

# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Executive Committee held at the IOC Headquarters, Chateau de Vidy, Lausanne, Switzerland at 09h00 on Friday 27 September 2013 and at the Beau Rivage Hotel, Lausanne, Switzerland at 09h00 on Saturday 28 September 2013

**1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed the Executive Committee to the meeting noting that traditionally, the first meeting in the quadrennial was held in Lausanne.

The President welcomed the invited guests asking them to feel free to participate in all parts of the EC meeting, and welcomed them to a new quadrennial in which their input and ideas would be greatly welcomed.

The Executive Committee approved the nominations made by the President so that Mr Weikert would take up the position of Deputy President; Mr Al Mohannadi, who was the longest serving member other than the President, would be Senior Executive Vice-President and Ms Sörling would be the Executive Vice-President responsible for finance.

The Executive Committee noted that there would be several functions and events organized in Dubai during the World Tour Grand Finals including recognising the contribution of past and present sponsors.

The Executive Committee noted with sadness the passing of Mr. Nils Bergström who had been involved in the sport for many decades in a number of capacities in Sweden, Europe and ITTF. The representation of the ITTF by Petra Sörling, and by Anders Thunström (TMS), at Mr. Bergström's funeral had been appreciated by the family.

The President welcomed Mr. Christophe Dubi, Sports Director at the IOC, to the meeting. The Executive Committee noted that:

- The IOC President would consult with stakeholders on key issues relating to the Olympic Movement over the next months leading to an extended Executive Board meeting.
- The current programme for the Olympic Games had been frozen so no new medal events or an increase in the number of athletes would be incorporated for 2016.
- The IOC and ASOIF understood the key role of the IFs in organizing their sports and the relationship with organising committees in the same way.
- Review of the criteria used for assessing IFs for funding was proposed a long time ago by the ITTF President. The IOC finally used it, and ITTF was one of the IFs promoted to higher category due to their performance at the London 2012 Olympic Games.
- The current IOC administrative building would double in size and the new Olympic Museum would be opened in December 2013.
- The IOC would consider indicating, in its evaluation following the 2012 Olympic Games, where the particular sport was ranked on the scale for the particular assessment item while not directly comparing the IFs.

- In reviewing the Olympic Programme, there would be a balancing act in trying to achieve equilibrium in the relative requirements placed on the organising committee, NOCs and IFs.
- The Tri-Partite Commission approach to resolving disputes at a national level would continue and the IOC would develop a wider range of sanctions.
- Thus the approach should be to follow the IOC when necessary while maintaining the ITTF's independence at all times.
- The Executive Director of Olympic Games, Mr. Gilbert Felli would retire after the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games in 2014 and most probably Christophe Dubi would take over this position.

## 2. Roll call:

Adham Sharara	President
Thomas Weikert	Deputy President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Senior Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)

Vladimir Samsonov Athlete Representative – ex officio

### In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Polona Cehovin Susin	Director (Education and Training)
Leandro Olvech	Director (Development)
Alison Burchell	Director (Operations and PTT)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Matt Pound	Promotions Manager
Habiba Besic	Office Manager
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)

### By invitation:

Afshin Badiee	Representative (ATTU)
Oswaldo Borges	President (LATTU)
Bruce Burton	President (NATTU)
Khaled El Salhy	President (ATTF)
Ronald Kramer	Vice President (ETTU)
Francisco Seijas	Representative (LATTU)

## 3. Approval of the agenda: the Executive Committee approved the agenda with the addition of:

- 14.1 Next meeting
- 14.2 WADA conference

## 4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings: the minutes of the meetings held on 12 and 19 May 2013 were approved and signed.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no further business not covered by the agenda.

- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings: the Executive Committee noted that:
- A comparison with other sports on the Olympic programme would be undertaken.
  - The collection of outstanding debts was in process.

**1-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee asked the CEO to request from the IOC the details of relative comparison with other sports for the evaluation done by the IOC following the 2012 London Olympic Games.

**5. Operations Program:** the Executive Committee noted:

## 5.1 2013 AGM and BoD:

## 5.1.1 Executive Committee responsibilities and functions:

- The complete allocation of duties for Executive Committee members, committee chairs and staff
- Mr Weikert appointed Deputy President; Mr Al-Mohannadi appointed Senior Vice President and Ms Sörling appointed Vice President for Finance.
- All staff had been requested to copy the respective Executive Committee member on correspondence.
- The President was available for advice at any time as new members became acquainted with their duties.
- In relation to racket control, this related to research and development of the method and equipment.

