

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Video Conference
11th November 2020

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1 President's opening remarks

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed everyone and proceeded with the roll call noting the less convenient times for on-line meetings in winter, being 6:30 am in St John's, Canada, 7:00 am in Buenos Aires (Argentina) at 11:00 pm in Auckland (New Zealand), hoping that the WTTC can go ahead in Busan and meet there.

1.2 Roll Call

Thomas Weikert	ITTF President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	ITTF Deputy President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President – Finance
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	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
Michael Brown	CFO
Matt Pound	Marketing Director
Gabor Felegyi	Competition Director (Interim)
Iulia Necula	CEO Office Projects Director
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President

Apologies	
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Ryu Seungmin	IOC Member

1.3 Preliminary remarks from the President

Mr Weikert informed the EC about the IF Forum running this week, with him and the Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, attending the ASOIF and GAISF General Assemblies, among other meetings.

2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meetings

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Secretary General reported that three Meeting Minutes were to be adopted, corresponding to August 28th, September 20th, and September 30th. Not having any objection, the meeting minutes were adopted.

20201111-EC-01

The Executive Committee approved the minutes of the three previous minutes (28-AUG-2020, 20-SEP-2020 & 30-SEP-2020).

2.2 Business arising from the Minutes

There was no other business than those already included in the agenda.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following additions:

12.1 SSMC activities in Japan 2014-2019

12.2 Para Table Tennis

12.3 World Veterans Oman

12.4 Sustainability

At the request of the EVP of Finances, Mrs Petra Sörling, the EC noted the absence of Finances in the agenda, and it was agreed to include it for the next EC meeting.

4. COVID-19 situational report

The EC noted the content of the report and the CFO, Mr Michael Brown, stated that if the situation continues evolving positively, the frequency of the reports may be reduced in the future.

5. CEO Update

5.1 #RESTART

The CEO reported on the first event completed after almost eight months without international competition. The Women's World Cup concluded satisfactorily on 10th November in Weihai, and it did without any single case of COVID-19. The CEO reported on the strange atmosphere in the venue without spectators and wanted to highlight the incredible number of resources the organizers, namely the CTTA, the Government of China and the Chinese NOC, did put in place to secure the success of the events. Special flights, regular cleaning of facilities, etc.

Mr Dainton conveyed to the EC, particularly to Mr Weikert, as the ITTF President, the best wishes of the Chinese Minister of Sports, Mr Gou Zhongwen, noting that the #RESTART is the only series of international sporting events happening in China since the pandemic started.

Mr Felegyi emphasized the fact of not having any positive case of COVID-19 and provided an update on the transfers from the quarantine in Shanghai to Weihai for the different groups and the plans for the next transfer to Zhengzhou, including commercial and private flights with the aim to minimize the risk of cross-contamination. In terms of competition and marketing aspects, Mr Felegyi reported the

Women's World Cup having concluded smoothly, and the LOC working currently on the re-branding of the venue for the Men's World Cup.

Mr Weikert, on behalf of the EC, thanked the team in China for the incredible work being done. Mr Weikert indicated that the TV pictures were very good. The EC noted the presence of the top Netherlands player, Britt Eerland, as TV commentator.

Mr Burton added that having been in close contact with the staff in Weihai, as per his Competitions portfolio, wanted to acknowledge the amount of work put in place by Mr Dimosthenis Messinis, Ms Zena Sim, Ms Iulia Necula, Mr Gabor Felegyi, and that they all deserve accolades.

Mrs Sörling suggested to ensure the ITTF does a good communication after the event, taking into consideration that other sports having re-started, were satisfied having a small number of cases of COVID-19. Particularly if the ITTF manages to end this series of events without COVID-19 cases, it would be very important to promote it.

Mr Maehara wanted to express his sincere gratitude to Mr Dainton, to the ITTF staff and to CTTA for their help in preparing for the bubble. Mr Maehara mentioned the positive news in Japanese newspapers and TV.

Mr Al-Mohannadi also wanted to congratulate the ITTF EC and all the staff under the leadership of the CEO, highlighting the fact of having zero COVID-19 cases so far. Mr Al-Mohannadi expressed his regret for being unable to travel to China, despite his efforts to do so, as it was impossible to reduce the quarantine period.

