

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 1

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Executive Committee (1st meeting) held on Saturday, 25 April 2015, at 09h00 in the Kempinski Hotel, Suzhou.

**1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all the members of the Executive Committee one day before the start of the World Championships. He welcomed and introduced his assistant, Mrs. Claudia Vatheuer, who attended the meeting as observer.

### 2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Bruce Burton	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
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)

### Observer

Claudia Vatheuer Assistant to the President

**3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda

### 4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2015 were approved and signed by the President with amendment in 13.3 (not to have any *major* change on the ranking prior to the Olympic Games).

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:

- The Constitution review has been postponed and will be advised later by the EC.
- URC to consider the use of the online platform for future training and exams: internal discussions in progress

- Hospitality discussions regarding the world tour have been postponed pending a general review of the tour for 2016.
- Bids for 2017 and 2018 World Cups would be open
- Investigation and action on a case of misuse of ITTF approval by a Chinese company was in progress

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

5.1 Audit and risk assessment:

- Executive Vice President for Finance reported that audits were conducted in Lausanne, Singapore and Ottawa in March and consolidation of all operations was done by the Auditor in April.
- ITTF is in good financial shape with CHF 8.9 million surplus at the end of 2014 mainly due to the fact that CHF 4 million Olympic fund was not used and marketing income increased (USD 6.7 million received).
- Furthermore there were two new sources of income: rent out space in the building of the Headquarter and the guarantee amount for the transfer of the museum to Shanghai. The goal is to achieve a 1-year operation reserve in few years' time.
- Audit evaluation report meeting and Risk Assessment Seminar scheduled for 11 June 2015 to be attended by the ITTF Finance Committee and key staff.
- Due to change in Swiss law, from 2015 it is allowed to present the Financial Statements in any currency. ITTF shows its accounts in CHF for 3 years but the recent change in the law allows us to go back to presenting figures again in USD, a more common currency worldwide.

**1-EC-04-2015**

The Executive Committee decided to present the ITTF Audited Financial Statements in US dollar currency as of 2016 according to the latest Swiss law allowing to show the audit figures in any currency. The change will be reflected for the first time on the 2015 Financial Statements.

5.2 Updates on ITTF offices:

- Renovation works on the exterior of the building of the Lausanne Headquarters are due to start in May by the current tenant company.
- The new premises for the Singapore office were visited by the EVP for Finance and the CEO. It was agreed that major cleaning and renovation work are needed to make it appropriate. The move is necessary as the lease of the present office expires.

5.3 URC hand-signals experiment:

- The 2014 Global Junior Circuit Finals was identified for experiment on the new hand signals for umpires (joint proposal from ITTF URC, Hong Kong TTA and Athletes Commission).
- URC submitted report on the test concluded in January 2015 in Paraguay and was based on feedback from 26 persons (players, umpires, spectators).

- There was a general feeling that one experiment at a smaller scale event is not sufficient.

## **2-EC-04-2015**

The Executive Committee requested the URC to make a further survey and experiment on the new hand signals in order to provide more input on the acceptance of the proposed rule. URC has to coordinate with the Director of Competition to identify another event for the test.

### 5.4 National Associations recognition issues:

- Most of the National Associations' disputes are related to Ministry of Sport and NOC recognizing different groups.
- There are increasing issues between IOC and Ministries of Sport where autonomy of the NOC is in dispute.

#### **Current cases:**

- Niger - To be referred to the second EC meeting to allow ATTF to make recommendations on this situation.
- Indonesia - Two groups tried to enter the World Championships, one recognized by the NOC, one by the Ministry of Sport. Following consultation with IOC, the group recognized by KOI [NOC] was accepted and was invited to meet with ITTF during the event to explain the situation in detail.
- Sri Lanka - A dispute between IOC and Ministry of Sport regarding autonomy of NOC and hence National Association was ongoing. ITTF continues to monitor closely.
- Iran - National Associations in Iran have a 4-year mandate after which elections must be held. As elections were not held within the 4-year period an interim president was appointed, with elections to be held later. Both Ministry of Sport and NOC agreed with this process.
- Pakistan - IOC set a deadline of 15 July for changes relating to the autonomy of the NOC to be implemented.
- Tajikistan - Two groups claimed to be the National Association. Following confirmation from the NOC the newly elected National Association was confirmed as the legitimate one. This, however, caused issues with the World Championships entries as the previous administration received all correspondence regarding qualification requirements and this was not passed onto the new National Association. Tajikistan requested special consideration to enter the World Championships, which was rejected.

## **6. AGM & BoD:** the Executive Committee noted that:

### 6.1 AGM & BoD preparations:

- The Athletes Commission Chair informed the EC that after internal consultation the Commission withdraws Propositions No.1 and No.5 to the 2015 AGM.

- It was reported that meeting preparations were ongoing with 240 seats with tables being prepared for the AGM delegates plus chairs for observes.
- Organisers finally agreed to provide lunch in the venue for delegates on day of AGM and we agreed for 300 meals.

6.2 2014 Audited Financial Statements:

- The audit and financial report were posted on ITTF.com and sent by email to the Board of Directors and all Associations on 13 April 2015.
- Printed hard copies would be distributed to the associations in the pigeon holes and to the delegates at the AGM.

6.3 Committee Nominations – Lebanon TTF request:

- Nomination forms were twice circulated by email to NAs and were posted on the ITTF web-site.
- Deadline for Committee nominations was 28 February 2015.
- Nominations Committee checked and validated the nominations and the list of candidates was published on 14 March 2015.
- One nomination from Lebanon TTF was not accepted as it was submitted late and the case was referred to the Executive Committee after Lebanon TTF appealed to make exception for Mr. Michel De Chadarevian who has for a long time served the ITTF as BoD and Media Committee member.

**3-EC-04-2015**

- The Executive Committee considered the Lebanon TTF's request and as acknowledgment for the long-time services of Mr. Michel De Chadarevian, appointed him as Special Advisor to the Media Committee.
- The Executive Committee resolved to appoint Sheikha Naimah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Special Senior Advisor to Women in Sport.

**4-EC-04-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint provisionally Continental Junior Commissioners as follows and pending the AGM approval of Proposition No. 4a:

- ITTF Junior Commissioner: Dennis Davis (North America),
- Continental Commissioners: Oluranti Lajide (Africa), Afshin Badiee (Asia), Heike Ahlert (Europe), Carlos Esnard (Latin America), James Morris (Oceania)

6.4 New member application – South Sudan:

- South Sudan presented their affiliation request in March 2015, which needs to be endorsed by the EC before being presented to the 2015 AGM.

## **5-EC-04-2015**

The Executive Committee endorsed the application for ITTF membership of South Sudan to be presented to the 2015 AGM for approval to become the 222<sup>nd</sup> member of the ITTF.

### 6.5 Merit Award (Estonia):

- The Director of Operations was requested to coordinate with Estonia TTA the award presentation to Viljar Kasemaa.

### 6.6 BoD replacements:

- The CEO informed the EC that two replacements to the Board of Directors membership would be submitted for approval at the BoD meeting:
  - After electing a new Chairman, USATT requested to change its representation on the ITTF BoD from Michael Babuin to Gordon Kaye, new USATT CEO with the consent of the North American TTU.
  - The Latin American TTU proposed Teddy Matthews from St. Lucia to fill the vacancy on ITTF BoD arising from Juan Vila being elected as LATTU President.

### 6.7 Appointment of Committee Chairs and Advisors:

- The EC discussed and agreed provisionally on the appointment of the Committee Chairs and Special Advisors from the list of candidates to be provisionally elected by the AGM for the respective Committees. The list was provisionally approved for submission to the Board of Directors pending AGM Committee members' confirmation.

## **7. Competition Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

### 7.1 2015 World Championships update

#### 7.1.1 Last inspection visit and issues to be resolved

- Written report was submitted to the EC earlier on the last visit of the ITTF inspection group on 27-28 March when the organizing committee made a test event in the venue.
- A huge exhibition center served as competition venue and construction and set-up was almost finished 1 month before the start of the championships offering excellent playing conditions however due to low height of the building and due to strict fire security measures the mobile spectator seats could not be raised higher, limiting the seat capacity to 5,500.
- Concerns were raised that the main competition hall is so long (with 8 courts in one line) that the visibility from the far and the short end of the mobile tribunes is very limited.
- Organizers informed that 5 days were sold out.

- Second competition hall and practice hall provide very good playing conditions.
- Accreditation process and rules for guests, visitors and VIPs seemed unreasonably tight due to strict government security measures.
- The sponsors' and suppliers' exhibition area was set up in a separate sub-hall of the exhibition center, across the street and with different access rights than for competition spectators.
- VIP seats are very limited, only 120, and the access has to be monitored closely.
- There were confirmed 130 national associations with 297 men's and 226 women's players as a result of the new rules for World Championships entries. The number of associations with players is around 100.
- The Athletes Commission requested to get access rights for members who are non-active or retired players to players' preparation and LOC areas to have more opportunity to meet players and organizers.
- It was confirmed that according to the ITTF policy, former world champions get VIP accreditation at WTTC in any case if they apply for it, only access without hospitality privilege.

#### 7.1.2 Ceremonies, protocol functions

- The EC was updated on the upcoming functions, the opening ceremony by invitation in the Suzhou Grand Theatre and the official opening of the ITTF Museum Exhibition in the exhibition area.

#### 7.1.3 TV coverage

- TMS predicted the best ever televised WTTC with 15 network covering in 160 countries.
- All 8 tables in the main hall were streamed on itTV, which is a record.

#### 7.2 2017 World Championships – Germany:

- The bid information, complete with all details, was circulated to the EC before the meeting.
- The new proposed hospitality rate range was according to the EC policy.

#### **6-EC-04-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to submit to the 2015 AGM the completed bid information on 2017 WTTC with proposal to the AGM to confirm the allocation of the 2017 WTTC to German TTA in the city of Düsseldorf.

#### **8. Development Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- ITTF Membership - With the addition of Sao Tome & Principe and South Sudan the ITTF would become the No. 1 International Sports Federation in terms of membership. The long-term goal to have

table tennis played in every corner of the world is only 4 countries away, with Bahamas, Cape Verde, Eritrea and Guinea Bissau, which are the last 4 remaining countries that have an NOC but are not ITTF members yet.

- Development Courses - 30 of the planned 100 courses have been already completed
- Olympic Solidarity - 7 Technical Courses [US\$60,000] and 2 DNSS [Developing a National Sports Structure-US\$60,000] have been completed. XIOM provides an equipment package for the first 8 countries, with a maximum of 2 per continent annually.
- UNOSDP Youth Leadership Camps - ITTF is the only IF that attended all 15 camps.
- The next continental project with Chinese TTA will be „China in Latin America“ in Puerto Rico in August, as a 5 day training camp with coaches and sparring partners from the Chinese national junior team.
- Nepal PTT Project - US\$100,000 value 3 years joint project between UNOSDP and ITTF delayed at least till November due to the earthquake. ITTF Development Program facilitated collection and presentation of elite players signed shirts and equipment including China-Germany-Sweden-Japan-Austria National teams. Continental Presidents also rallied together to provide US\$10,000 support for Nepal.

8.1 Continental Agreements – deferred to point 10.1

8.2 World Table Tennis Day

- The first World Table Tennis Day was held on April 6, 2015. The date was chosen to coincide with the IOC and UN International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Over 160 activities worldwide and 70 countries participated thanks to the excellent work of the Director of Development and the ITTF Asia-Pacific office.

## **9. Professional Staff Update:**

- Since the last meeting in Singapore everything is running smoothly in the transition at the Lausanne Office. The Singapore office staff is doing a great job with the media preparation for the WTTC and this will be the best covered World Championships ever. The competition staff is also working hard in close cooperation with the local organisers to run the ITTF result system in Suzhou. No changes on the development staff in this period.

**10. Any other business:** the Executive Committee noted that:

10.1 ATTU affiliation progress

- It was announced that after long and detailed discussions ATTU's affiliation with ITTF would take place at the BoD Meeting on 30 April, 2015, with a formal signing by the ITTF President Thomas Weikert and the ATTU President Cai Zenhua. This signals a new era of close co-operation between ITTF and ATTU.

#### 10.2 Meeting with IOC President

- The President reported on his meeting with the IOC President on 22 April in Lausanne.
- ITTF Development Program was highlighted and well recognized by the IOC, membership application of South Sudan was accepted positively. It was suggested to choose another day for World Table Tennis Day not clashing with IOC and UN day of sport.
- Nomination of the Chairman, Adham Sharara was discussed with the information that no new IOC member on IF quota would be elected before Rio Olympic Games.
- Application to IOC to add one more event to the table tennis Olympic program was discussed in line with Agenda 2020, the IOC President recommended to consider mixed doubles application instead of mixed team event.
- CEO was asked to look for a list of the possible events to which the IOC President could be invited.

#### 10.3 SportAccord & ASOIF meetings

- The SportAccord was held in Sochi, Russia just before the WTTC, the ITTF President and the ITTF CEO attended the first part (SportAccord Congress), while the ITTF Chairman, Adham Sharara, attended the ASOIF Congress and Olympic Funding distribution discussion on behalf of the ITTF.
- The President reported to the EC that the SportAccord President made harsh and critical statements in his opening speech at the General Assembly against IOC without consulting with the SA members and his Council. As an immediate consequence, 27 Summer Olympic IFs signed a statement letter in Sochi expressing disagreement on Mr. Vizer's opinion and ASOIF decided at its General Assembly to suspend its membership.
- EC would follow up the development of the case and make decisions on further actions if needed.
- The ASOIF General Assembly approved the Olympic revenue distribution starting after the Rio 2016 Games which means an approximate increase of 15% Olympic funds for ITTF as we moved from group D to group C based on the IOC evaluation after London. It was also agreed that the IFs grouping will not be reviewed before Tokyo 2020.

#### 10.4 Rio 2016 Jury Chairman

- The EC discussed the nomination of the Jury Chairman for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games after the 6 continental representatives were identified. The Executive Vice President in charge of Olympic Games recommended Mr. Chan Foong Keong, Honorary Secretary of the TTA Malaysia, ITTF Nominations Committee Chairman and Tournament Director of the 2000 and the 2016 WTTCs.



**7-EC-04-2015**

The Executive Committee resolved to propose to the Olympic & Paralympic Commission Mr. Chan Foong Keong as Chairman of the Jury of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

**10.5 Plastic balls**

- Not specifically at the Suzhou WTTC, but generally the Athletes Commission expressed its dissatisfaction about the quality of the plastic balls and asked the EC to put pressure on the manufacturers to improve the quality. Balls are expensive and break easily. The CEO was asked to pass the Athletes Commission's observations to the Equipment Committee.

**11. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11h35.

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Thomas Weikert  
President

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Date