## 5.1.2 Rights of special advisors (SA) and senior special advisors (SSA):

- As part of DBI, it was important to know what human resources existed in the ITTF, which had led to some appointments as senior special advisors. This status came with special privileges that would be outlined by the President.
- For special advisors appointed to support the work of committees, their privileges would be the same as corresponding members.
- For senior special advisors to the Executive Committee, they would at least be invited to the world championships as VIP guests.

## 5.1.3 PAC:

- Messrs Koji Kimura and Neil Harwood would formally be appointed to the PAC in Tokyo at the 2014 AGM.
- Walter Rönmark, following the passing of Mr. Bergström, and as he had stood down as president of the Swedish TTA, would also be appointed to the PAC in Tokyo.

## 5.1.4 Constitution timelines update:

- A new timeline would be instituted for the constitution's revision so that the continental affiliation process was complete and the final version could be submitted for consideration and approval.
- As in 2013, serious consideration should be given to having an independent Chair for the AGM, especially in election years.

## 5.1.5 Continental affiliation agreements update:

- The process of affiliation by Asia and Europe was underway but no continent was under pressure to sign the agreement, as it was still optional.
- The agreement had been amended to meet the ETTU and ATTU's requests.

- ATTU had expressed concerns particularly in relation to the autonomy and independence of the ATTU, which had been addressed following a constructive meeting with the ITTF.
- The Presidents of the ITTF and ATTU would meet in the near future (November 2013) to finalise the agreement.

#### 5.1.6 ETTU update:

- Within the ETTU, the Executive Board was re-grouping following the resignation of Mr Stefano Bosi.
- Following the upcoming ETTU Congress in Vienna, should the new way forward within the ETTU be instituted for the betterment of the sport in Europe and worldwide, the continental agreement with the ITTF should be signed as a consequence.
- The ITTF would be able to work directly with its members in Europe in order to ensure that development was not compromised should the agreement not be signed.

### 5.2 Finance:

#### 5.2.1 Associations with outstanding debts:

- Most debts arose from cancellation fees and non-payments of hospitality costs related to the 2013 world championships.
- The total amount outstanding was approximately €33 000.
- The French organising committee had issued the invoices and the ITTF would assist the organisers to recoup these outstanding payments.
- All invoices would be reviewed as part of the process.

#### 5.2.2 Audits (Lausanne, Ottawa and Singapore) 2013:

- For 2013, the audit of the Singapore office would be done separately as usual, but consolidated into the ITTF audited financial statements.
- As part of the transparent process, all operational costs would be paid by the ITTF directly and ITTF would invoice TMS for costs related to TMS. Furthermore excess funds (if any) would be paid by TMS to the ITTF at the end of the year.
- Other than salaries, very few payments were now made from Ottawa.
- The audit dates were proposed for early March 2014.

#### 5.2.3 Appointment of Finance Committee:

- The chairperson would be the Vice-President (Finance).
- Mr Eberhard Schöler was appointed as the member of the PAC and Mr D Choudhary was proposed as the member of the Board of Directors on the Committee.
- Ms Besic would be the secretary supporting the work of the Finance Committee.
- The president and the CEO were ex-officio members.
- A representative of the Finance Committee would meet the auditors upon consolidation of the financial statements.

#### 5.2.4 Payments and authorisation system: currently the system of 2 people approving all payments was in place.

### 5.3 Staff update:

- The CEO thanked the EC for the opportunity for all Directors to attend the EC meeting and excused the Director of Competitions' (Karl Jindrak) absence due to his work commitment in Japan.
- The Ranking Consultant (David Jackson) position ended in June and a Results and Statistics Coordinator was hired as a new position.