Mr Weikert agreed with Mr Al-Mohannadi on the wish to have been in attendance, and confirmed it was also impossible for him to reduce the quarantine period of 14 days.

6. Athletes' Commission update

Mr Primorac reported on the meeting of the Athletes Commission held on 20th October and on behalf of the AC members, Mr Primorac wanted to congratulate the ITTF staff for the great job so far and the happiness for the possibility to compete again. Mr Primorac wanted also to extend the appreciation to the CTTA and to the large number of volunteers supporting the Bubble, as well as to Mr Liu Guoliang as CTTA President. Also, Mr Primorac wanted to express his thanks to the athletes that attended the event, and their acceptance for the conditions, despite the fact they had to quarantine, as it was a necessary compromise for the restart of the activities.

Cancellation of the Swedish Open was unfortunate, as it was the only chance to compete for the lower ranked athletes since the pandemic started, but the decision seems to be the right one after seen the work that needed to be accomplished in China to organize the event with safe conditions.

In conclusion, Mr Primorac wishes the rest of the events to continue in the same way the WWC was concluded, hoping the EC can gather soon in person.

7. Operations Program

7.1 Board of Directors

7.1.1 Equipment videoconference

Mr Calin reported on the Equipment videoconference scheduled for Tuesday 17th November, and on the improved communication between Mr Paul Schiltz, Equipment Committee Chair, and Ms Claudia Herweg, Head of Equipment. The videoconference will be the first of its kind organized by the ITTF, and in addition to the ITTF Member Associations and BoD, Table Tennis manufacturing companies will be invited to attend. It will be a good opportunity to show to the ITTF members the work being done in Cologne equipment office, and the progress being made in several areas, including the new colours for racket coverings and the measurement of ball bouncing on different table surfaces.

7.1.2 Propositions and Resolutions

Mr Calin remembered that the propositions of the ITTF Executive Committee were already approved at the 23rd of June EC meeting to be submitted to the AGM and BoD. Proposition 22 was agreed to be presented by the Director of High Performance and Development, Ms Polona Cehovin, being related to the new age categories, while all the other competition related propositions will be presented either by the Interim Director of Competitions, Gabor Felegyi, or by the ITTF Technical Commissioner, Mr Graeme Ireland.

In relation to the propositions 25 and 26 from ETTU, Mr Calin suggested that -in table tennis-traditionally the players obtaining a qualification place would have retained it, either for World Cups or Olympic Games, at difference of other sports like Archery. The ETTU propositions go in the direction of giving these quotas to their Association instead. Mr Dainton suggested if it would be appropriate to suggest the ETTU to refer these propositions to the Future Events Working Group (FEWG). Mr Calin added that this was indeed the strategy with the proposition 28, presented by Hong Kong TTA, and Mr Dainton had approached Mr Tony Yue suggesting passing it to the FEWG and Mr Yue said it could be eventually discussed at the BoD. Mr Dainton added that thinking on an eventual BoD meeting in Busan, those scenarios could be discussed meeting face to face, after the FEWG has studied these ETTU and HKG proposals and coming to the BoD with a suggestion. Mr Burton, in charge of competitions, agreed with Mr Dainton and reflected on the fact that the FEWG didn't have much activity since the pandemic started and, once the staff has taken a necessary break after the #RESTART, the discussions can be taken back.

Proposition 27 was confirmed to be supported by the EC being referred to a typing mistake. For the propositions 29 to 32, it was agreed that -following further dialog between the Equipment Committee Chair and the Equipment Manager-, a suitable agreement should be reached.

On a request from Mr Calin to give more context about the situation on the propositions 29-32 during the last few months, Mr Dainton explained that as a consequence of having professional staff working on the area of equipment, and thus more capacity, the idea for the future is to create more visual manuals, which will assist to better present in the ITTF equipment.

Mr Dainton also reflected on the necessity to review the Terms of Reference of the different committees and ensure they are adapted to today's necessities and enforced.

Mr Primorac and Mr Calin agreed to have a conference call with Mrs Herweg in order to better understand the proposition 32.

