

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Corinthia Hotel, Budapest, Hungary
20th April 2019

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1 President's opening remarks

The ITTF President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed everyone thanking them for their attendance. Mr Weikert reported that everything related to the WTTC seemed to be in place and updated the EC on the Press Conference and Official Draw Ceremony which happened earlier in the day.

On behalf of the EC, Mr Weikert expressed his deepest condolences to the ITTF Deputy President, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, and to the Qatar Table Tennis Association, for the death of the player of the Qatar National team, Mr Abd Al-Rahman Al-Najjar, in a car accident the previous week. Mr Al-Najjar was entered to compete in Budapest.

It was agreed that the ITTF should do the maximum to ensure the player was well remembered.

The Deputy President thanked everyone for the encouraging words and talked about how this tragic event affected the entire table tennis family in Qatar. He also mentioned that a commemoration event will be organized by QTTA in his memory.

1.2 Local organizers welcome

The LOC sent their apologies and wished the ITTF a successful meeting.

1.3 Roll call

Thomas Weikert	ITTF President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission Chair
In attendance	
Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Iulia Necula	Executive Assistant to the CEO
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Michael Brown	CFO – only for the Financial part
Leandro Olvech	ITTF Foundation Director – only for the Foundation part

1.4 Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda was adopted by the EC with the following additions:

- 7.2 AC membership update – Mrs Jasna Rather
- 7.3 BOD

- 7.4 Media Committee
- 7.5 SCI Agreement
- 7.6 ITT Foundation update

2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting (17th – 18th February 2019)

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved with some minor precisions.

20190420-EC-01

The Executive Committee adopted the previous EC Meeting.

2.2 Business arising from the Minutes

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, informed that no other business arose from the Minutes other than the ones included in the Agenda.

3. CEO Update

3.1 Home of Table Tennis

The ITTF CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, updated the EC on the ongoing bidding process related to the Home of Table Tennis. Mr Dainton reported that following the release of the initial tender document, there was a much higher expression of interest than expected. Mr Dainton stated that due to the complexity of such a project, it is recommended to adopt a more professional approach and asked the EC to approve hiring an external company with expertise in conceptual and construction planning and calculation of potential return of investment.

Mr Dainton also suggested receiving legal counsel to ensure an open, clear and transparent process.

Mr Calin, reported that meetings were already held with the best two design studios in Singapore, explaining the particularities of the project, and informing them of the necessity to stablish guidelines that may adapt to different cities in different continents.

An executive summary of the two offers and proposals will be sent to the EC members for consideration.

3.2 World Table Tennis

The CEO reminded about the information documents that were sent by the ITTF Marketing Director, Mr Matt Pound.

The EVP, Mrs Petra Sörling, congratulated the team for work done and for presenting the information document in a very comprehensive way.

Mr Dainton reported that for transparency reasons, and for a better understanding of the future structure, a 2021 Commercial Rights informative session will take place on 21st April, following the Financial Workshop, open to all delegates.

Mr Dainton also stated that Withers KhattarWong LLP representative, Mr Anthony Indaimo, will be present in Budapest available for meetings and discussions for further clarifications.

3.3 2020 Unified Korea

The CEO noted that, despite the fact that conversations between the two Koreas have not progressed further, there is still the hope that a Unified Korean team will take part at the

2020 WTTC in Busan. Mr Dainton also mentioned that discussions regarding the future steps will be held with the two involved Association during the days in Budapest.

The Secretary General updated the EC on the discussions between the IOC, the ITTF and two National Olympic Committees of KOR and PRK in relation to the possible participation of a Unified Korea team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The ITTF President reported that following the discussions with the IOC President, Mr Thomas Bach, the IOC is supportive to an Unified Korea representation at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, but only within the frame of the existing regulations, particularly in terms of quotas.

4. Athlete's Commission

4.1 Players' meeting in Doha

The ITTF President updated the EC on the Players' meeting held on 29th March in Doha, during the Qatar Open. Mr Weikert informed that the outcome of the meeting was positive and promised the players that the issues raised will be treated and managed accordingly.

The AC Chair, Mr Zoran Primorac, thanked the ITTF Deputy President and QTTA for the excellent hospitality, and the ITTF President and Staff for preparing and managing the meeting very seriously and professionally.

Mr Primorac informed the EC that the players attendance was high and that the meeting was successful with many open discussions.

He reported some of the topics that the athletes discussed during the meeting and based on some of the players wishes their seemed to be some final ideas:

- Increasing the size of the Main Draw of the Platinum World Tour
- Prize money re-distribution
- Warm-up schedule during the entire event
- Players' Lounge – availability of warm meals (i.e. pasta/rice)
- Increase the quality of the meals and add vegetarian options
- Hospitality packages prices to be adjusted
- Tournament Directives implementations – ensure a more stringent control
- Quality of the Balls to be improved
- WTGF and WT host quota for Mixed Doubles to be removed

Mr Primorac insisted that immediate actions on these can be accomplished without major structural changes. He suggested that further discussions should be held during the following week in order to finalise a concrete action plan to be approved at the second EC meeting on 28th April.

