



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee meeting held on Friday 28 September 2012 in the offices of the Fédération Française de Tennis de Table (FFTT), Paris, France at 09h00.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks: the President welcomed the Executive Committee together with the delegation from Morocco. The President noted the excellent infrastructure of the French Table Tennis Federation and the kind welcome extended by the President, Mr Christian Palierne.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Neil Harwood	Deputy President and Executive Vice-President (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

In attendance

Jean-Michel Saive	In place of the Athlete Commission Chair
Judit Faragó	CEO and Executive Director (Competitions)
Jordi Serra	Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games)
Alison Burchell	Deputy Executive Director (Operations)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director, TMS
Hajii Monqid	President, Royal Moroccan Table Tennis Federation
Ahmed Tadlaoui	Deputy Mayor of Rabat, Morocco
Khaled El Salhy	President, African Table Tennis Federation

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

- 14.3 Cherif Hajem's African award.
- 14.4 Women's World Cup players' meeting.
- 14.5 Rio 2016.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2012 in London 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: a list of tasks had been prepared and the Executive Committee asked the CEO, Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) and the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to add timelines to the tasks.

5. Competitions: the Executive Committee noted:

- 5.1 2012 World Championships report:
 - 2 comprehensive reports had been submitted by the ITTF and by the organising committee.
 - These reports had been sent to future organisers.
 - The website traffic statistics had been circulated after the reports had been produced.
- 5.2 2012 World Junior Championships update:
 - The last inspection would be done within the next week.
 - Entries would be confirmed by 1 October 2012.
 - 2 hotels would be used; 1 for the delegations within 10 minutes of the venue and the other for the ITTF officials.
- 5.3 2013 World Championships update:
 - A meeting had been held during the Olympic Games with the organisers.
 - The hospitality costs had been agreed and the ITTF would seek additional sponsorship to cover this.
 - The skeleton schedule had been discussed and would be published once finalised to enable ticket sales to start.
 - For the first 2 days, 2 competition venues would be used (Bercy and INSEP).
 - A tiered approach for VIP lounges would be implemented.
 - The space for the museum still had to be resolved.
- 5.4 2013 World Junior TT Championships and presentation from Morocco:
 - The presentation by the Royal Moroccan Table Tennis Federation (RMTTF), supported by the African Table Tennis Federation, about progress in organising the World Junior Championships.
 - The RMTTF had organised various large sports events and was further developing table tennis through hosting this world junior championships in Rabat.
 - There was a partnership with the municipality of Rabat which confirmed its support for the organisation of the World Junior Championships.
 - The event would be organised according to the requirements of the ITTF and the RMTTF invited the Executive Committee to attend the World Tour event to be hosted in 2013.
 - The RMTTF re-emphasised its commitment to hosting the World Junior Championships in 2013.
 - The ATTF would support the RMTTF and Rabat fully to organise this event.
 - The Government and Mayor had expressed their support for the organisation of the event and would include the World Junior Championships in the 2013 calendar of festivals.
 - The ATTF had been anxious to ensure that the event was hosted by Africa.
 - The World Tour event had continued to improve annually.
 - There were areas of improvement required in communication, promotion to attract local interest in the event and to recruit a larger team in the organising committee and volunteers.
 - There was clear political and financial support for Rabat hosting this event.
 - A new sponsor for the event was being sought to replace Volkswagen which was unlikely to continue supporting this event.
 - Without world-wide television coverage, securing a sponsorship was difficult.
 - As a result, the RMTTF had indicated it would accept 50% of the ITTF financial contribution should a sponsor not be found.
- 5.5 Bid for 2016 World Championships:
 - The deadline for bids was 30 September 2012.
 - Malaysia and Sweden had expressed an interest in submitting bids.

- 5.6 2014 WTTC update and playing system:
- The proposal to reduce the number of matches particularly in the top 2 divisions would allow a better schedule and prevent the event growing further.
 - Eliminating all position matches, including for 13 and 14, would assist with positions 3 and 4, 5 to 8, 9 to 12, 13 and 14 being shared.
 - The proposal to the Board of Directors should specify that if approved, the playing system would be implemented in 2014.
 - Following the site visit and advice received, the organisers proposed various changes:
 - Fewer courts in the 1st gymnasium.
 - No courts in the swimming pool.
 - Adding the Metropolitan Gymnasium to replace the National Olympic Memorial Youth Centre.
 - Replacing the Keio Plaza Hotel and other hotels by the Prince Hotel which would improve transport logistics as all participants would stay here.
 - All meals could be served in the Prince Hotel although lunch may need to be provided at the venue due to possible time constraints.
- 5.7 Cadet Challenge, Guam:
- A logo had been developed.
 - Good support from the Government should ensure no problems with visas.
 - The venue would be the same as used for the junior circuit event.
 - Equipment would be delivered on 10 October 2012 by JOOLA and Butterfly and the delivery of Stag equipment was in process.

1-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee, following the presentation from the RMTTF and ATTF and the recommendation of the Competition Department, resolved to confirm the allocation of the 2013 World Junior Championships to the Royal Moroccan Table Tennis Federation.

2-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee agreed to support the proposal from the JTTA to adjust the playing system for the 2014 World Team Championships to be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration.

6. Olympic Games assessment: the Executive Committee noted:

- 6.1 Experience of a PAC member:
- There were mobility issues associated with some PAC members.
 - As a result some misunderstandings had occurred although all actions had been made in good faith.
 - The ITTF was not equipped to support PAC members and could expose itself to additional risks.
 - Some issues like insurance and persons accompanying the PAC member could be investigated.
- 6.2 IOC survey and reports:
- On 17 October 2012, there would be a debriefing with ASOIF about the Olympic Games based on a report recently submitted by each IF to the IOC.
 - The second report was a sport assessment questionnaire for the IOC to select the sports for the Olympic programme for 2020.
 - The review of the Olympic programme would be completed at the IOC Session in September 2013.

- New events would be proposed in 2013 for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games.

3-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee asked the Deputy President, CEO and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to develop a policy for PAC members to attend ITTF events for the EC to consider at its next meeting.

- 7. Athletes' Commission report:** the Executive Committee noted:
- The excellent conditions for the players at the Olympic Games.
 - Where tables were free in the practice venue, players were not able to practise.
 - The schedule should be reviewed to ensure players did not play twice in a day or conversely, did not have a day when they did not play at all.
 - There were about 20 versions of schedule developed over time to ensure all needs were met including the change from 8 to 4 tables (Beijing to London) which resulted in an extra day's play, television requirements and increasing the number of sessions.
 - The placement of the LED score board in the corners of the court should be reviewed but the original plan was not to have the manual umpires' scoring system but to have the LED score boards outside the court but at a height which would not impede spectators' view of the court.
 - The lighting was at the standard required for television.
 - The representation of ITTF in the IOC Athletes' Commission election should be considered carefully in future.
 - The Para Table Tennis Players' Committee ranking system would be improved over time to encourage participation.
 - Racket control was a concern for PTT players as they purchased their equipment and some equipment did not meet ITTF standards.
 - The recommendation of the Athlete Commission that, for the ITTF ranking system, only 50% of the points lost in a match should be deducted (the winner gets 100%).
 - Thanks from the Museum to the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission for the donation of his world cup medal.

4-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee resolved that the Athletes' Commission be consulted in the preparation of the schedule for future Olympic Games.

5-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee resolved that matches lost would count 50% of the value of points gained by the winning player in the ranking system with effect from 1 January 2013.

- 8. TMS International update:** the Executive Committee noted:
- TSA would manage all television rights as of 1 January 2013.
 - Volkswagen was not likely to continue as a sponsor and had delayed payment in 2012.
 - A follow up had been done with potential sponsors for the Women's World Cup.
 - Tissot had been approached to sponsor the World Championships for 4 years.
 - Liebherr was considering a proposal to extend their sponsorship to 2015.
 - Stag would re-focus its support for the ITTF and relinquish the current sponsorship effective 31 December 2012.

- Double Happiness would be the official table supplier for the 2013 World Championships.
- Double Fish would supply equipment for the World Tour Grand Finals till 2016 inclusive.
- GAC had supported the World Tour for 2012 and will be approached to extend their sponsorship further.

9. 2013 AGM and BoD: the Executive Committee noted:

9.1 Committee chairpersons:

- A number of years ago, associations had been asked to nominate chairpersons for committees, this would be maintained.
- Mr Odd Gustavsen had indicated he would not continue as chair of the Equipment Committee after 2013 and had recommended a successor.
- A new model for the URC would be considered to allow good officials to be eligible as referees and umpires to certain events even if they served on the URC as committee members.
- All appointments should be considered in terms of succession planning and geographical and gender representation.
- The Nominations Committee would need to be reviewed for 2014.

9.2 Elections 2013 (EC and BoD):

- The Deputy President (Neil Harwood) indicated that he would not run for a position on the Executive Committee, but he would like to remain involved in some capacity for the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- There was interest from several parts of the world in being involved in the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

10. Finance: the Executive Committee noted:

10.1 Outstanding debts:

- The payment plan for the payment of US\$27 000 for Chile had been agreed but there would be elections in the national association on 29 September 2012 which could affect the agreement.
- A meeting had been held with Congo during the Olympic Games but no progress had been made on payment of approximately €13 700.
- Congo was currently suspended.