In relation to the resolutions, Mr Calin reflected on the positive aspect of all of them; those coming from Swedish TTA being more oriented to competition aspects, and the resolution from Brazilian TTA related to tables friction, an aspect that will be covered on the equipment videoconference. It was suggested to support them.

7.1.3 Nominations Committee

The Executive Committee noted the report received from the Committee Chair, Mr Wahid Oshodi. Mr Calin wanted to thank and congratulate Mr Oshodi for his quality report and for the work done in the last two years, elevating the standard on the Nomination Committee, and suggested that the EC members will read the report it during the coming days, with the aim to confirm the members of the Nominations Committee for the period 2020-2022 at the EC meeting scheduled on 3rd December.

7.1.4 ITTF Tribunal

The EC noted the report of Mr Calin about the progress on the ITTF Tribunal appointment, having already started the call for nominations. The deadline for applications will be 5th of December and the goal is to review and vet the nominations received in the middle of December, with the hope to submit for BoD appointment at the end of the month, so hopefully the ITTF Tribunal members can take office in January.

Mr Weikert suggested that the EC should consider establishing an honorarium for the Chair of the Tribunal in the future, particularly if the candidate has the necessary quality, to what Mr Tenca agreed. Mr Weikert suggested to wait until knowing what the outcome of the process is.

8. Competitions Program

8.1 Bubble update

Already covered in point 5.

8.2 World Ranking

Mr Weikert reported on the two conferences of the WR group, mentioning that Stephen Duckitt from WTT and Zoran Primorac as AC Chair were invited. Mr Weikert explained that there were a few aspects to be decided, such the number of events to be counted for WR, the World Cups, the points for Olympic Games and World Championships, and passed the floor to Mr Primorac indicating that hopefully the EC members can study and take a decision on 3rd December.

Mr Primorac reported that at the 20th of October Athletes Commission meeting, this matter was discussed in length, as well as he personally discussed on the phone with Mr Dainton and Mr Calin. Mr Primorac stated he hopes a compromise can be reached, satisfying all stakeholders reporting that the AC fully support WTT and they understand that the Grand Smashes need to be given importance, and hopefully in the future these will be major tournaments in table tennis, with the biggest prize money, but also the AC recognized that traditional tournaments like the Olympic Games or the World Championships should also be recognized as very important events, stating that everyone at the start of their careers hope to be World or Olympic Champion, as this can attract TV and sponsors. Mr Primorac also referred to the Continental Championships, hoping they can be more valued. Referring to their AC report, Mr Primorac also mentioned the World Cup, being traditionally one of the major events for athletes after the OG and World Championships, as well as the consideration for WR points

for the Team event at the World Championships, hoping that by 3rd December a good decision can be taken.

Mr Dainton reported about the different discussions with Mr Weikert and the staff on this matter and pointed the two aspects to be considered: keeping the tradition strong, with Olympic Games and World Championships having a high value in our overall structure, while giving to WTT the necessary boost at the beginning to try to bring the commercial revenue needed to be able to catch with other sports. Mr Dainton reflected on how to satisfy both needs and suggested the EC to look at the solution proposed, with perhaps small adjustments, as he felt this could give the necessary importance to World Championships and Olympic Games. Mr Dainton stressed the necessity to approve at least a concept, so the WR group can then fix the details.

Mrs Sörling reflected on the importance of the historical events and referred to discussions with colleagues from Swedish Tennis Federation, underlining the comments from Mr Primorac. At the same time, Mrs Sörling indicated the importance to develop the sport and agreed on trying to take a decision on 3rd December EC meeting, at least on the concept, then having the WG looking at the details, as they are the experts on the area. Mrs Sörling reflected on the process being followed in this case, as the discussion has been moving from the WR group to the EC back and forth, without having a clear procedure.

Mr Weikert reacted pointing to the political issues in this area thus, in Mr Weikert's opinion, this cannot be dealt with by the WR, and this is why he wanted the report to be presented to the EC. Mr Weikert also referred to the opinion of the AC and of Mr Primorac and suggested to have after the bubble a new meeting of the WR group, expecting having a proposal for the EC on 3rd December, but insisted it is too early to decide in this meeting. In the meanwhile, Mr Weikert will speak with Mr Primorac and Mr Felegyi.

Mr Burton took then the floor and referred to the different reports received. Mr Burton indicated that the WR group had already two meetings but so far there is no proposition to the EC and expressed his concern that by the date of 3rd December, the EC faces the same situation and there is no proposition to be considered. Mr Burton, understanding the potential tension and eventual polarisation between tradition and WTT objectives, suggested that the EC could look at the golden events concept, as a potential tool to satisfy the compromise referred to by Mr Primorac, however, there is no such indication in the WG report. Mr Burton also pointed to the big investment made in WTT, both in finances and energy, in order to achieve an adequate events structure, and wondered if this fight over ranking points may be jeopardizing the possibilities for success in the market of WTT, especially after seeing the tremendous positive receptivity of the WTT videoconferences in the new structure and possibilities. Mr Burton concluded indicating WTT should be given the best possibility for success in the financial market.

Mr Weikert thanked the good description of Mr Burton.

Dr Meshref pointed to the referred duality already mentioned by some EC colleagues, tradition vs new structure, and asked how important the ranking for WTT success is commercially, so to better understand. Will the prize money be affected? As usually World Championships and Olympic Games received more world ranking points.

The Marketing Director, Mr Pound, reported on the meetings held during the last three weeks in China and stressed the importance of having premium world ranking points for the Grand Smashes. Mr Pound indicated that there are two potential offers on the table, from two cities in China, that are ready to invest [REDACTED], under the provision these Grand Smashes are positioned as premium events in Table Tennis, with the highest world ranking. Mr Pound suggested that if the option of the golden points is agreed, this could be likely the scenario. On the opposite, if the Grand Smashes don't have the highest world ranking points, [REDACTED], as then becomes impossible to sell properly these properties with the same level of attraction. Mr Pound ended by adding that tradition is very important, and WTT is fully aware of this, reason why for the 2021 budget there is a big investment in the World Championships [REDACTED].

Dr Meshref if the fact that there are more Grand Smashes events every year compared to the World Championships, which happens once a year, and Mr Weikert suggested to continue the discussion via WG and reverting to the EC for the 3rd of December meeting.

ACTION 20201111#01	In charge: ITTF President	Deadline: 2020-12-03
To discuss with the AC Chair and the Interim Competitions Director in order to present a WR proposal for the EC to be adopted on 3rd December meeting.		

8.3 World Championships update

Mr Weikert reported on the discussions held with Mr Al-Mohannadi, as EC member in charge of World Championships, eventually considering a reduced size of the World Championships, based on the two meetings held recently with the LOC in Korea, indicating the situation is still unclear. Mr Dainton commented this is probably the last chance for the event to be held, and if it cannot be organized in February/March, probably it will have to be finally cancelled. Mr Dainton suggested the possibilities are framed within three key points: size of the event, with a large number of teams not being realistic, quarantine conditions (under current conditions are fourteen days, what for an approximate number of 500-600 persons will result in thousands of hotel room nights) and the consequent budgetary constraints. Mr Dainton suggested that perhaps the BoD date is the moment when a decision will have to be taken, as entries, preparation, etc., would have to go ahead on time to ensure the event can be properly organized.

Mr Al-Mohannadi indicated that it will not be possible to have two years without a World Championships, and if Busan cannot go ahead, efforts should be made to secure the 2021 World Championships.

Mr Primorac referred to the previous discussions at the EC level, reminding his comments about the World Championships not likely happening in the scheduled dates, and that the best option in his opinion was, and still is, hosting it after the World Championships, hoping that -by then-, after having successful Olympic Games, it would be more likely for the event to happen.

Mr Weikert invited then Mr Park, and he did a presentation to the EC.

Mr Park indicated that -in addition to the two meetings already held with the ITTF- he would like to report to the EC the plans to host the WTTC with 48 teams per gender. Currently, PCR certificates

(issued within 72 hours prior to departure) are required, as well as fourteen days quarantine on arrival. Visa is required for all travellers coming from abroad, including those countries traditionally exempted of applying for it. The LOC will work to ensure every prospective participant get an invitation letter to facilitate the visa application. Application to the Ministry of Culture and Sports (MCS) has been made, as per ITTF request, to reduce the quarantine period. The MCS indicated they cannot decide by themselves, as this depends on the Korea Center for Diseases Control (KCDC) and it would require major policy change at the government level. Mr Park indicated that half million USD is required in order to be able to operate. Last but not least, Mr Park suggested that with the Olympic Games getting closer, the North Korean participation on the WTTC would be very positive as currently the cooperation is suspended due to COVID-19.

Mr Weikert asked Mr Park when a decision will be taken about the quarantine period, in view of the large number of persons expected to visit Korea for the event.

Mr Park indicated he will be meeting the Minister of Culture and Sport, to discuss at the highest level, with the target being reducing the quarantine to seven days, with the possibility to practice during the practice.

Mr Felegyi suggested that the 19th November BoD meeting is the latest date the decision should be taken in order to be able to manage all necessary preparations. In addition, and as per the #RESTART experience, Mr Felegyi showed his concern about the number of persons expected in the event even if the size of the Championships would be reduced from 48 to 32, as this will still engage a lot of participants, being the risk high.

Mr Primorac asked Mr Park if it was possible for the LOC to organize the event at a later stage, i.e., after the Olympic Games. Mr Park indicated this was a question more for the ITTF rather than for the LOC. Mr Weikert explained that in the preliminary meetings, the discussions held are either to secure the event in the current dates, eventually with a reduced size, or to cancel definitely.

Appreciating the efforts being made by the LOC, Mr Weikert thanked Mr Park on behalf of the EC, agreeing on continuing the close communications until a final decision may be taken.

Following the presentation from Mr Park / LOC, Mr Weikert reflected on the short time available before 19th November to have all elements in place for the BoD to take a decision.

Mrs Sörling indicated that knowing the possible alternatives and their respective financial impacts is very important and added that a full summary should be elaborated in order for the BoD to take an informed decision.

Mr Dainton advocated for the event to be organized, even if this means having to increase the ITTF financial contribution, as per Mr Park's suggestion, but mainly considering the importance this event has for the ITTF traditionally.

Mr Weikert asked Mr Dainton to prepare the options in written for the EC to consider.

Mr Morris asked if with a scenario of 24 teams there will be continental representation or not, and whether with 32 it would be possible to secure it.

Mr Weikert indicated this was already discussed in the small group, and the idea will be to secure continental representation in all instances.

Mr Al-Mohannadi suggested that with the incertitude on Busan 2020 and Houston 2021 World Championships, and the investments made for both events, the ITTF needs to carefully consider the situation, as it would not be acceptable to not have world championships at least once within the period of these two years.

Mr Dainton suggested that, if for any reasons the Busan 2020 WTTC cannot go ahead, then the ITTF should do the maximum possible effort to organise the 2021 World (Individual) Championships.

ACTION 20201111#02	In charge: CEO	Deadline: 2020-11-15
To prepare a paper outlining the options to be considered by the BoD for the Busan 2020 WTTC to go ahead in the currently planned dates.		

8.4 Olympic Qualification update

Mr Calin reported on the videoconferences held with Asia, Europe, Latin America and Oceania, in regard to those Olympic Continental Qualification pending or organisation. Mr Calin thanked Mr Al-Mohannadi and QTTA for the possibility to host these events in Qatar, in connection with the Final World Qualification, what will certainly ease the situation for players and associations, having to plan only one travel instead of eventually two, and potentially having much less disruptions due to quarantines in different locations. Mr Calin added that negotiations are still ongoing due to the fact of the recent death of the Thailand TTA President, reason why the Asian event discussions are currently postponed, and that the other continental events will be decided soon in coordination with the respective continental federations.

Mr Al-Mohannadi added that with the bubble of WTT events running in Qatar at the end of March, it is very important to finalize the Olympic Qualification events as soon as possible in April, as this will be the period in which the Ministry of Health of Qatar can assist to supervise and support the events. Mr Al-Mohannadi sees the merit on hosting the continental qualification events before the world qualification, in the same place, easing the conditions for participants, who will not need to visit two different locations, eventually being exposed to up to four quarantine periods (when traveling and eventually returning to each of the events).

Mrs Sörling added the aspect of sustainability as an important element to consider and that adds on the option to host the events in a central location.

Based on the general acceptance of the concept, Mr Calin suggested to go ahead with the suggestions to the continental federations, trying to persuade them of the benefits of the central location for the events. Mr Weikert closed the point by thanking Mr Al-Mohannadi for his offer to host these events.

9. **World Table Tennis Update**

Mr Pound gave an update on World Table Tennis, indicating, as announced a few hours before, that Coca-Cola is the first global brand signed. Mr Pound urged the EC to finalize the WR as soon as possible as an important element for the negotiations with potential partners and sponsors who are avid to know the details of the events structure.

Mr Weikert asked if Coca-Cola is a sponsor for the Macao event only, and Mr Pound indicated that Macao is mainly a “proof of concept” event, which will have 800,000 USD in prize money, but they have signed for 2021 events as well as a tester, hopefully engaging in a larger contract in 2022.

Mr Weikert asked if the sponsorship from Coca-Cola is in cash, and Mr Pound indicated that it will be mainly “value in kind” (VIK), what anyway is seen as a good start, until WTT can show its proof of concept.

10. Member Relations Program

10.1 Continental Agreements

The Members Relations Director, Mr Mounir Bessah, gave a brief update in regard to the continental agreements 2021-2024, as this will define the future relationship between the ITTF and the continental federations. Mr Bessah reported on the individual meetings being held these days with the EC members in charge of relations with their respective continental federations in order to discuss with them the concept of the plans which will be formally presented to the EC on the 3rd December meeting. The main goal being developing a clear continental agreement that will be governed by a master license agreement with each continent, which is being worked on with the support of the ITTF Legal Counsel, Mr Dylan Mah.

Mr Bessah also reported on the ITTF Americas General Assembly planned for 26th November indicating that preparations are going smoothly.

11. Adham Sharara CAS appeal

Mr Weikert reported on the case being finally settled after having agreed on 30th October. The core points of the agreement being that the EC members and staff are protected regarding claims from Mr Sharara and that the CAS appeal is now finished, with every party absorbing their respective costs. Mr Weikert stated that it was clear Mr Sharara would not accept relinquishing his Honorary Presidency, and that 30th of November will be the date of the end of the suspension what, compared with the case of Mr Michel Platini, was a good outcome. Mr Weikert added that Mr Calin distributed to the ITTF membership a communication signed by Mr Sharara and Mr Weikert.

Mr Burton took the floor and indicated being pleased putting this issue behind, having been a difficult period since the initial decision in Bangkok 2019. However, Mr Burton also added not being satisfied with the process followed at the end. Mr Burton referred to the email sent to Mr Weikert where Mr Burton shown his disappointment for the steps taken in recent weeks, when the working group was bypassed by Mr Weikert sending information directly to the EC without previous consultation with the group. Mr Burton also referred to the Minutes of the 30th of September EC meeting, just approved earlier in this meeting, where it was clearly stated: “*The CAS case working group to discuss and explore the available options and make a recommendation to the EC for a final decision*”. Mr Burton indicated that the group did meet and discuss about the three main points to be taken with the ITTF lawyer with Mr Sharara and his lawyer, and it was expected that -when an agreement will be reached- Mr Weikert would revert to the working group and by extension to the EC for a final decision. However, in the current context, there is not any EC decision taken, however Mr Weikert has signed the

agreement with Mr Sharara, and it has been made public. Mr Burton insisted not being disappointed with the outcome, but in regard to the process, it is considered being far from ideal, particularly when Mr Weikert is always pointing about regulations. Mr Burton wanted his disappointment about the process to be recorded; not about the decision, but about the process itself.

Mr Dainton echoed Mr Burton because as CEO, being one of the most pressured process which he has lived during his time in the position, and always trying to find a solution which will make the EC comfortable, while the final outcome is acceptable, particularly in COVID-19 times, Mr Dainton was disappointed of not having a single discussion before the documents being signed, as once done, there is no point to discuss further.

Not having further remarks, Mr Weikert answered Mr Burton and Mr Dainton indicating that, in his opinion, the outcome of the case is a great result, because according to the ITTF Constitution, there was no base to win the case, and the ITTF was already lucky that due to COVID-19 the CAS hearing could not be held before, adding that the request for stay was denied twice, enlarging the suspension as much as possible. In regard to the process, Mr Weikert said having sent in September the proposal to the EC directly by accident and Mr Weikert already apologized for it.

Mr Weikert added that some of the EC members already accepted such initial proposal in September, and that when during the last two weeks an agreement was reached, with more than two hours a day of work, the working group was informed on 28th October, giving an indication that the EC will be addressed about, so having everyone on the same level of knowledge, and assuming everyone would agree.

Mr Weikert indicated having received only an email from Mr Dainton, and taking the urgent recommendation of Mr Rigozzi, and the risk at CAS, with only Mr Al-Mohannadi asking to discuss at the EC, while there was no criticism of the decision, this was the best for the ITTF, and therefore Mr Weikert signed as per the recommendation of Mr Rigozzi.

Mr Weikert indicated the many discussions with the lawyer, and that (almost) the only differences in the options were the timelines. Mr. Weikert additionally referred to his email of 29th October and quoted from that email: *"Therefore, also taking into account the urgent recommendations of our lawyer, the legal risk at CAS and our discussion in the EC meeting with Antonio some weeks ago I assume that we will then, if the deadline between November 30 and December 31 is agreed upon, conclude the agreement"*.

Taking into consideration this information, for Mr Weikert the agreement was already given.

Mr Dainton expressed that exactly for the reasons mentioned by Mr Weikert, that ITTF's lawyer, Mr Rigozzi, was offering different options, he was disappointed that Mr Weikert decided to go ahead without consultation neither with the working group, nor with the entire EC. Mr Dainton asked why a meeting with the working group was not called to take the final decision, as probably nobody would have decided differently, but after working so much during the last couple of months, it was a feeling of not being considered in the decision.

Mr Weikert responded saying that he had many discussions with the layer (Mr Rigozzi) and added that until this point of the discussion, he had only listened disappointment message and not a message of thanks.

Mr Tenca was given the floor, and indicated his agreement with the final decision, and appreciating the work of Mr Weikert and Mr Rigozzi, Mr Tenca wanted to express his agreement with Mr Burton that a final approval by the EC would have been preferred.

Mrs Sörling indicated she will not comment about the process, as enough has been said, however on the comment of Mr Weikert about whether the outcome is a big success or not, she would prefer to see the final figures in terms of expenditure made since the start of the process before making an evaluation. Mrs Sörling reflected on the fact that the constitution was the same in February 2019 as it is today, (in reference to the comment of Mr Weikert that the case was to be lost in CAS), in relation to the doubts expressed at that time by some EC members on the approach suggested.

Mr Weikert asked Mr Brown if the final invoice was already received, to what Mr Brown indicated not having it yet. Mr Brown suggested he will prepare a summary of the financial cost as well as an estimation of the number of hours spent on the case. Mr Brown wanted to add in relation to the process being taken in the final stage, that he was surprised to learn that Mr Weikert had signed two options without being informed nor involved.

Mr Weikert said the facts were different, having sent the files on 28th October to the “small” group (Mr Burton, Mr Dainton, Mr Calin and Mr Brown).

Not having any further comments from the EC members on the matter, Mr Calin suggested that, as a decision to suspend Mr Sharara was taken by the EC (on their judicial capacity) at February 2019 meeting, there is a need to take a decision to terminate such suspension, as otherwise, the document signed by Mr Weikert and Mr Sharara does not have a formal EC decision supporting it. Mr Calin asked if the EC wanted to wait to receive the financial report requested by Mrs Sörling, or if the EC was ready to take already a decision, as otherwise, without an EC decision removing the suspension, Mr Sharara would be still suspended for four years.

Mr Weikert indicated that with the settlement being signed, Mr Sharara is no longer suspended after 30th of November, to what Mr Calin suggested that still this signature of Mr Weikert needs the formal decision of the EC, to avoid similar situations as in the past, when some EC members have questioned whether a decision was taken or not and/or whether a matter was voted or not. In the opinion of Mr Calin, same as for the imposition of the suspension, identically to remove the suspension, a vote is needed, to ensure the process is correct.