5. Operations Program

5.1 AGM

The AGM procedures were discussed among the EC members.

The EC decided to propose to the 2019 AGM Mr Thomas Weikert as Chair.

20190420-EC-02

The Executive Committee decided to propose to the 2019 AGM Mr Thomas Weikert as Chair.

The Secretary General went through the general points of the Agenda and the technicalities, voting procedures and presentation guidelines. Mr Calin explained the duties of the ITTF Staff and EC members during the AGM. He also reported that for the first time the AGM will be live streamed openly in Internet.

Mr Weikert informed the EC about the request received from the MLT TTA delegate, Mr Mario Genovese, to discuss the new expanded WTTC system and Mr Sharara's case. It was agreed that a meeting would be accepted for that purpose.

5.1.1 Exceptions requested from NA's for delegates to represent them

The Secretary General informed the EC about the letters received from Angola and Jersey requesting, to be represented at the AGM by delegates that don't meet the eligibility criteria stated under the ITTF Constitution.

The EC acknowledged the requests and considers that none of the two cases can be labelled as special circumstances. The EC decided not to accept the special requests of Angola and Jersey, as the representative delegates don't meet the eligibility criteria stated under the ITTF Constitution.

However, it was also stated that both persons could attend as observers, or watch the AGM through the streaming.

20190420-EC-03

[The Executive Committee decided not to accept the special requests of Angola and Jersey, as the representative delegates don't meet the eligibility criteria stated under the ITTF Constitution.](#)

5.2 OPC / DCC

The Secretary General updated the EC on the OPC and DCC meetings scheduled on 23rd April.

5.3 BoD

The Secretary General updated the EC on the preparations for the BoD.

It was recommended to withdraw the Proposition 18 and defer it to 2020 as it is an important decision with a broader impact that will require a deeper consideration.

The Secretary General informed that the confirmation procedure of the independent members of the Finance and Accounting committee will take place during the BoD.

5.4 Finances

The EVP, Mrs Petra Sörling, updated the EC on the Finances and informed that a Financial Forum will be held on 21st April at 10 am.

She also mentioned that given the amount of work and with the CFO, being the only staff in charge of this process, it was strongly recommended by the auditors to minimize the risks and to hire more staff to work on Finances.

The CEO stated that he felt very proud as in 2018 the ITTF registered for the first time ever a Financial result of over 20 million USD, which shows that the ITTF is growing and improving in terms of management and efficiency.

Mrs Sörling congratulated everyone for the very positive results, especially for being able to increase the income, considering the significant grow in the number of hired staff.

5.4.1 Report from Auditors

Mrs Sörling, informed that the Auditors Report was positive, but that there is still room to improve the process and procedures, particularly in the area of control mechanisms.

5.5 Policy framework

The CFO and HR, Mr Michael Brown, presented a draft proposal of the new Policy framework in relations to the Conflict of Interest and the duty to avoid Conflict of Interest. He presented examples and explained situations where the Conflict of Interest can be perceived or can be evident, and also made references on the different types of potential or actual COI.

Mr Brown also highlighted that such a measure will help avoid serious issues moving forward therefore it is important to have a written confirmation from the relevant stakeholders in a case or situation of potential/evident Conflict of Interest.

After several discussions, it was recommended to rephrase some parts of the document and include a warning mechanism in case of any potential Conflict of Interest situation.

It was agreed that a decision regarding the approval of such policy to be taken during the following EC meeting.

5.6 Future of Para Table Tennis

Mrs Sörling, updated the EC on the meeting held in Singapore on 6th - 8th April 2019, where she met the Head of Para Table Tennis, Mr Pablo Perez, and other ITTF Senior Staff. There were very positive discussions regarding the future of Para Table Tennis.

Mrs Sörling highlighted that given the scale and the complexity of Para Table Tennis, it is very important to start working on the development of a specific strategic plan for Para Table Tennis.

20190420-EC-04

[The Executive Committee decided to develop a Para Table Tennis Strategic Plan.](#)

6. Competition Program

6.1 World Championships Update

The CEO updated the EC on the WTTC preparations, indicating that the general feeling is very positive. Mr Dainton expressed his confidence on the high quality of the event, based on the good playing conditions and professional sport presentation. Mr Dainton mentioned that the communication with the local organizers is working very well and any issue arising should be communicated for its immediate solution.

Mr Al-Mohannadi suggested a few improvements in terms of aesthetics of the VIP area and food menu options (halal and vegetarian).

The EVP, Mr Maehara Masahiro informed about few delays caused by the airport pick-up service in the first arrival day of the arrival and requested a special attention on the matter.

6.1.1 2021 and 2022 Bids

The CEO updated the EC on the 2021 and 2022 Bids and, whilst there were clearly stronger bids than others, believed all had passed the minimum requirement to go to the AGM for vote.

The AC Chair requested to take into consideration the proposal to include an AC representative in the future site inspections.

The CEO referred to the positive outcome of the adoption of a new WTTC system. Mr Dainton noted that for 2021, regardless who the winner will be, it is a very positive result for ITTF to be able to host a WTTC in a new potential market outside Asia or Europe for the first time since 1939. He also said that in the case of 2022, for the first time in many years or maybe ever there are three bids.

6.2 2021 and 2022 World Junior Championships Bids

The CEO updated the EC on the WJTTC situation and informed that after a second call, only one bid was received for 2021 from Tunisian Table Tennis Association. Tunisia will present their candidature at the BoD on 24th April. Mr Dainton noted that, unfortunately, no bids were received for the 2022 WJTTC.

6.3 World Veterans Championships Bids

The CEO updated the EC on the 2022 WVC bids, and informed that Busan (Korea Republic) withdrew from the process, leaving Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Muscat (Oman) the only remaining candidates in the process.

The Secretary General referenced the public communications of the IOC about the situation of the Olympic Movement in Malaysia.

The EVP, Mr James Morris, stated that the SCI committee, with the attendance of Mr Jordi Serra, will receive the presentations and will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors on the host city.

7. Any other business

7.1 Honorary President

The President updated the EC on the ongoing case of suspension of Mr Adham Sharara, and reminded the chronological order of the facts leading up to the current situation.

The President informed that on 18th April CAS denied Mr Sharara's request to stay the suspension until after the WTTC, therefore the suspension is still effective.

Given the importance of the WTTC, the EC decided to prioritise the ongoing event and agreed to defer the further discussion regarding the next steps in the case of Mr Sharara, including the possibility of a "without prejudice" meeting between the two parties, until after the WTTC.

7.2 AC Membership update - Mrs Jasna Rather

The AC Chair informed the EC that Mrs Jasna Rather (USA) accepted a new position as a North America HPD Manager and therefore she has resigned from her position in the AC.

On behalf of the Athletes Commission, Mr Primorac proposed to appoint Mr Alberto Mino (ECU) as replacement of Mrs Rather.

20190420-EC-05

The Executive Committee decided to approve the proposal of the AC to appoint Mr Alberto Mino (ECU) as the new member of the Athletes Commission.

7.3 BoD

Mr Al-Mohannadi, highlighted that, during the WTTC, there is an excessive number of meetings held among the different governing bodies of the ITTF. Mr Al-Mohannadi suggested that the ITTF should take serious consideration of the number of large meetings during the event and whether the existence of the Board of Directors is necessary taking into consideration the modern standards of Governance.

7.4 Media Committee

The Deputy President requested to review the relevance and composition of the Media Committee, in view of the increase of Media staff in previous years and asked to make an analysis of the contribution of this Committee. Given the cost he believed the ITTF should instead cover the costs of some major international media outlets to attend and cover the event.

7.5 WVC Agreement

The President updated the EC on the Agreement between the ITTF and the SCI regarding the transfer of governance on the organization of the WVC, starting with the event to be held in 2022.

Mr Weikert informed that Mr Jordi Serra has been working on the agreement with SCI based on the original documents prepared by Mr Raul Calin at the initial discussions in 2016 and that the formal agreement shall be ready for signature at the BOD meeting to be held on 24th April.

20190420-EC-06

The Executive Committee approved the proposed Agreement between the ITTF and the SCI and this will be put forward to the BoD for signature.

7.6 ITTF Foundation update

The ITTF Foundation Director, Mr Leandro Olvech, updated the EC on the ITTF Foundation programs and projects' timelines.

Mr Olvech informed that there will be a specific ITTF Foundation Informative Session on 23rd April and also a Foundation's Governing Board & Board of Trustees meeting will be held during the days in Budapest.

Mr Olvech updated the EC on the Finances of the Foundation. The ITTF CEO highlighted that the current ITTF Foundation Budget is integrated in the ITTF Finances and he recommended that in the future, the finances and audit report should be done independently, separated from the general ITTF Finances. He also suggested that the Foundation should focus on how to generate their own income and be self-sustainable.

In terms of Staff, Mr Olvech reported that Mr Rowan Fajerman was hired as ITTF Foundation Field Programs Coordinator.

8. Next EC meeting

It will be held at 9:00 on 28th April 2019 in Budapest, Hungary.

9. Adjournment

Without further subjects, the meeting was adjourned on 20th April at 17:45.

Thomas Weikert
ITTF President

Date

Raul Calin
ITTF Secretary General

Date