10.2 Finance policy for BoD, committees and working groups: was in progress and would be presented at the next meeting.

6-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee asked Mr Cherif Hajem to contact the Congo TT association to ensure that a payment plan was presented to the ITTF.

11. Racket control: the Executive Committed noted:

11.1 Racket Control Detection Group update:

- There were 2 options: to allow players to compete with rackets as they saw fit or to continue to devise tests to ensure fair play.
- The process of developing such tests was in progress and would be intensified through the new ITTF lab in Singapore.

11.2 Directives for referees – sanctions:

- The intent behind the directives for referees was that rackets be handed in by players 20 minutes before their match not 20 minutes before the beginning of the first team match.
- The URC had proposed clarity for the sanctions associated with racket testing.

- The first sentence should be separated for the first and second failures before the match.
- The sentence relating to any failure post-match should be moved down the list.

11.3 LARC update:

- A particular rubber had been approved by the Equipment Committee and included in the LARC but it had ridges on it.
- The rules required that the rubber be smooth but there was no definition of "smooth".
- Some proposals for how to resolve the issue had been submitted.
- Very few players used this rubber.
- The current LARC would expire on 31 December 2012.

11.4 Draft racket control mission statement:

- As a result of the proposal from the Athletes' Commission, a draft mission statement had been developed outlining health, fair play and transparency.

7-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee resolved that the directives for racket control for referees be amended to mirror the system used for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and to approve the clarification for sanctions for racket testing once modified as agreed.

8-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee resolved to adopt the draft mission statement on racket control in principle and to ask the Athletes' Commission for comment.

9-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee resolved to request the Equipment Committee to define smoothness and implement by the end of 2013.

12. Staff update: the Executive Committee noted:

- Approximately 150 applications had been received for the post of "Promotions Manager" and 8 applicants had been short-listed of whom 5 would be interviewed on 13 October 2012 in Singapore.
- The Equipment Manager had worked for LOCOG for 3 months and would move to Singapore in November 2012.
- A full-time Development Officer for Africa would take up a 1 year appointment from 1 January 2013.
- The internal financial policy had been distributed to all staff.
- 5 contracts would expire before the end of the year.
- The CEO would visit Vienna, Singapore and Lausanne in the next 3 weeks.
- A draft matrix for staff and the responsibilities allocated to Executive Committee members, committees and staff as distributed and feedback should be submitted to the CEO in October 2012.

10-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee asked all members to submit comments on the 2 matrices to the CEO by 15 October 2012.

13. Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted:

13.1 Next EC meeting: 13 December 2012 (Hyderabad).

13.2 Future EC and DCC meetings:

JC: 12 December 2012 (Hyderabad).

OPC: 14 December 2012 (Hyderabad).

DCC: 14 December 2012 (Hyderabad).

- 13.3 EC: during the Qatar Open from 20 to 24 February 2013 in Doha, Qatar by invitation from the Qatar TTA.

14. Any other business: the Executive Committee noted:

- 14.1 Nominations to WADA committees: WADA had requested nominations from IFs to serve on its committees specifically Athletes; Finance and Administration; Education; Health, Medical and Research Committees.
- 14.2 Image, branding and promotion:
- 2 companies had expressed an interest in assisting the ITTF with its image and branding plans.
 - Proposals from both had been requested and would be assessed before further action was taken.
- 14.3 Cherif Hajem's award: the Supreme Council of Sport in Africa would award Mr Chérif Hajem with its highest honour at its next meeting.
- 14.4 Women's World Cup Players' meeting:
- The meeting had been held as usual during the Women's World Cup.
 - There seemed to be information which did not reach the players.
- 14.5 Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games:
- Technical delegates should be appointed by the OPC at its meeting in December 2012 as well as the Rio representative at the OPC. This representative should be present in the OPC meeting to be held in May 2013.
 - A visit to Rio should be undertaken in the near future.

The Executive Committee congratulated Mr Hajem on his award.

11-EC-09-2012

The Executive Committee resolved to nominate Ashu Jain (USA) for the WADA Athletes' Committee, Mikael Andersson (Executive Director: Education) for the Education Committee, and asked the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to discuss with Claude Bergeret (FRA) if she was interested to be nominated for the Finance and Administration Committee.

- 15. Adjournment:** there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 17h30.

Adham Sharara
President

Date