- The position of Equipment Technical Coordinator had been re-opened and advertised again.
- The Equipment Manager (Vicky Eleftheriade) extended her stay by one year at the Asia-Pacific office in Singapore until October 2014.
- The Office Manager in Lausanne (Habiba Besic) had been entrusted with new and additional tasks in the recent months.
- The Executive Administrative Secretary (Violet Leblanc) would retire with effect from 30 September 2013 after 16 years of service to the ITTF and TMS.
- The responsibilities of the former Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) (Jordi Serra) had been redistributed to the CEO (Judit Farago), Director of Operations and PTT (Alison Burchell), Office Manager (Habiba Besic) and Event and Olympic Games Expert (Raúl Calín) and no break in delivery of services had been experienced.
- The position of website designer had been advertised in Singapore with the work under the guidance of the Promotion Manager (Matt Pound).
- The web-directory for Professional Staff is updated regularly.
- The staff policy should cover what the staff member may or may not do as a volunteer in his/her national or continental federation.

#### 5.4 Museum:

- For the first 2 years, a temporary facility would be available in Shanghai in the Expo area, which would also incorporate the Chinese museum.
- The priority as usual would be to continue the travelling museum and, with a permanent museum, this should be in China, as the number of visitors would increase significantly.
- The Shanghai municipal government wanted to promote table tennis and the museum and was investing around €30m.
- The partnership of Shanghai, ITTF, CTTA would be extended to include the Chinese Administration of Sport.
- An agreement would be signed by January 2014 where the exhibits would remain ITTF property and the permanent building would remain the property of the Shanghai Municipal Government.
- The current virtual museum tour should remain and be updated online.

#### 5.5 Ecuador TTA recognition issue:

- The Ecuador Government had wished to have elections for all national federations while the NOC wished to protect its autonomy as well as that of the national federations.
- After negotiations, the Ministry, the NOC and an IOC appointee formed the tri-partite commission to resolve the impasse.
- Mr Raúl Calín would attend, on behalf of the ITTF, the election of the Ecuador TTA on 1 October 2013.
- On 17 October 2013, the election for the Ecuador NOC board would be held.

#### **2-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee asked:

- a) The CEO to send the functions of the Executive Committee to all concerned.
- b) The Director (Operations and PTT) to send a letter to the BoD asking it to approve the appointment of Mr Choudhary to the Finance Committee.

**3-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee approved the appointment of Mr Eberhard Schöler (PAC member) to the Finance Committee.

**6. Competition Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 6.1 2013 World Championships report:
  - Two reports had been submitted, one from the staff and committee chairpersons involved and the other from the organising committee.
  - These reports had been distributed to future organisers and a shorter version to the BoD.
  - Both reports contained similar recommendations and conclusions.
  - Reducing the numbers of players should be considered as a future priority while maintaining the right of each association to participate.
  - The continental championships could be a pre-requisite for the world championships and later a qualification for the Team Championships.
  - The second hall at Bercy and the facility at INSEP were not ideal and having one venue was preferred.
- 6.2 2013 and 2014 World Tour update:
  - GAC had signed as title sponsor till 2015.
  - Four more events in Europe would be held in 2013 before deciding the list of finalists.
  - The 2013 World Tour Grand Finals would be held in January 2014 in Dubai hosted by the UAE TTA.
  - In 2012, there was a small drop in the number of participants, perhaps as a result of the Olympic year, but the numbers were increasing in 2013 again.
  - The 2014 World Tour Calendar had been published with possible later inclusion of 2 more events in Africa.
- 6.3 2013 World Cup update:
  - The Women's World Cup had finished 4 days ago in Kobe, Japan and the feedback received indicated that it had been well organised and there had been a full house of 6 000 spectators every day.
  - Liu Shiwen won for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.
  - Media interest had been extremely high which may have been linked to the success of the bid for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
  - The CEO of STARTS (the title sponsor) had been very impressed with the event.
  - A new playing system (2 stages of groups followed by K.O.) was used which had been a bit confusing for the media initially.
  - The player confirmation deadline for the Men's World Cup was 26 September 2013.
  - The Belgian TTF entrusted Philippe Saive's management company with organising the event.
  - A promotional video had been produced to promote the event.
  - The wild card had been allocated to Dimitrij Ovtcharov as the best European player not otherwise qualified.
- 6.4 2014 World Championships:
  - Following the Women's World Cup, a 2-day visit was undertaken by Messrs Karl Jindrak, Mohamed Dawlatly and Ms Kimberly Koh (TMS) with Ms Etsuko Enami.

