for several reasons, in particular the inadequate airing of racket covers, the use of boosters, non cleaning of old material etc. The use of boosters presented an added problem as they came close to the limit of e-nez measures and had an effect of expanding the sponge thus making it thicker than the allowed limit.

8.3 Olympic Games

8.3.1 Youth Olympic Games

Ms Judit Faragó reported that Singapore would organise the first Youth Olympic Games in 2010 and that the ITTF was waiting for the final directives from the IOC. It was said that the IFs had been requested by the IOC to use existing events as much as possible for the qualification of players. Ms Judit Faragó said that the new U15 ranking would be used as part of the qualifications.

8.3.2 Olympic Games. Alternate players

Mr Jordi Serra reported that the IOC had been requested for a "P" accreditation for players to replace a player in the team event in case of injury. It was said that the ITTF should be prepared to modify its rules in case the replacement of a player would be possible with a "P" accreditation.

8.4 Racket control

Mr George Segun explained that several rackets were being tested positive for VOC possibly due to the application of boosters/tuners by the players on their rackets or due to other factors related to poor preparation of the racket (airing, etc.). The use of boosters any additives after the approval of the rubber should be banned. Controlling the thickness of the rubbers may be a way of reducing the use of boosters. It was recommended that strict racket controlling should be done at the next three junior events (Egypt, Venezuela and China) including thickness tests (however without it being an eliminating factor for the time being).

8.5 Professional structure update

Mr. Adham Sharara said that two new positions, Director of Education & Training and Director of Competitions, would be announced during these championships.

8.6 Umpires & Referees Committee update

Mr. Neil Harwood said that great progress had been made this year with a new referee course developed and the first course already delivered in Moscow in January 2008. A referee seminar had also been conducted in Guangzhou in the previous days and another would be held in Luxembourg in the coming months. The selection of umpires and referees was going well in conjunction with the Organising Committees and the Continental Federations. It was decided that Umpire evaluations during these WTTC would be done only in hall 2.

8.7 Transfer of governance from IPC to ITTF

Mr. Neil Harwood gave a progress report concerning the transfer of governance from the IPC to the ITTF and said that a fruitful meeting had taken place in Lausanne where the structure and the formation of the ITTF-PTTF Committee in 2009 had been discussed. He said that a big challenge would be the integration of Para table tennis within National Associations. He also reported on how financial, technical, administrative issues were being currently handled at the ITTF and the state of preparations for the Beijing Paralympics. The PTT website was being moved within the ITTF web site. Mr. Neil Harwood said he believed that the total integration by 2012 was an achievable goal. It was reported that a presentation would be made to the AGM by representatives from PTT.

8.8 Court of Arbitration

Mr. Adham Sharara explained the court case that the ITTF was facing due to the non-qualification of Jean-Michel Saive for the Olympic Games by Ranking. He said that he had met with the IOC and there was no possibility of a direct qualification for Mr. Jean-Michel Saive and the only way for him to qualify would be through the European or Final World Qualifications. Mr. Adham Sharara said he would be meeting with the Belgian TTA and Mr. Jean-Michel Saive for further discussions during these championships in order to find the most suitable solution for all concerned.

9. Next Meeting (Guangzhou, China, 1 March 2008)

The next EC meeting will be held on 1st March 2008 in room 3306 at the Baiyun Convention Centre, Guangzhou.

10. Any other business

10.1 Kosovo flag

It was decided that the flag displayed at the WTTC would be the one that was used at the WTTC in Shanghai 2005.

11. Adjournment

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

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara