

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chamber of Peony, Sichuan Jinjiang Hotel, Chengdu, China
20th -21st October 2019

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1 President's opening remarks

The ITTF President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed the EC members and thanked the Chinese Table tennis Association (CTTA) for the hospitality. Mr. Weikert informed about the slight changes on the agenda structure in order to ensure all EC members are present for the most important parts.

1.2 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
Ryu Seungmin	IOC Member
In attendance	
Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Michael Brown	CFO
Matt Pound	Marketing Director - Only for the WTT & Marketing part
Vicky Eleftheriade	Competition Director
Iulia Necula	Executive Assistant to the CEO
Anthony Indaimo	Withers - Only for the WTT part

2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meetings (20th & 28th April 2019)

The minutes of the previous two meetings were adopted and signed.

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. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with the following additions:

- 15.1 Report from Mrs Sörling on her visit to North Cyprus
- 15.2 Eligibility interpretation
- 15.3 Request of clarification on a BoD proposition from CTTA

4. CEO update

4.1 World Table Tennis

4.1.1 Update, Vision and Future

The ITTF CEO thanked the staff colleagues for making a very detailed presentation of the tender process the evening prior to the EC meeting, and gave a short update. The financial projections of the potential Strategic Partners shortlisted were presented, as well as the outcome of the recommended Partnership and Business model which achieves the best result for Table Tennis/ITTF.

The key highlights of the new model expected to be seen from 2021 are:

- At least double prize money for the athletes
- New Marquee events
- A Women's Tour developed
- Significant enhancement in events production
- A closer cooperation with the key stakeholders of our most important markets

Mr Dainton also highlighted that the ITTF has to be proud of the very professional, open and transparent process taken for the future structure of its overall commercial business.

The Marketing Director, Mr Matt Pound, gave a summary of the work done to date to get into this position; work which began over 12 months ago. Mr Pound explained that the ITTF has worked hand in hand with two industry professionals, Deloitte and Withers Worldwide, to assist with the business and legal aspects of the entire tender process.

Mr Pound reminded that the first stage of the process received 50 expressions of interest from a vast array of big global companies. The ITTF Selection panel (consisting of the ITTF President, Mr Thomas Weikert, the ITTF Deputy President, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, the EVP, Mrs Petra Sörling, the ITTF CEO, Mr Steve Dainton and the Marketing Director, Mr Matt Pound) shortlisted five companies, which the ITTF Tender Selection Panel met with twice, and which resulted in four potential partners remaining.

Mr Pound explained that this process required a huge amount of work for everyone involved, and that the Selection Panel is very satisfied with the way the process was conducted, and believe the best possible deal is now on the table to move the sport forward.

4.1.2 Master License Agreement

Mr Anthony Indaimo, Legal representative of Withers Worldwide, praised the approach taken by the ITTF, defining it as professional, rigorous, transparent, fair and impartial.

Mr Indaimo reminded the decisions taken during the previous EC meetings in regard to World Table Tennis (WTT) and explained again the terms and conditions of the Master Licence Agreement and the protections for ITTF that are in place through the agreement.

Mr Indaimo then invited the EC members to raise as many questions as wanted in regard to the legal, technical and/or business aspect of WTT.

Mr Weikert asked in regard to the proposed structure of WTT, its relations with the ITTF and potential partners/investors, and whether it is in compliance with the ITTF regulations.

Mr Indaimo gave a very detail report on the roadmap and proposed structure and composition of WTT, and how it perfectly fits with the ITTF objectives and regulations, in particular, the ITTF Constitution.

Following the compliance description and assurances, Mr Indaimo made a detailed presentation to the EC members of the offer coming from one of the shortlisted companies detailing and clearly illustrating the business structure suggested by the recommended partner.

From the presentation, it was evident the strength WTT would have in terms of positioning in the main ITTF market and the ability to access significant investment, what would ultimately facilitate for WTT to reach the goals set out at the start of the tender process.

Following detailed discussions, the EC fully understood the risks and benefits linked to the offer and agreed, noting the recommendations of Withers Worldwide, that this was the best way to move forward.

Mr Indaimo highlighted the fact that the other shortlisted companies have interest to collaborate with the preferred partner and WTT to help in growing the sport commercially.

Mr Weikert emphasised the necessity to ensure the ITTF has control on the whole structure. In turn, Mr Indaimo confirmed, based on the very detailed references and proposed model, that this was the case.

With the valuable input from the Executive Committee Members, key ITTF staff and the legal expertise of Withers Worldwide noted and incorporated, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to move forward and finalise the Master License Agreement and the proposed structure of World Table Tennis.

The EC resolved also to authorise the members of the Selection Panel to continue the negotiations with the preferred partner based on the presentation from Mr Indaimo, in order to finalise the terms and conditions for the potential collaboration with the ITTF through WTT.

20191021-EC-01

The Executive Committee unanimously decided to finalize the Master License Agreement and the structure of World Table Tennis as per the final agreement, and to continue the negotiations with the preferred company, based on the presentation made.

4.1.3 EC Board representation

The EC decided to defer to a later stage the decision regarding the EC representation on the Board of World Table Tennis.

4.2 Home of Table Tennis

The CEO reported that, as instructed by the EC in the last meeting, the ITTF secured the services of a creative agency to assist in the elaboration of the tender document for the Home of Table Tennis call.

The EC noted that Hassell, a concept studio based in Singapore, was the chosen agency. On the process, the ITTF will be also assisted by Deloitte and Withers, to ensure the selection of the Home of Table Tennis is as professional, fair and as transparent as possible.

In the interaction with the three companies, the ITTF realised that the process will take longer than initially expected in order to secure that the future Home of Table Tennis has all necessary facilities, services and capacity to serve our sport in this important period of growth.

The CFO, Mr Michael Brown, informed that Deloitte will assist in providing the methodology to calculate the potential Return of Investment for the interested cities. The EC noted that, among

the elements that will be considered in the selection criteria, will be the taxation offered for the ITTF and for their employees in its different activities.

The EC was presented with the first draft of the teaser that will accompany the detailed tendering guide.

Mr Brown stated that with the current forecast, the tender process would be opening in the next 30-60 days, thereby providing a three months window to the candidate cities to show interest from the date of the launch. Therefore, the AGM in Busan seems to be too early to take a decision in regard to an eventual relocation of the ITTF Headquarters.

Options being considered were either calling for an Extraordinary General Assembly for such a decision or advancing the 2021 AGM to the month of March 2020.

Mr Dainton expressed his concern about June 2021 being very far in time, and that could dilute the interest of potential interested cities.

Mr Ryu Seungmin, IOC Member, praised the initiative of the Home of Table Tennis project and suggested that, being such a big scale project, it would be good to establish a working group with key EC members being part of the process.

Mr Dainton concluded that the HoTT final documents should be presented to the EC in the December meeting and then select the working group for that project.

4.3 Strategic Plan update

The EVP, Mr James Morris, suggested to conduct an internal survey among the stakeholders to seek their opinion in regard to the strategic direction and development of the Strategic Plan, as the ITTF indicated from the beginning it would be a living document.

The EC decided to make a survey to the different stake holders to identify which areas are needing attention. At the same time, the Operational Plan should be updated.

5. **Athletes' Commission**

5.1 Athletes' Commission update

The AC Chair, Mr Zoran Primorac, informed about the complaints received from the players in regard to the adjustments that were introduced in the 2019 World Ranking regulations, specifically the modifications in the validity and point breakdown of the Continental Events.

Arguments and decision as per point 7.10 World Ranking

Mr Primorac emphasized that, given the complexity of the issues, it was necessary to include a 2nd athletes' representative in the WR working group.

The EC decided that the AC should have 2 representatives in the WR working group.

Mr Primorac also noted that the AC election process should be reconsidered in the future, taken into consideration that the new WTTTC system consists of different stages.

20191021-EC-02

The Executive Committee decided that there should be 2 (two) representatives of the Athletes Commission in the World Ranking Working Group.

6. Operations

6.1 Staff Update

Mr Dainton informed the EC of the changes in the staff structure. Mr Brown reported on the hiring in the area of High Performance and Development in the different regions and continents under the renewed continental agreements.

Mr Brown indicated that the Singapore offices space is now fully occupied, with 23 staff there. Eventually more space will be needed as the ITTF continues expanding. A small office for equipment has been established in Cologne, with one of the ITTF Lausanne staff moving to Cologne later this year in order to have a more centralised work in this area, being that Equipment is one of the main streams of revenue for the ITTF.

6.2 Information & Technology IT

The CFO updated the EC on the hire of a new Head of IT, effective 10th October 2019.

This was a necessary step due to the growth of the ITTF in the last two years. Important progress has been made in the area of results management, but the overall IT of the ITTF required this step to secure progress is made in areas like an online merchandise store, online ticketing platform for the ITTF properties, online education integration, etc.

Mr Morris asked about the World Veterans in Bordeaux, to ensure we have a competition related IT person attending and ensuring all the necessary knowledge is acquired in order to run properly the 2022 World Veterans in Oman.

Mrs Sörling suggested that having now 73 staff, it is time to ensure Mr Brown gets support in the HR area, so a new HR person can update the staff in their responsibilities and reporting process.

6.3 Finances

The EVP, Mrs Petra Sörling, praised the work done by the CFO providing the EC members with an update of the finances from the three first quarters of the year ahead of the EC meeting. Mrs Sörling suggested providing a budget forecast for 2020 at the December EC meeting.

The CFO gave an overview including the forecasted budget for the last three months of the year. Also, a comparison forecast vs budget was presented.

It was noted that, due to the large investment the ITTF has been making in future projects and assets, it would be difficult to achieve a surplus in 2019.

The EC noted that the next Risk Assessment exercise will be held on 19-20 November in Singapore.

6.3.1 Associations debts with tournament organizers

The Secretary General reported that some ITTF Member associations are not paying the invoices related to their participation in Para Table Tennis tournaments. With the integration of Para Table Tennis in the ITTF, the same treatment has to be secured as for other properties, and the Secretary General requested the EC to confirm that the entries for the associations with pending debts can be blocked, as it currently happens in the World Tour and in the World Junior Circuit.

20191021-EC-03

The Executive Committee confirmed that those associations with pending payments to tournament organisers in Para Table Tennis events will not be able to enter players in upcoming tournaments, as currently happens in the World Tour and in the World Junior Circuit, until these payments are fulfilled.

6.4 Governance review

6.4.1 Future of the ITTF President position

The Deputy President, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, indicated that, nowadays, International Federations require full time Presidents. His suggestion would be to ensure the future ITTF President elected in 2021 has a salary and an exclusive dedication to the ITTF.

The Secretary General suggested that the Remuneration Panel should be established, as per the Auditors recommendation in 2018 and 2019, and ideally such Remuneration Panel would propose at the 2020 AGM in Busan the salary for the ITTF President for the period 2021-2025.

6.4.2 Future of the Board of Directors

The Secretary General suggested that with the expected growth of the ITTF due to the establishment of WTT, it is clear that any potential commercial partner will be much more comfortable in establishing relations with the ITTF being aware that it has a solid governance system.

Mr Calin reported on the progress of the work made by the Governance Working group. Together with the expert from Withers Worldwide, Mrs Annabel Pennefather, and in consultation with Mr James Carr, Head of Administration and Projects from ASOIF, a study was made on the current existing governing bodies of the ITTF, comparing them with those of other International Federations.

Looking at the evolution of the ITTF Constitution since 1990, it is felt that removing the Continental Presidents from the Executive Committee (Executive Council at that time), created a disconnection of the continental governance from the ITTF governance.

At the same time, having three governing bodies (AGM, BoD and EC) does not seem to be an efficient system of management, not having clear the duties of each body.

Mr Calin, based on the strong recommendation of the Deputy President, suggested the reform of the ITTF Governance to include two organs of government, General Assembly and a Governing Board, aligning the ITTF with most of the modern and more efficient International Federations.

Consultation with stakeholders will be made, also in terms of electoral processes.

The EC members were encouraged to propose to the AGM an exemplar governance system, thinking of the future of the ITTF and not in the benefit for particular individuals in the system, hoping the AGM will embrace the Good Governance principles which society is demanding to all IFs.

6.4.3 Future of Committees and ToR

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked the EC members about the necessity of existence of certain committees, in view of the professionalization of the operations in the ITTF.

The EC will consult with the different Committee Chairs and, in line with the Governance review, eventually come up with a proposal to discontinue the committees whose functions have been absorbed by staff, or which are less efficient in today's world of professionalisation.

The CFO informed that the new ToR of the Finance and Audit Committee are being finalised.

6.4.4 Membership

The Secretary General informed the EC members of the request from Falkland Islands to become ITTF member. Being currently a territory of the United Kingdom, which does not belong to any of the existing ITTF members, in principle the process for membership can start.

On that point, Mrs Sörling asked what measures are in place to ensure that the current members are active. The CEO, backed by the Secretary General indicated that the membership, through the Governance review, should be based on clear criteria.

6.4.5 Update policies

The CFO gave a progress report on different policies being adopted.

Mrs Sörling indicated that in general, all policies should be approved yearly by the EC. The latest policies will be circulated to the EC members via email for their approval.

6.5 Merit Award

The Secretary General informed the EC members that the Nominations Committee has come up with a new system of selection for candidates to receive the Merit Award, which is, not only in line with the modern Good Governance principles, but also much fairer and more adequate for an ITTF Award, that should be bestowed to those contributing to the sport of Table Tennis globally. It will be circulated via email to the EC members, and it is suggested to be ratified at the next EC meeting

6.6 Anti-Doping program

The EC noted the report from the Secretary General on the recommendation of the former anti-doping manager, Mrs Françoise Dagouret, endorsed by the ITA, which is currently handling the ITTF anti-doping program, to not organize the doping controls through the national associations, but doing it directly, in order to ensure more independency.

6.7 Sport Science & Medical Committee update

The EC noted the report of Mr Maehara on the sixth Sport Science Conference in Japan, as a result of the cooperation of the SSMC of the ITTF and the JTTA. The EC congratulated Mr Maehara and the JTTA for the initiative during the last 6 years.

6.8 Para Table Tennis Classification update

The EC noted the update on the progress being made on the Para Table Tennis classification system, in order to align it with the IPC requirements.

6.9 Umpires and referees Committee update

The Secretary General indicated that with Mr Burton having finalised his duty as the EC member in charge of the URC, the EC has still to appoint an EC member for overseeing the activities of that Committee.

Several situations arose recently in events in which evaluators were present, and there is a general perception that the evaluations are negative for the competitions in which they are held.

The umpiring and refereeing needs professionalization, and the hiring of a Match Officials Manager becomes urgent.

6.10 Equipment update

The CEO updated on the progress of several areas that the Equipment Committee has recently been working on. The EVP, Dr Alaa Meshref reported on a situation with a particular

manufacturer and the EC agreed to request the Equipment Committee to submit a written report in that matter.

6.11 Ethics Commission

6.11.1 Harassment case

The Secretary General informed the EC on the ongoing cases of harassment which have to be dealt with.

6.12 CAS Appeal

The ITTF President, Mr Thomas Weikert, updated the EC on the CAS appeal related to the suspended ITTF Honorary President, Mr Adham Sharara. Mr Weikert informed that CAS proposed a hearing between 13th and 15th of January 2020.

Dr Alaa Meshref raised the question if the ITTF should consider, as several times mentioned by Mr Weikert in Budapest, to try and have an amicable meeting prior to any CAS hearing.

20191021-EC-04

The Executive Committee decided to request the ITTF lawyer if a pre-meeting with Mr Sharara would be useful and to provide details on the commitments required to finalise the case.

6.13 Sale of the property in Renens

The ITTF Executive committee decided to appoint CBRE to initiate the seek for potential buyers for the property in Renens / Lausanne and to set a minimum price of sell.

20191021-EC-05

The Executive Committee appointed CBRE as the Real State Agent in charge of the sale of the property in Renens/Lausanne and confirmed a minimum price for the sale of the property.

7. Competitions

7.1 Future Events Working Group

The Competition Director, Mrs Vicky Eleftheriade, informed that following the decision taken by the BoD in Budapest, a FEWG meeting took place on 30 and 31 August in Singapore, with representatives from each Continent, Mr Zoran Primorac, as the Athletes Representative, and several ITTF staff.

Mrs Eleftheriade highlighted that the meeting, chaired by the CEO, was well accepted by all participants and had a positive outcome. Certain principles were put in place as the base for the final one on one meeting with each Continent. Mrs Eleftheriade noted that Mr Gabor Felegyi, WTTC Project Manager, and Mr Mounir Bessah, Member Relations Director, will lead meetings with each Continental Association in November to finalize the details for the Regional and Continental stages of the WTTC.

Mrs Eleftheriade also mentioned that the target is to have the qualification pathways and event manuals' drafts ready in the next months; and to organize a final FEWG meeting in early 2020 to fine tune any pending details prior to the Busan 2020 WTTC, when everything should be finalized.

7.2 2020, 2021 and 2022 World Championships update

7.2.1 WTTC 2020 in Busan, Korea Republic

The Competition Director reported that an onsite inspection took place in July 2019 and a follow up meeting between ITTF Staff and the LOC, initiated by the Korean Table Tennis Association, took place in Singapore on 10-11 October.

Ms Eleftheriade stated that the LOC seemed to be now accelerating in operations and working with the ITTF staff on details.

The LOC will move to Busan in December 2019 or January 2020, and the ITTF will also have staff attending meetings and further inspections as needed.

7.2.2 WTTC 2021 in Houston, USA

The Competition Director reported that an inspection took place in Houston at the end of September and that the LOC is progressing with the preparations for the event. The inspection was attended by ITTF Staff, USA TT and the LOC.

Mrs Eleftheriade specified that the competition will take place in a convention center for the first 7 days, with one show court in a kind of "theatre" setup, and the remaining tables in a general area. The final 3 days of the competition will take place in the Toyota Center Arena, a state-of-the-art Basketball venue with several facilities and endless corporate hospitality facilities.

A question was raised on whether it will be fine for players to play in two different venues, and it was clarified that the ITTF is working in ensuring there will be time for practice in the Toyota Center Arena.

Mrs Eleftheriade mentioned that the venues and hotels are all located in the same area, and all within walking distance, which is great from operations point of view, but also for a better overall event experience. Mrs Eleftheriade assured the EC that the LOC is very well prepared and seem to be having an important network with several stakeholders in the city.

7.2.3 WTTC 2022 in Chengdu, China

The Competition Director reported that an initial meeting took place on 18 October 2019 in Chengdu. It was a preliminary meeting to discuss the next timelines leading up to 2022.

7.3 2023 WTTC expressions of interest received

Mrs Vicky Eleftheriade informed that the first phase of the bidding process is concluded and the ITTF has received expressions of interest from 4 Continents: Africa (South Africa), Asia (Kuwait), Europe (Germany) and Oceania (Australia).

Mrs Eleftheriade stated that the new event manuals and other documents were distributed to the associations that have sent the expressions of interest, and the deadline for submitting their bids is 30 November 2019.

Following that deadline, inspections will take place as needed, following by presentations at the AGM for the allocation of the host.

7.4 World Tour and Challenge series updates

The Competition Director said that the last months were smooth in the daily operations of World Tour and Challenge events. As committed in earlier EC meetings, the ITTF staff have increased significantly the pre-event communications and follow up.

Mrs Eleftheriade reported that two Challenge events were cancelled, Mexico and Morocco, due to the LOCs not being able to go ahead with the hosting of the events.

In regard to the preparations for 2020, it will be more or less the same as 2019, with Italy being the only new National Association hosting a Challenge event. The ITTF Staff are working on minor improvements in the Event Directives, adjusting some issues and unclarities identified this year.

Mrs Eleftheriade informed that the ITTF Staff receives regularly requests from players, to allow them to enter ITTF events individually and not through their National Associations. The Athletes Commission Chair was in copy in most of the letters and confirmed that this is a common desire of many athletes.

Discussions took place and it was decided that the Executive Committee and the Athletes Commission can put forward a proposition to allow players to enter themselves, in case there are issues with the National Associations.

7.5 World Cups update

The Women's World Cup was taking place at the time of this meeting and everything was running smoothly. The 2020 edition will take place in Thailand and discussions on the contract are already ongoing.

The Men's World Cup will take place at the end of November in Chengdu, with the same conditions as the Women's World Cup. Based on the experience of the Women's World Cup, small adjustments will be made for the Men's World Cup to improve small details.

The 2020 edition will take place in Germany, and discussions on the contract are already ongoing.

The Team World Cup will be taking place in November 2020 in Tokyo and will also serve as the test event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Some confirmations on details are still pending but the communication is ongoing between ITTF and LOC staff.

7.6 Junior Program update

The Competition Director informed that the 2019 events are coming to an end and so far, everything is running properly.

The World Cadet Challenge in Poland was about to start few days after the meeting and the preparations for the 2019 WJTTC, in Thailand are also on track.

The 2020 calendar was already finalized and published months before. There is a record number of events in the Junior Circuit calendar, with a total of 33 events.

7.7 Para Table Tennis Competitions updates

The Competition Director informed that 2019 events are coming to an end and so far, the tournaments are running smoothly.

The 2020 calendar is already published, and the few pending inspections are being organized.

The EVP, Mrs Petra Sörling, gave an update from the European Para Championships held in Helsingborg, and how positive the feedback was on some of new applications like the OVR use, streaming etc. Mrs Sörling further reported that the Para Committee meeting in Helsingborg was very positive.

7.8 World Veteran Championships update

The EVP, Mr James Morris, reported that ITTF Staff will be attending on 11th and 12th November 2019 an inspection for the 2022 World Veteran Championships to be held in Oman in 2022. Mr Morris requested the ITTF to consider having a minimum of four (4) staff attending the Bordeaux

2020 World Veteran Championships in Bordeaux. This will allow the ITTF to gain experience before taking over the organization of this event from 2022 onwards.

20191021-EC-06

The Executive Committee decided that a minimum of four (4) staff will be attending the Bordeaux 2020 World Veterans to gain experience ahead of the organization of the 2022 World Veteran Championships in Oman.

7.9 World Veteran Tour

Mr James Morris reported that the World Veterans Tour 2019 is coming to its conclusion and it was overall a learning experience but all in all very positive.

Mr Eleftheriade informed that for 2020 the expectation is to have around 10 events for the World Veterans Tour.

It was further noted that the World Veterans Ranking is already published.

7.10 World Ranking

The Competition Director noted that a new WR Manager was hired, currently being part time, and he was attending the World Tour German Open for meetings to collect feedback from players and coaches.

A discussion took place on the continental events points' discrepancy. In summary, one of the amendments in the 2019 World Ranking Regulations was to update the validity of the Continental Championships points from edition to edition, instead of 12 months. The decision from the WR Group was to just change the validity but keep the points as earned in 2018. This has caused several complaints, official letters and enquiries from National Associations and athletes.

The ITTF Athletes Commission Chair confirmed that the majority of players would prefer a compromising solution of the points earned in 2018 Continental Championships to be adjusted to the 2019 points table. The ITTF Executive Committee has agreed to make this adjustment, only in the points earned in the 2018 Continental Championships. Respecting the arguments that at the time the 2018 Continental Championships took place there was only a 12 month validity, and the change from edition to edition has huge impact on the rankings, but also that there is inconsistency between the Continents in terms of the frequency of events (some continents have events every year, some every two years), it was decided to accept as a solution the adjustment of the 2018 Continental Championships points as per the points breakdown presented in the 2019 WR regulations.

The change will be made to reflect this adjustment in the October Rankings.

For 2020 the ITTF will look to improve the language of the WR Regulations and try to avoid the discrepancies identified this year. No other changes will be made, and the next goal is to have the principles of a new ranking and a new ranking simulation run from September 2020 until the end of 2020, before officially becoming effective in 2021.

20191020-EC-07

The Executive Committee decided to make an adjustment of the 2018 Continental Championships points as per the points tables approved for the 2019 WR regulations.

7.11 T2 Diamond update

The CEO updated the EC on the T2 Diamond situation and reported that several complaints have been received from the players and National Associations in regard to the overall situation, especially, the WR points allocation and the last-minute cancellation of the 2nd event.

The EC was informed about the renegotiation of the terms and conditions and the signing of an addendum between ITTF and Seamaster. The CEO and the President mentioned it was not a good situation for the ITTF and puts us in some financial difficulties but that we had tried our best to mitigate the negative affect.

It was agreed that the current position of Special Advisor to the President occupied by Mr Frank Ji, shall be reconsidered and further discussed.

7.12 Olympic Games update

The Competition Director informed that the preparations are ongoing and there is a scheduled inspection in November, right after the Team World Cup, when the LOC can hopefully confirm some key things like lighting, sport presentation and other aspects in which there seem to be budgetary restrictions from Tokyo 2020.

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, mentioned that the ITTF concern is to ensure that table tennis is presented in the same high level, as previous Olympic Games and current ITTF events. It is great for the ITTF that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be taking place in one of the biggest markets for table tennis, and therefore, there should not be any compromise in terms of quality, being one of the most important events of the year.

7.13 Youth Olympic Games update

Mr Raul Calin gave an update on the meetings which took place during SportAccord in Gold Coast, and later on, in Lausanne, with representatives of the IOC Summer Sports department. Mr Calin mentioned that the ITTF is currently trying to ensure TTX is accepted as an additional medal event in Dakar 2022, together with the Singles and Doubles events.

7.14 Video review system

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, stated that a tender process was run to identify a company for implementing Table Tennis Review. The idea had been floated for many years but after some issues at the WTTTC and after discussion with Mr Maehara, it was agreed that it was important, and the process was speeded-up. Several bids were received and after an evaluation process one company was identified as the most suitable option for testing at the Men's World Cup. If the tests are positive, the plan would be to fully implement the system at the World Tour Grand Finals.

Mr Dainton mentioned that the implementation is done using 10 cameras and it's a combination of visual animations and real images, depending on the type of challenge. Challenges will be for a range of items like edge balls, nets, double strikes, service, toss etc.

The short-term intention is to only use TTR for players to be entitled to challenge an umpire's call/decision with a limit in the number of challenges (2 or 3 tbc, with the number of challenges a player has being kept as far as he/she gets a positive review of the challenge).

8. High Performance and Development

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, mentioned that there was no major update on HPD and reminded that the ongoing Development Agreements with all continents are currently running until the end of 2020. Mr Dainton informed that the work on the way we operate in development in the future will start very soon and that a very clear message was sent to the HPD Staff in regard to the future direction of the department in line with the overall strategic vision of ITTF.

Mr Dainton stated that it is necessary to find ways to strengthen the relationships and to ensure a closer collaboration between the Continental Federations (and its leadership) and the main decision-making bodies of the ITTF.

8.1 ATTU Development project

The Deputy President, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, updated the EC on the current situation in Asia and the fact that ATTU is the only Continental Federation that refused to sign the Continental Agreement, which includes the ITTF financial contribution towards the regional and Continental Stages of the 2021 WTTC. Mr Al-Mohannadi also complained about the lack of communication between ATTU and ITTF and the lack of information in regard to several development projects and decisions.

The CEO updated the EC on his presentation at the ATTU Congress held during the Asian Championships and the discussions held with the ATTU officials in regard to the work done by the ITTF and a new development projects initiated by ATTU. Mr Dainton also reported to the ITTF his concerns in regard to some of the comments that were made related to this new development initiatives.

Mr Thomas Weikert said it was important for all Continental Federations to follow the principles of good governance.

The CEO also mentioned his concern in regard to the ATTU Financial Statement and that he was surprised to learn that in the previous 2 years there was only an income of 80,000 USD each year, especially knowing that the ATTU development project had an annual budget of 250,000 USD.

The IOC Member, Mr Ryu Seungmin, stated that the low income generated by ATTU is very concerning and that future actions should be taken into consideration, especially given the big potential in the Asian continent and market.

9. **ITTF Foundation**

The ITTF President, Mr Thomas Weikert, updated the EC on the inauguration of the ITTF Foundation headquarters, held on 28th of September 2019 in Leipzig, Germany. Mr Weikert informed that together with the ITTF EVPs, Mrs Petra Sörling and Mr Nestor Tenca, the ITTF Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, and many guests, including local authorities, ambassadors and representatives of the German Table Tennis Association, he attended the inauguration, which was coordinated by the ITTF Foundation Staff. A march through the city of Leipzig was held, as part of the inauguration' celebration.

The President also updated the EC on the first Parkinson's WTTC held in Pleasantville, NY, mentioning the positive social impact and the enthusiasm of the participants.

Mr Zoran Primorac described his experience at the event and reported on the presence of a group of scientists interested in doing a scientific / medical research with the purpose of recognizing the health benefits of table tennis for patients affected by the Parkinson's disease.

Following the discussions, it was agreed that a Board meeting regarding the Future Direction and Finances of the ITTF Foundation to be held in Zhengzhou, China during the 2019 WTGF.

The Secretary General informed the EC about the Sport Coalition pledge in the Context of the Global Compact on Refugee and presented the specific pledges proposed by the United Nations to Governments, IGO's, NGO's, sport movement, business, etc, in relation to sport for refugees.

The EC resolved that the specific pledges proposed are in line with the ITTF philosophy and will be implemented depending on the type of events and provided that the ITTF regulations are respected.

10. TTX

10.1 TTX update

The CEO provided a brief update on the recent TTX events and promotional activities. Mr Dainton emphasised that the belief in the idea and concept are stronger than ever and with the help of Mr Gordon Kaye, TTX engaged new markets and attracted thousands of participants worldwide.

Mr Dainton reported that the TTX events in Denver and Rome were very successful, with a festive atmosphere and with a high impact on the local community, targeting young people and accounting a high female participation.

The promotional video from TTX event Denver was presented to the EC.

Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi reported about the success of the TTX events held in Agadir, Morocco, and Doha, Qatar, during the Qatar Open, and informed about the upcoming event to be hosted in Oman, during the ITTF Challenge Open.

Mrs Petra Sörling updated the EC on the TTX Swedish National Championships and shared the intention of developing a long-term project with the City of Varberg to host a yearly event. Due to the success of our TTX events, the President expressed that it is now the right time to strengthen our efforts, not only with regard to the development part of TTX, but also in relation to a possible implementation of TTX in our events.

10.2 Future Strategy

The CEO discussed the potential strategies in relation to the future professional development of TTX, prioritising the establishment of a compelling event structure and the necessary progress in the area of Equipment.

Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi informed the EC about a series of discussions held with representatives of National Olympic Committees during the ANOC meetings in Doha and expressed the intention of including TTX in the next edition of the Asian Beach Games.

10.3. TTX leading up to Dakar 2022 YOG

The Secretary General updated the EC on the progress of the event proposal for Dakar 2022 YOG, including TTX as part of ITTF's request, and which is pending of the IOC confirmation.

Mr Calin mentioned that the IOC's main concern was the lack of an existing high-performance development pathway but thanks to the strong support of the ITTF staff, the IOC is understanding the level of engagement and commitment that ITTF is willing to undertake towards the development of the discipline, and the creation of a professional event structure.

Mr Calin reported about ITTF's intention to invest particularly in Africa, by implementing a series of events in the coming years leading up to Dakar 2022, and informed about several initiatives to increase the awareness about TTX among the IOC family.

The CEO reported the presence on the international scene of a new form of sport – Teqpong (a discipline of Teqball), which due to its similarities to table tennis might lead to a potential breach of ITTF's Intellectual property that needs to be checked and addressed.

11. Marketing & Promotion

11.1 2019 Star Awards

The Marketing Director, Mr Matt Pound, announced that the 2019 ITTF Star Awards will be held in Zhengzhou, China, on 11th December.

The EVP, Mr Bruce Burton, informed that the Star Awards directives have been updated since the last edition, and include now several changes in relation to the composition of the selection panels and the nomination process.

11.2 Sponsorship update

The Marketing Director, Mr Matt Pound, updated the EC on the current ITTF's Sponsorship. Mr Pound explained that the sponsorship sales team is working extremely hard to close as many sponsorships deals as possible in order to reduce the deficit caused by the amended agreement with Sportsmaster.

Mr Pound informed about the renewed partnership with Liebherr for the title sponsorship of 2020 Men's World Cup and Major sponsorship at the 2020 World Championships.

Mr Pound also reported about the new deals with Shanghai Motors (Major Sponsorship, 2019 Women's World Cup), Cisco (Major Sponsorship, 2019 Team World Cup) and Dong Feng Motors (Major Sponsorship, 2019 Men's World Cup and Team World Cup).

The Marketing Director stated that some details are being finalised in relation to the 2019 Men's World Cup (Title Sponsorship) and 2019 World Tour Grand Finals (Major sponsorship) and the new partners will be announced soon.

Mr Pound also noted that hopefully more good news can be shared soon in relation to the 2020 World Championships title and major sponsorship packages.

Mr Dainton added that right now there are more sponsorship conversations being held than ever before, which is a good sign for the sport, and gave several examples of global brands.

12. Sustainability

The Secretary General highlighted the concern towards Sustainability raised during the latest IOC and IF's gatherings. Mr Calin shared the information on the current ITTF measures but emphasized that more work is to be done.

Currently, all EC, OPC and DCC meetings are running paperless, and the Finance Department, under the leadership of its CFO, Michael Brown, is also working towards a paperless Accounting function.

The CEO talked about the importance of Sustainability in the current geopolitical sphere and stressed about the importance of reducing the negative impact over the environment.

Mr Dainton recommended to create a sustainability working group which would also include independent experts, in order to ensure that the future events and all other areas relevant to the sport, such as the equipment, are in line with the current global needs related to protecting the environment.

The EC decided to form a working group to deal with the issue of Sustainability in Table Tennis, and to ensure that all ITTF activities are in line with the current global needs to protect our environment.

Mrs Sörling expressed her will to contribute in this area, not only due to her table tennis and personal background and conscience, but also from her professional experience.

20191021-EC-08

The Executive Committee decided to establish a Sustainability working group and to ensure that all activities relevant to the sport are in line with the current global needs related to protecting our environment.

13. ITTF One hundred years celebration in 2026

The Deputy President, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, updated the EC on the progress done so far, and informed the other EC members about the meetings held in regard to the possibility of hosting the ITTF's 100 years commemoration in London, England.

Mr Al-Mohannadi stated that Table Tennis England is very interested in this project, and extensive discussions in regard to feasibility studies and economic impact were held with the responsible sport authorities in London.

Mr Al-Mohannadi emphasized the possibility to declare London as the host city of the WTTC 2026 and allocate the event as soon as possible in order to officially start the preparations. The Deputy President highlighted the importance of establishing an Organising Committee and defining a timeline of actions.

Further considerations in relation to the event budget and decisions to be taken for the next phases of the project to be discussed during the next EC meeting.

14. Protocol for major ITTF Events

The Deputy President acknowledged that the ITTF is very weak in this area and requested immediate actions and extra measures to ensure a correct protocol at the major events. Mr Weikert supported the concerns of our Deputy and raised some examples in this area.

Mrs Petra Sörling also highlighted the importance of Players Services at ITTF events.

Further remarks to be communicated with the future LOC, requesting that in addition to elevating the professional presentation of the sport, it is very important to increase the level of services across all spectrums at the ITTF events.

15. Any other business

15.1 Reports from Mrs Sörling on her visit to North Cyprus

Mrs Petra Sörling mentioned that following her performance the 2018 WVC in Las Vegas, she has been invited and participated at various veteran events. She informed that after attending an event in North Cyprus, the ITTF President, Mr Thomas Weikert received a notification letter from the President of the Cyprus Table Tennis Association, Mr Andreas Georgiou, which raised his concerns about the political implications of such visit.

Mrs Sörling acknowledged the sensitive matter of the issue and insisted to clarify that the nature of the visit to North Cyprus was for personal reasons, and no official duty was performed in her official position as an ITTF Executive Vice-President.

She reported that a meeting between her, the ITTF CEO and the President of the Cyprus TTA was held in Nates, during the European Championships in order to clarify any misinterpretation that the situation might have caused.

15.2 Eligibility interpretation

The ITTF Executive Vice-President, Dr Alaa Meshref, got a request for clarification for the eligibility regulations in the case of a particular athlete. The Secretary General suggested that the National Association concerned should contact formally the ITTF Secretariat with the necessary information and then the case will be handled by the Eligibility Commission.

The current constitution does not allow the ITTF to deal directly with players' eligibility issues, but instead the Member Association which has authority over the player, or the Association that wish to register the athlete, has to send the request for clarification and/or registration.

15.3 Request of clarification on a BoD proposition from CTTA

The Secretary General got a request for clarification from a Member Association on the Proposition 21, that passed in the Board of Directors in Budapest. The Secretary General suggested that the proposition should be considered as it passed (text presented in the BoD book sent to the members in advance and presented in the screen in Budapest, as there were no amendments made at the meeting). The EC agreed to the Secretary General recommendation.

16. Next EC meeting

The Next EC meeting to be held in on 12th December in Zhengzhou during 2019 WTGF.

17. Adjournment

Without further subjects, the meeting was adjourned on 21st October at 12:15.

Thomas Weikert
ITTF President

Date

Raul Calin
ITTF Secretary General

Date