- The Yoyogi stadium would be the main competition hall, which also had meeting facilities, while the Tokyo Metropolitan stadium would be used for the other divisions.
  - The main issue would be the set-up of the 3 show-courts together with other courts in Yoyogi stadium.
  - Transport would be reviewed with the possibility of using the metro as an additional option being considered.
  - The same timetable for meetings (AGM, BoD and OPC) would be proposed to the organisers as previous years.
  - The progression of hospitality rates would be shared with the organisers to enable a final decision on hospitality costs to be made.
- 6.5 Future World Championships 2017: several potential organisers had requested information on the bidding process, so some bids were expected to be submitted by the deadline of the end of October 2013.
- 6.6 Proposal for revised entry at individual WTTC:
- The proposals would be requested from the Competition Program for consultation with the national associations that enter more players.
  - As the numbers of players grew, fewer national associations could host either the individual or team world championships.
  - The proposed reductions would be introduced for 2015 and 2016 as part of a gradual process.
- 6.7 Ratification of allocation of the World Cadet Challenge 2013 to Slovenia:
- The organisation was well underway following the late allocation of the event.
  - The government was involved to support the organisation.
  - The accommodation was in walking distance of the competition hall.
  - There had been requests for 2 or 3-day training prior to the event.
- 6.8 2013 World Junior Championships update:
- The prospectus and entry forms had been sent out with a deadline of 4 October 2013.
  - Two inspections had been done in 2013.
  - The venue could accommodate 10 competition tables with 10 practice tables in an adjacent hall.
  - Four hotels would be used: 2 for teams, 1 for umpires and 1 for ITTF, and all contracts had been signed.
  - The final inspection would be done 8 to 10 October 2013.
- 6.9 2013 Global Junior Circuit Finals:
- This would take place in Portugal from 24 to 26 January 2013.
  - The event would also serve as the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) final world qualification event.
- 6.10 2014 Events calendar: in 2014, there would be 85 ITTF sanctioned events including the qualification events for the YOG.
- 6.11 Ranking system changes for 2014 and testing:
- The team ranking had now been converted to an automatic update based on the individual ranking.
  - Ideally the individual ranking should also be done automatically online.
  - Once automatic, any changes to the ranking system could be easily implemented.
  - All changes proposed by the Athletes' Commission would be implemented except for the change in the number of points in the case of losses. This had to be tested further. The Ranking and Results Manager (Tim Gautreau) did not provide the comparisons as requested by the CEO in time for the EC meeting.

## 6.12 Olympic Games Rio 2016:

### 6.12.1 IOC Session update and 2016 program:

- The IOC Session took place in early September 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where several important decisions were taken (Tokyo won the bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games; Wrestling returned to the Olympic program; and Dr Thomas Bach was elected President of the IOC).
- The competition program for 2016 would remain the same as for 2012.
- ITTF was represented by the President and the CEO.

### 6.12.2 Homologation proposal (Brazil):

- Currently the ITTF authorised racket coverings and approved tables, balls and other equipment.
- The Brazil TTA requested from the ITTF to establish a "Homologation" process for ITTF equipment in order to benefit from tax-free importation exemption.
- The ITTF Equipment Manager could provide the Brazil TTA certification letters for the ITTF authorised or approved equipment as was the standard practice.
- The EC agreed not to introduce a new category, such as "Homologation", regarding equipment.

### 6.12.3 Sports floor bids:

- San-Ei was the official table and DHS was the official ball supplier.
- The agreement with Tinsue as floor supplier may be realised.

### 6.12.4 Next visit:

- Would likely take place in March 2014.
- Mr Rivera, the CEO, the Director (Operations and PTT) and, if possible, the Event and Olympic Games Expert should participate.
- One of the main reasons for the visit would be to secure accommodation for the ITTF, as the supply of hotel rooms was smaller than in 2012.
- Another issue to be addressed would be the U-shape or oval seating proposals for the competition venue, which determined the seating capacity.
- The schedule would also need to be agreed.
- Some proposals had been submitted for the training of NTOs and ITOs.
- Rio 2016 had suggested that the test event should test the technical aspects of the event rather than run a major event so an invitational event should be considered.
- The qualification guide would be presented to the OPC meeting in Dubai.
- Questionnaires should be sent out soon on the preferred order of play (singles or team events first), the format of play within the team and the qualification system.

## 6.13 Paralympic Games Rio 2016: the PTT Division had proposed that:

### 6.13.1 Nomination of technical delegate: Georgios Seliniotakis (GRE) to be the Technical Delegate.

### 6.13.2 Nomination of technical operations manager: Sonja Grefberg (FIN) is the Technical Operations Manager.

### 6.13.3 Qualification guide: following a review based on the number of players currently on the rating list per class and the qualification process, the draft guide be approved.

#### 6.14 Youth Olympic Games:

##### 6.14.1 Ratification of the Road to Nanjing (RtN) 2014 Series:

- The RTN Series linked qualification events to Global Junior Circuit (GJC) events with each continent also hosting qualification events.
- The North American event would be finalised soon.

##### 6.14.2 Update on qualification process:

- There would be tripartite invitation places allocated to 4 boys and 4 girls.
- 4 boys and 4 girls would qualify via the world qualification event in January 2014.
- 3 boys and 3 girls would qualify from the world ranking of 1 February 2014.
- 14 boys and 14 girls would qualify via continental qualifications between February and April 2014.
- 6 boys and 6 girls would qualify via the RtN 2014 events.

#### **4-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee asked:

- a) The Vice-President (Finance), the senior Executive Vice-President and CEO, to finalise and approve the hospitality rates for the 2014 World Championships.
- b) Mr Rivera, the CEO, the Director (Operations and PTT) and, if possible, the Event and Olympic Games Expert to visit Rio 2016 officially in March 2014.

#### **5-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to invite the IOC President to the 2014 World Championships.

#### **6-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to ratify the allocation of the 2013 World Cadet Challenge to Otocec, Slovenia.

#### **7-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved not to support the proposal to add homologation to the ITTF's systems of approval and authorisation.

#### **8-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the appointment of Georgios Seliniotakis and Sonja Grefberg as TD and ToM respectively for the 2016 Paralympic Games.

#### **9-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the qualification guide for the 2016 Paralympic Games and to recommend to the IPC that it be approved.

#### **10-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the Road to Nanjing 2014 Series as proposed.

## 7. Marketing Program: the Executive Committee noted that:

### 7.1 New initiatives:

#### 7.1.1 Dubai events:

- For the first time in 2012 at the World Tour Grand Finals in Hangzhou, the prize money was US\$1m, which had enhanced the attraction of the event.
- In the lead up to the 2013 Grand Finals, a press conference would be held in Spin Dubai.
- A first ITTF Awards Evening would be held as well as the second Dream-Building Dinner.

#### 7.1.2 An event management company had been appointed to help the organization on site, in Dubai.

#### 7.1.3 Trick Shot Social Media promotion:

- In order to attract the younger generation, various social media platforms were promoting the trick shot competition.
- Due to the large market in China, various accessible social media were being implemented for ITTF.

### 7.2 TMS International update:

#### 7.2.1 Sponsorship updates:

- GAC had signed as the title sponsor for the World Tour to 2015 with assistance from various people including the President, CTTA and Director (Marketing).
- Tissot had signed as the official timer for the world championships till 2016 to come in line with the Olympic cycle.
- The agreement with Gerflor had been extended for the next 2 world championships in 2014 and 2015.
- The organisers of the 2014 and 2015 world championships would seek the title sponsorships for the events based on an agreement with TMS and ITTF.
- UAE TTA would be interested to host 2015 world team cup and to secure title sponsorship for it.

#### 7.2.2 ITTF-TMS contract modifications:

- During the election campaign in 2013, there were comments made about the lack of transparency related to the TMS contract. As a reaction, TMS staff distributed copies of all contracts between the ITTF and TMS to all AGM delegates as well as overall financial statements for the past 10 years.
- All marketing contracts were signed by the ITTF and TMS jointly.
- Some amounts were paid directly by TMS for prize money and other costs on behalf of ITTF, but from 1 January 2014 all ITTF related expenses would be paid by the ITTF directly.
- At the same time TMS assumed its own expenses according to the current contract.
- The auditors preferred that a fixed amount be transferred by TMS to ITTF, but in all cases more than the minimum contractual requirement was paid by TMS to ITTF annually.
- Following the decision made at the EC meeting in Paris, the agreement with TMS would be amended to reflect a fixed percentage commission paid to TMS from the sponsorships raised rather than the current system of fixed pre-determined amounts.
- The amendment would be in operation for 1 year as the contract with TMS would expire within that period and would be reviewed, and the percentage share adjusted following an analysis of respective income and expenditure.

- The payments would be made to ITTF according to each contract's payment schedule from the sponsors, and once the money was received from the sponsor and confirmation of tax implications had been cleared.

**11-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the amendment to the 2009-2014 contract with TMS, effective 1 January 2014, whereas the ITTF and TMS would share all commercial income generated by TMS on behalf of the ITTF at the agreed rate of 75%-25% in favour of the ITTF. The EC empowered the CEO to sign the amendment on its behalf.

**8. Development Program****8.1 Continental Development Agreements:**

- Although Asia and Europe had not yet signed the agreements, funding for the World Cadet Challenge had been approved to ensure full continental representation.
- The first year of the 4-year cycle activities commenced later than usual due to negotiations for quadrennial agreements being finalised late in 2012.
- The 4 continents which had signed agreements in place were on track to complete all activities planned for 2013.

**8.2 Dream Building dinner projects:**

- Following the successful fundraising dinner in Paris, the funds were divided between development, global junior program and PTT including:
  - US\$50 000 from Liebherr which would be used for a project in Palestine (US\$20 000), for a Road to Nanjing Camp in China (US\$15 000) and a PTT training camp (US\$15 000).
  - US\$30 000 from general dinner funds spent on a UNOSDP camp in Uganda, Adrian Diaz from Puerto Rico as a Hopes ambassador for participation and promotion at selected events and training and several PTT player scholarships.
- Natalia Partyka had also been appointed as a Dream-Building ambassador.
- Another fundraising dinner would be organised in Dubai in conjunction with the first ITTF Awards Gala.

**8.3 Peace and Sport, UNOSDP and films:**

- The projects Colombia, East Timor, Congo DR-Burundi Peace and Sport projects were ongoing.
- The next project was being negotiated in Palestine with Israel to be added as part of the second phase.
- The partnership with UNOSDP continued to strengthen with 4 camps in 2013 and 4 or 5 to be held in 2014 including distribution of equipment.
- Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General, had attended the UNOSDP camp held in Korea.
- The Nittaku project in El Salvador had received positive feedback from the sponsor who would continue to support this initiative.
- Another Nittaku project would be initiated in 2014.

**8.4 New ITTF member:**

- STAG provided an equipment package for any new country with an NOC, but not yet an ITTF member and Olympic Solidarity had also agreed to fund a technical course for these targeted countries.
- Of the 5 countries from Africa, which were not ITTF members, Mali had now applied for membership and South Sudan would apply in the near future.

- American Virgin Islands and Bahamas would soon apply for membership.
- With various islands in Latin America linked to France, discussions were underway with the FTTT about how best to approach ITTF membership.

The Executive Committee thanked the Director (Development), Leandro Olvech, for coordinating the application for the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award in Dubai.

### **12-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the 2014 AGM in Tokyo that **Mali** be accepted as a member of the ITTF.

## **9. Education & Training Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 9.1 Road to Nanjing: players eligible to play in Nanjing had been targeted for Road to Nanjing YOG Olympic Solidarity Scholarships from developing countries and based on universality. Training camps and individual programmes had been implemented for these players.
- 9.2 Asia Youth Games-YOG update:
  - The Deputy CEO, Glenn Tepper, and the ITTF Senior Consultant, Mikael Andersson, attended the Asian Youth Games which acted as the test event and which was of a really high standard.
  - The temperature was up to 40°C but the air conditioning for table tennis was sufficient.
  - The training camp, which was held in Singapore, would not be run in Nanjing officially but countries could negotiate with China about some form of training camp.
  - However, in June 2014, training camps prior to 2 GJC events in China would be held with up to 40 YOG qualified or targeted players with sparring partners.
  - The athlete role model proposed was Wang Liqin of China.
  - A big event targeting the public would be held at a large public square and in the Athlete's Village before the opening ceremony.
  - The Young Umpires Program (YUP) would soon begin and CTTA would run a similar project with national umpires who were slightly older.
  - Plans to fill the stadium with spectators were being considered.
  - The change in the ball (if plastic ball would be used at 2014 YOG or not) should be decided by the OPC at its next meeting but the recommendation was to stay with the celluloid ball as all the qualification would be played with those balls.
- 9.3 Online education:
  - While a new initiative, this could benefit from additional human resources.
  - Many IFs now had online education with good support.
  - The focus currently was on coaching and the YUP and PTT initiatives would be added.
  - More than 2 000 users had been registered but they did not always return.
- 9.4 Hopes:
  - A successful Hopes Week had been held in Vienna, Austria, with the World Hopes team selected.
  - A focus on coaches was added to the current player-centered approach.
  - A National and Continental Hopes phase was successfully introduced in 2013 and would be expanded in 2014.

- The President would meet with the Deputy CEO, the Development Director and the Education and Training Director to outline the next phases of the Hopes program, and to orient the program towards coaching education for coaches of young players.

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

- Following the incident in the women's singles final in the 2012 Olympic Games, some discussions on the serve had begun with the Rules Committee.
- However, several players would, as a consequence of the proposals, have to change their serve technique and it would be difficult to umpire with only 1 umpire.
- The proposals should be assessed at a test event to be decided.
- Part of the reason for the current rule was to ensure that the receiver was able to see the ball and the URC enforced this by checking that both the umpire and assistant were able to see the ball during the serve.
- Similarly, the proposal that there should not be a let if the ball touched the net during the serve would need to be tested with the players together with the CTTA proposal for using several balls during a match.
- Various rubbers (Tenergy and DHS) were provided to players with different thicknesses higher than 4mm to test and it seemed that the thickness of the rubber at 4mm was appropriate but this would be tested at the warm-up at the Men's World Cup.
- In testing the new plastic ball, it was important to have either a seam or no seam to be consistent, but the players had noted improvements in the test balls.
- The current ranking system allowed a loser in an upset match to lose only 50% of the points gained for a win, however the Athletes' Commission proposed a further reduction for a loss to reduce the players' fear of losing too many ranking points.
- A report on the impact on the ranking proposal had not yet been received and would be necessary for an informed decision to be made.
- The proposal to increase the bonus points could be implemented as it would last only for 12 months and did not affect the actual rating itself.
- The proposal for the tabletops to be the same for the competition and training tables would be followed up.
- Organisers could be requested to allow players more flexibility for meals schedule and frequency at events.
- Access to the VIP lounge for the finalists would be investigated together with courtesy car transport and free accommodation for the top 8 men and 8 women players at the world tour events, noting that these would have cost implications.
- In return, players would guarantee that identified promotional functions would be performed.
- Extending prize money for the first round would be considered.

**13-EC-09-2013**

The Executive Committee agreed to:

- a) Investigate 2 "challenge" events in 2014 at which the service proposal, the multi-ball concept, and "no let" proposals would be tested. If event hosts were not found to test these proposals then a specific event for that purpose would be held by the ITTF.
- b) Increase the bonus points as proposed.
- c) Investigate the proposals of the Athletes Commission for upgraded services for the top 8 men and women for the World Tour.

- 11. Plastic ball issue:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- 4 companies had submitted prototypes for approval, three from China and one from Japan.
  - 3 companies were working on balls with a seam and 1 without a seam.
  - The materials being used were different for each manufacturer with their own patent.
  - FIT had engaged a lawyer in case a patent holder pursued them legally.
  - More competition between suppliers and better quality balls should be available.
  - Sufficient supplies of the new ball would be available by the deadline of 1 July 2014.
  - The celluloid ball would still be legal but the plastic ball would be used at ITTF events.
  - The bounce of the seamless ball was too high but the next modified version would be submitted for approval.
- 12. Planning 2014-2017, P5 and DBI:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- The work of the ITTF needed to be shared with the public more systematically, particularly the Olympic Movement, and so any newsworthy information should be submitted to the Promotions Manager.
  - ITTF aimed to be in the top 5 among the Olympic sports; currently ITTF was ranked between 9 and 14.
  - To achieve this, ITTF would consider the IOC's ranking to address weaknesses while promoting its work both internally and externally more extensively.
  - The President would prepare a form with the Lausanne office to send to all associations to get a view of the ITTF's objectives following which the Executive Committee would determine the priorities with staff responsibilities and volunteer and budgetary support.
- 13. Legal court claims update:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- The court case instituted by the President in his personal capacity against Mr Bosi had been withdrawn following Mr Bosi's resignation from the ETTU.
  - Following advice from various parties, and given that various false statements had been made against members of the Executive Committee, further legal action may be necessary to protect the reputation and integrity of the ITTF.
  - An "in-camera" meeting would be held at the end of the EC meeting, which only the EC members, the CEO and the ETTU Vice-President, Mr Ronald Kramer, would attend. The results of this meeting would be held in confidence by Mr Thomas Weikert, Deputy President responsible for ITTF legal matters, for future reference.
- 14. Any other business:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- 14.1 Next meeting: would take place in Dubai on 9 January 2014 for the Executive Committee, while the OPC and DCC meetings to take place on 10 January 2014.
- 14.2 WADA conference and review of the world anti-doping code (WADC):
- There were several key issues which would be changed in the WADC:
    - 4 years ineligibility for athletes who were deemed to intend to cheat while allowing flexibility in other sanctions depending on the seriousness of the offence and the cooperation shown by the athlete.
    - If a sanction was reduced, this would require approval of the IF and WADA.
    - Currently an athlete may accumulate 3 whereabouts failures in 18 months where this would be treated as an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) and this would be reduced to 3 in 12 months.
    - Whereabouts failures were the main concern for ITTF.

- In order to achieve proportionality and balance human rights, an ADRV would only be published after the final decision was made and implemented, for example.
- All parties to the WADC would be required to undertake investigations, use intelligence and cooperate with any investigations undertaken.
- The statute of limitations would increase from 8 to 10 years.
- IFs would need to ensure that national associations would agree to the IF being responsible for the results management authority particularly where it affected athlete support personnel.
- There would be an immediate investigation required if a member of the athlete support personnel was involved where a minor or more than 1 athlete was involved in doping.
- The responsibilities of the IF and national anti-doping organisation would be balanced to increase cooperation e.g. IFs would be responsible for therapeutic use exemptions for international level athletes and TUEs issued by a NADO could be recognised by the IF and vice versa.
- A NADO would need to get permission to test at an IF event.
- Once the amendments to the WADC were approved in November 2013, all signatories would need to prepare for implementation from 1 January 2015 requiring a review of the anti-doping rules to be approved by the BOD in May 2014.

**15. Adjournment:** there being no further business, the meeting ended at 11h15 (28 September) and the Executive Committee continued in camera.

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Adham Sharara  
President

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Date

ITTF - Executive Committee Meeting

27-28 September 2013, Lausanne

**Proposal to modify the ITTF-TMS Contract:**

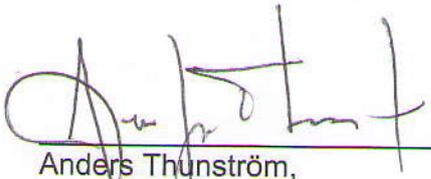
1. Effective immediately, any ITTF expenses will be paid by the ITTF directly and not by TMS on behalf of the ITTF.
2. TMS will not make any direct payments to organizers of events, national associations, players (prize money), or any other payments on behalf of the ITTF.
3. TMS will transfer to the ITTF in 2013 the commercial and TV rights income according to the current contract between the ITTF and TMS (2009-2014).
4. **In accordance with item 5.1 (below) of the current contract between the ITTF and TMS (2009-2014), as of 1 January 2014, all commercial income and TV rights generated by TMS on behalf of the ITTF will be shared at the rate of 75% for the ITTF and 25% for TMS; and TMS will assume its own expenses according to the current contract (2009-2014) and will not make any payments to any entity on behalf of the ITTF.**

Excerpt from the ITTF-TMS Contract (2009-2014)

- 5.1 At any time within the period of this agreement and with mutual consent of both parties, this agreement could be converted into a **percentage sharing of income** between the ITTF and TMS instead of fixed amounts paid by TMS to the ITTF. If an agreement were reached, this would be a percentage "commission" paid to TMS on each contract successfully negotiated by TMS on behalf of the ITTF. The commission amount would be negotiated between the two parties within a period of 60 days from the initial date that the two parties mutually agreed to convert the contract into a "commission based" agreement. All other clauses of the contract would remain the same.

Agreed on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2013 in Lausanne by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judit Farago,  
CEO,  
International Table Tennis Federation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anders Thunström,  
Managing Director,  
TMS International

(Attached to Minutes of EC Meeting, 27-28 September 2013)