After some further discussion Mr Calin suggested that -even retroactively- as the process was questioned by several EC members, it will be important for the protection of the institution, and particularly of the EC, that Mr Weikert’s signature on the settlement is backed by an EC decision.

Mr Weikert agreed on the concept and asked the EC to ratify the decision. Dr Meshref agreed, and not having any objection or other comments, the decision was considered accepted.

20201111-EC-02

The Executive Committee agreed to approve retrospectively the decision of Mr Thomas Weikert to finalize the suspension of Mr Sharara on 30th November 2020.

12. Any other business

12.1 ITTF SSMC and JTTF SSMC International Sports Conference 2014-2019

Mr Maehara reported on the six years cooperation between the ITTF SSMC and the JTTF SSMC. Mr Maehara wanted to extend his appreciation to Prof. Miran Kondric and to the entire SSMC and requested the EC to include in the Board of Directors meeting, under any other business, a brief presentation on the matter, what was agreed.

12.2 Para Table Tennis

Mrs Sörling indicated that as described on the document shared in advance with the EC, there were three points to be considered.

For the first point, in relation to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games qualification system, Mrs Sörling highlighted the adequate process followed, by involving the committee chair, experts on the committee, Para athletes' representatives and ITTF staff, and indicated that the proposition to the EC is unanimously supported, and also counts on IPC pre-agreement. The suggested adjustments are needed in order to make necessary adjustments to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games system due to the COVID-19 effects on the calendar.

For the second point, in relation to 2021 Continental Championships to be cancelled, the explanations were also included on the document and were also unanimously agreed on the working group to be presented to the EC for consideration.

Last but not least, and in relation to the Netherlands TTA proposition to host the 2023 European Championships, it was agreed for Mr Calin to write a letter to NED TTA praising their innovative approach and indicating them the process to apply for the event.

20201111-EC-03

The Executive Committee agreed to approve the recommended adjustments in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Qualification System.

20201111-EC-04

The Executive Committee agreed to not organize continental Para championships in 2021.

ACTION 20201111#03	In charge: Secretary General	Deadline: 2020-11-15
To answer Netherlands TTA proposition to award the 2023 European Para Championships to Rotterdam, praising their innovative approach, but indicating the due process to apply for the event.		

12.3 World Veterans Oman 2022

Evaluating the situation with the COVID-19 evolution, and the discussion with Oman 2022 World Veteran Championships organizers, it was agreed to confirm the dates of January 2023 for the event, while considering the 2022 age categories.

20201111-EC-05

The Executive Committee agreed to confirm the dates of January 2023 for the Oman World Veteran Championships with the suggestion to keep the 2022 age categories.

12.4 Sustainability

Mrs Sörling reported on the most recent meeting of the sustainability working group. Mrs Sörling and Mr Dainton were already confirmed as members, and both of them agreed it was important to have more competence, therefore Mrs Sörling was pleased to report on the incorporation of Karine Teow and Leandro Olvech, from the ITTF Foundation, Claudia Herweg, Head of Equipment, Michael Brown, CFO, and Iulia Necula, CEO Office Project's Director.

The group discussed on where to start and -acknowledging the ITTF is behind in this area- it also allows us to study the very many reports from IOC and other IFs in this area.

The working group has set up a vision and mission and at this point, with the People, Planet and Profit references.

Mr Dainton added that clearly Sustainability is an area that the ITTF has to take seriously, and it is a good start the establishment of the vision and mission.

Mrs Sörling suggested as the vision: "Table Tennis. For All. For Life. Forever" and asked if in the future any member of the working group can be invited to any other sustainability meetings organized either by the IOC or any other stakeholders.

Mrs Sörling suggested the EC members to look at the document and eventually return to the topic in upcoming meetings.

Mr Weikert suggested that in the future Mrs Sörling could be invited to these meetings and asked Mrs Sörling to keep him updated on the work being done in this area. Mrs Sörling agreed, indicating that with the mandate given to the Working Group they will always report to the entire EC, copying of course Mr Weikert.

13. Next EC meeting

Not having any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 14h05 CET.

Thomas Weikert
ITTF President

Date

Raul Calin
ITTF Secretary General

Date