

Executive Council

MINUTES

Of the Executive Council meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **25th February 2008**, at the Baiyun Convention Centre, Guangzhou, China at 14h00.

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

The President welcomed all to this meeting, which could be the last meeting of the Executive Council, subject to approval by the AGM of the proposition to replace the EC+ with the "Continental and Development Council".

On behalf of the EC, the President thanked the Chinese TTA and the Guangzhou OC for the excellent facilities provided and the impressive opening ceremony held the previous evening.

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
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
Choo Wee Kiang	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Melecio E. Rivera	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice-President (North America)
Patrick Gillmann	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)

In attendance

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

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Minutes**

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Palo Alto, USA, 10 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)

- Mr. Neil Harwood said that the IPTTC transfer was proceeding well and a meeting had been held in Lausanne between the IPTTC Executive Committee and the ITTF. A report would be made to the AGM.

5. **World Table Tennis Championships update**

Ms Claude Bergeret said that many pending issues had been resolved, concerning the mixed zone, press conferences for the Chinese teams, number of photographers and TV crews on the field of play, etc. It was reported that for the first time 4 tables would have TV coverage all the time, starting from day one. The

lack of information provided to spectators still remained an issue that needed to be resolved.

6. Development Programme update

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that 2008 being the last year of the quadrennial, all agreements from 2009-2012 would be signed in the course of this year. He said that he would visit the ITTF headquarters in April together with Mr. Leandro Olvech to plan the next 4-year programme. Mr. Leandro Olvech would be responsible for Africa, Latin America and the Goodwill Fund. It was said that the level 2 ITTF coaching manual would be available sometime during the middle of this year. Two copies of the newly published IPTTC Level Coaching 1 manual would be distributed to all delegates at the AGM.

7. New racket control system

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that racket controls had been carried out according to the new system at 3 junior events since the beginning of the year. However, a new situation was being created by boosters and tuners that are applied to racket coverings that expand the rubbers and increase the thickness. These products also contain some levels of VOCs. It was decided that 3 more junior events (Egypt, Venezuela and China) would be used to carry out very strict racket controls, including thickness measures (but without disqualification for the time being). However, the ITTF would send out a strong message to manufacturers, players and all concerned regarding the use of these new materials. As of 1st September 2008, the entire racket would be tested for thickness and levels of VOCs.

8. AGM in Guangzhou

8.1. New member. Belize

It was agreed that the Executive Council would recommend the acceptance of the late membership application from Belize to the AGM.

9. Professional structure update

It was reported that two new Director positions, for the Competition Department and Education and Training Department, would be opened at the ITTF and the job descriptions would be distributed during the present championships. It was said that the ITTF would first target existing staff and officials. The President said he would act as CEO until 2009, after which date one of the Directors could be appointed CEO or Deputy CEO. It was also said that at a later date a Marketing Director within the ITTF would act as liaison between TMS and ITTF.

10. ITTF Continental Offices update

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would meet with the Continental Vice Presidents from Latin America and Africa in order to discuss the logistics (timelines, budget, location costs etc) related to opening ITTF Continental offices in those two Continents. For Oceania, the Asia Pacific Office was already functioning with some success.

11. Youth Olympic Games update

Ms Judit Faragó reported that Singapore had won the bid to organise the first Youth Olympic Games in 2010. She said that the age categories and events had been approved by the IOC, however, the qualification and playing systems still had to be determined. The Junior Commission had already studied several proposals but it was necessary to wait for the final directives from the IOC to finalise the systems. It was said that 30% of total amount of places would be reserved for NOCs and there may be the possibility of having mixed teams with players from the same Continent. It was also said that according to the wish of the IOC to use existing events for qualifying players, the World Cadet Challenge would be used for that purpose. Mr. Choo Wee Khiang thanked the EC+ for its support to Singapore.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EC+ (or Continental & Development Council) would be decided after the AGM.

13. Any other business

- It was said that the itTV connections were very slow at the hotel and in the hall. However, outside China the reception was very good.
- Mr Adham Sharara explained that the ITTF may have to appear at the Court of Arbitration with the Belgian TTA and Mr. Jean-Michel Saive who was protesting against his non-qualification to the Olympics by Ranking. It was said that all avenues would be explored to find a solution and avoid a court case if at all possible.
- Mr. Stefano Bosi reported that the ETTU had to refuse for the time being the application from Kosovo to participate in the European Olympic qualifications, as Kosovo did not fulfil NOC requirements as stipulated by the IOC. However, the ETTU was willing to accept players from Kosovo to the European qualification event, until the day before the draw, if all conditions were fulfilled by that time.
- Ms Claude Bergeret gave a brief update of the very well attended Women Working Group meeting held on 23rd February in Guangzhou.
- It was reported that due to the withdrawal of Qatar (Doha), Netherlands (Rotterdam) would be the organisers of the 2011 WTTC pending approval of the AGM.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 15h46.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara