



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 1

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Executive Committee held in the St Michel Room, Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel, Paris, France, on Sunday **12 May 2013** at 14h00.

**1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed the members to Paris and announced that approximately 45 000 tickets had been sold to date for the World Championships and more sales were expected.

**2. Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Neil Harwood	Deputy President and Executive VP (Finance)
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President

Vladimir Samsonov Athlete Representative – ex officio

**In attendance**

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Alison Burchell	Director (Operations and PTT)
Anders Thunstrom	TMS

**3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda as presented with the addition of:

- 12.1 Athletes with an intellectual disability.
- 12.2 "Technical" and "Women in Sport" Commissioners.
- 12.3 Legal.

**4. Minutes**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2013 were confirmed and signed.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no business arising from the minutes, which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings: the Executive Committee agreed to refer the list to the incoming Executive Committee to consider at its next meeting.

**5. Competitions:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 2013 World Championships update:
  - More than 800 players from 127 associations had entered.
  - As a result of the large number of entries, 2 venues with a total of 38 tables would be in operation for the qualification (first 2 days).

- Play would start at 08h30 till 23h00 on the first two days.
- Practice started on schedule on 11 May 2013.
- Some extra transport would be available between both venues but care would be taken to avoid a player competing within a short period of time in the other venue.
- A successful media conference with the top seeded players' draw had been held at the Paris City Hall on 11 May 2013.

5.1.1 Associations with outstanding debts:

- Congo Democratic: the payment of the outstanding debt from Dortmund had been received; however another debt from Moscow was still outstanding.
- Chile: the debt had been reduced by 50%, the payment timelines were agreed and the first instalment had been received.
- Sudan: the outstanding amounts would be deducted from their development grant.
- Sri Lanka: the payment had been received.
- Liberia, Tanzania and Zambia: payments had not been received.

5.1.2 Issues to be resolved:

- The French embassies had rejected some applications for visas for Nepal, Pakistan and Sudan and it now appeared that some African countries were experiencing problems.
- There were 3 rather than 4 meeting rooms at Bercy, which were not sound-proof as they were temporary in nature but the organisers would be asked to find an alternative.
- There was a player representing Antigua who had presented a USA passport but this would soon be resolved.

5.2 2016 World Championships:

- 2 applications had been received by the deadline from Malaysia and Sweden.
- The 2 prospective hosts had discussed the possibility of withdrawing in favour of the other, but both wished to host the team event.
- As a result, Sweden had agreed to withdraw its bid for 2016 if it was guaranteed that the AGM would award it the 2018 world championships.
- The AGM would need to accept this proposal and if not, a vote would be held to decide the 2016 host.

5.3 Future World Championships (2017 and 2018): this would depend on the outcome of the AGM's decision concerning the bid for the 2016 World Championships.

**1-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to request the Organising Committee to reserve one or two meeting rooms in a hotel near Bercy.

**2-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee ratified its decision to lift the suspension of Congo Democratic TTA.

**3-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the AGM that Malaysia be awarded the 2016 World Championships and Sweden the 2018 World Championships.

**6. Athletes' Commission report:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- A meeting with the players would be held on 13 May 2013.

- An event could be organised to test all rule changes proposed e.g. an event equivalent to the Volkswagen Cup.
- The Commission had expected more from the racket control mission statement process e.g. speed/bounce limit.
- Establishing an equal playing field was the main concept behind racket testing, apart from health issues, so that after fair limits had been established on equipment used, the player's own ability would determine the outcome of the performance.
- Various players would attend the Dream Building dinner (Vladimir Samsonov, Alena Kanova, Jean-Michel Saive and Werner Schlager) and some players would donate some items for the raffle.
- In relation to the proposal to change the constitution to allow the athlete representative to have a vote at the Executive Committee, the athlete representative, after the athletes' elections, would need to be proposed to the AGM for approval and thereafter, an alternate for the athletes' representative to attend meetings of the Executive Committee would not be possible. This is based on the same principle as the other elected EC members.

**7. TMS International-ITTF contract update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- In addition to the contractual commitment between TMS and the ITTF, TMS was also making direct payments to organisers and service providers on behalf of the ITTF which created confusion and misunderstanding.
- The President recommended that, whenever possible in 2013, ITTF make all payments itself, and that TMS reimburse the ITTF when applicable instead of making direct payments on behalf of the ITTF. This would be implemented fully as of 2014.
- The TMS practice of making direct payments in many instances was for convenience, because part of the sponsorship agreements that were of a marketing nature required many aspects to be implemented directly with associations.
- Another option was to have a fixed percentage agreement applied to all sponsorships raised to enhance transparency where costs would be shared on a pro-rata basis. This would be more risky, instead of a fixed guaranteed yearly amount, but would be more transparent and easier to understand.
- TMS had prepared explanatory and financial reports covering the last 10 years indicating the sponsorship income and how it was distributed directly to the ITTF (according to the contract) plus other payments made on behalf of the ITTF, plus its own operating costs.
- If sponsorship funds were paid to the Lausanne office, there would be income tax and VAT implications.
- Much of the information related to TMS was already widely available but should be periodically distributed for clarity.
- With the rapid growth of the ITTF, communications may not have been as effective as it could be in relation to marketing, sponsorships and other areas.

**4-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to refer the update of the ITTF-TMS contract to the incoming Executive Committee for modification where necessary.

**8. 2013 AGM and BoD:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 8.1 Appointment of advisors: there were 2 strategic appointments considered for advisors to the Executive Committee which would assist to promote the ITTF.

- 8.2 PAC: while it was the President's prerogative, 4 candidates were considered for appointment to the PAC, 2 immediately at the AGM and the other 2 at the 2014 AGM.
- 8.3 AGM preparations:
- The deadline for any changes in delegates and submission of proxies was 16h00 on 13 May 2013.
  - After this, delegate and proxy lists would be finalized and cross-checked.
  - There would be a briefing for all scrutineers appointed together with the staff on 14 May 2013 at 19h00 when the venue would be set up.
  - Once the special presentations and awards had been completed in the open part of the AGM, all observers, media and presenters would be asked to leave during the break.
  - With 6 voting booths, up to 6 associations or proxies would be called up sequentially to collect voting papers, go to the voting booth to vote, put their votes in the ballot box and return to their seats as quickly and quietly as possible as the AGM reports and agenda items would still be in process.
  - Counting votes would be done by the chair of the Rules Committee together with the chair of the Nominations Committee with 6 scrutineers checking the process.
  - Once the results were ready and confirmed, they would be announced, hopefully by the lunch break or just after.
  - All voting papers would be kept for 12 months after the AGM in case of a need to refer to them.
  - Voting on the proposals would be done after lunch once the electronic voting devices had been distributed.
- 8.4 Ratification of Merit Award: the proposal submitted by the English Table Tennis Association had been considered since the last EC meeting held in February 2013.

**5a-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint Shahrokh Shahnazi (Olympic Academies) and Cho Yang Ho (Marketing and Finance) as Special Senior Advisors to the ITTF.

**5b-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to endorse the President's appointment of Eberhard Schöler (GER) and Radivoj Hudetz (CRO) as members of the President's Advisory Council (PAC) to take immediate effect and to be announced at the AGM.

**6-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee ratified the decision to award Richard Yule (ENG) the ITTF Merit Award as proposed by the English TTA.

**9. Finance:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 9.1 2012 audited financial statements: these had been distributed in April 2013 by email, and photocopies had been distributed in Paris through the pigeonhole system earlier in the day together with the tentative quadrennial budget for 2013-2016.
- 9.2 Appointment of auditors: a recommendation to appoint auditors for the financial year ended 31 December 2013 should be submitted to the AGM.

### **7-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the AGM that it appoint Ernst and Young to perform the financial audit for the year ended 31 December 2013.

- 10. Plastic ball:** the Executive Committee noted that the plastic ball would be ready commercially at the end of 2013 but would formally be used at ITTF events with effect from 1 July 2014 and that the approval process of the plastic balls would start after the BoD accepted the updated Technical Leaflet No.3 regarding balls.
- 11. Staff update:** the Executive Committee noted that the interviews for the Equipment Technical Coordinator position to be based in Singapore had been held and all other information was contained in the CEO's report.
- 12. Any other business:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- 12.1 Athletes with an intellectual disability: a letter had been received from the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association asking for support for an event to be held in December 2013 for players with an intellectual disability and this had been referred to the PTT Division.
- 12.2 Technical and Women in Sport Commissioners: the nominations of Graeme Ireland (Technical) and Hajera Kajee (Women in Sport) had been received.

### **8-EC-05-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint Graeme Ireland (AUS) as the Technical Commissioner and Hajera Kajee (RSA) as the Women in Sport Commissioner till the AGM in 2017.

- 12.3 Legal: this part of the meeting was held **in camera** (Executive Committee members, CEO and the ITTF's legal counsel in attendance) and the Executive Committee noted the report by the President that:
- The ITTF's legal counsel was introduced to the Executive Committee.
  - Mr Katsepontes explained in detail the legal implications with regard to the recent and ongoing accusations and attacks on the President in particular and the ITTF in general.
  - He explained the legal rights of the President and the ITTF and the legal action which had started and would be taken against the accusers.
  - A court claim had already been successfully filed and would be served after the elections were over in order not to interfere with the election process.
  - Court claims would be filed also against all those that have made libellous, slanderous and defamatory accusations verbally or in writing.
  - The ITTF should take this matter very seriously as it had spread in the electronic and written media, as well as in the international sports community, including the IOC, causing serious damage to the reputation of the ITTF and its President.

- 13. Adjournment:** there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 16h23.

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Adham Sharara  
President

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Date