

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Video Conference  
21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Opening

#### 1.1 President's opening remarks

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed everyone and started the meeting by praising the successful organisation of the ETTU Champions League in Linz (Women) and Düsseldorf (Men).

#### 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
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission Chair
Ryu Seungmin	IOC member

#### In attendance

Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Iulia Necula	CEO's Office Projects Director
Michael Brown	CFO
Gabor Felegyi	Competition Director Interim only for the corresponding part
Matt Pound	Marketing Director only for the corresponding part
Mounir Bessah	Member Relation Director only for the corresponding part
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Pierre Killian	PwC Director Forensic Services - only for point 7.4

### 2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

#### 2.1 Approval of the previous Minutes

The EC approved the Minutes of the previous Meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 27<sup>th</sup> November, and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 with the following remarks:

#### Minutes of the EC Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November

In reference to point 2, the Deputy President Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, considered that it was necessary to include on the Minutes an official report that includes a list of all the Member Associations and BoD members that sent communications following the DTTB letter, and to distribute to all the EC members such communications, so everyone is well informed. Mr Al-Mohannadi added a correction should be made too, emphasizing that the letter sent by Mr Pedro Moura was signed as President of the Portugal TTA and not as ETTU Deputy President.

The EVP, Mr Bruce Burton, emphasized Mr Al-Mohannadi's remark indicating that all the correspondence should be filed by the Secretary General for record besides sharing with the rest of the EC members that didn't receive them.

Mrs Sörling wanted to state that having nowadays more often meetings in digital format she will not attend further EC meetings on that capacity until she has received the Minutes of the previous meeting, saying it is impossible for her to work in the next meeting if she does not have the previous meeting minutes. Mrs Sörling suggested that perhaps meetings shouldn't be scheduled until having cleared previous meeting minutes.

Mr Calin indicated that when re-reading the captioned meetings, on the last page, an action should be added, in reference to the EC agreement to pass to the ITTF Legal Counsel, Mr Dylan Mah, the accusations (i.e., TTCAN and Mr Paul Kyle), adding a request to all the EC Members to please send to the Secretary General, the correspondence received (DTTB, TTCAN, Mr Paul Kyle) as otherwise, it is impossible to follow-up on the different cases.

<b>ACTION 20201221#01</b>	<b>In charge: EC Members and SG</b>	<b>Deadline: 2021-01-18</b>
To send all the correspondence (letters, emails, etc.,) received in relation to the DTTB letter to the Secretary General, so he can file and, subsequently, also circulate copies to the EC members that may have not received.		

<b>ACTION 20201221#02</b>	<b>In charge: EC Members and SG</b>	<b>Deadline: 2021-01-18</b>
To send all the correspondence (letters, emails, etc.,) received in relation to the TTCAN and Paul Kyle complaints to the Secretary General, so he can file and, subsequently, also forward to the Legal Counsel.		

#### Minutes of the EC Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December

In reference to the point 7.1, the EVP, Mr James Morris asked clarification to why there was no documented response to his question regarding the passive participation of the CEO in the 2020 BoD meeting. Furthermore, Mr Morris emphasized that there was no reference about the discussions held among the EC members at the end of the meeting, after the President asked the staff to leave.

Mr Burton indicated that the President deferred the responses to his and Mr Morris's question to a later stage in the meeting when the staff was not present but there was no record of the discussions held at the end of the meeting. Hence it should be stated at the very end of the minutes that at that point the staff was asked to leave the meeting and the recording of the informal meeting was stopped which led to a gap in the record keeping.

Mr Weikert agreed to the proposal of Mr Burton, and Mr Calin suggested Mr Burton to send a proposed text for that part.

The EVP, Dr Alaa Meshref, seconded Mr Burton, adding that -due to previous commitments- he had to leave the meeting once the initial two hours' time slot had passed. Dr Meshref was not aware that such important topic would be discussed and emphasized that if he would have been aware that something as important as this would be added on the EC agenda, he would have made himself available to participated in the extended meeting.

Dr Meshref indicated being in total disagreement towards anything that was discussed or any decision that was made after his departure and considered that that part of the meeting didn't exist (officially) and should be considered an informal part of the discussions and no decision should have been taken during that time.

Mr Weikert stated that the final part of meeting (held after the staff was asked to leave) was from the beginning on planned as an informal one with informal discussions, confirming that no official decisions were made during that meeting.

Mr Weikert asked Mr Burton to send a proposed text to Mr Calin.

Despite the unique circumstances experienced in 2020, Mr Al-Mohannadi considered that having 17-18 meetings per year it was not the right way to operate and following the example of other IF's, he proposed to have not more than 4-5 EC meetings during the next year.

Given the recent enquiries, Mr Calin asked for clarifications regarding the status of the CEO and Mr Weikert stated that Mr Dainton was in voluntary holidays until the end of the year.

Mr Dainton was very surprised with the President's statement and outlined that based on the previous discussions, the general understanding was that he will be on holidays for 2 weeks, and this was the first time to hear it's until end of 2020. He insisted that any change in the status should be re-discussed.

Mrs Sörling indicated that a suspension was never in discussion and confirmed that the agreement was always to have two weeks holidays after WTT event held in Macao. She hinted that perhaps the confusion in the period of time might have been caused by the timelines offered to the CEO to respond to the accusations.

## 2.2 Business arising from the previous Minutes

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, reported that there were no business arising from the previous meetings other than those included in the agenda.

## 3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted without any further additions, reconfirming, as suggested by Mr Morris, to defer the point 12.1 of the draft agenda, to a further EC meeting.

## 4. **COVID-19 situational report**

The CFO, Mr Michael Brown, informed that due to the special circumstances experience in 2020, a total of 72 COVID-19 situational reports were sent by the task force throughout the year. Mr Brown thanked the staff involved in the process and indicated that the team will continue to monitor and send the reports in 2021.

## **5. CEO update**

### **5.1 2021 Planning**

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, emphasized that although there is still a lot of uncertainties and everything is very delayed in terms of planning, after the successful hosting of #RESTART series in a tough 2020, there is a lot of hope and confidence that 2021 can be a successful year for table tennis, since the team now knows how to host events in a bubble format in a pandemic period.

## **6. Athletes' Commission update**

The AC Chair, Mr Zoran Primorac, updated the EC on the European Champions League being held by the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) in Linz (Women) and Düsseldorf (Men) and wanted to praise officially the ETTU and Mr Levitin for the successful organisation. Mr Primorac thanked the volunteers and organisers, indicating that he personally attended the Dusseldorf event as part of a Russian team. Mr Primorac indicated it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest table tennis events after #RESTART, with 16 women's and 16 men's teams participating in the events.

Mr Primorac emphasized that the rules were not as strict in comparison to the #RESTART events in China, indicating that the players didn't have to suffer and serve a quarantine period, instead they were allowed in the bubble only with a negative COVID-19 test result. Mr Primorac considered that the experience and knowledge accumulated by the ITTF and ETTU will be crucial for hosting future successful events in 2021 and it should be shared with all the relevant stakeholders.

Mr Primorac also draw the attention over the group of lower ranked players (over WR30) that didn't have the chance to compete in international events since March 2020 and insisted on finding solutions to organise events for the lower tier playing levels.

## **7. Operations Program**

### **7.1 Finances**

The EC noted the report presented by Mrs Sörling, which indicated that -despite being the most difficult year in decades-, thanks to the #RESTART events held in China and the diligent and prudent actions taken throughout the entire year, the ITTF can still end 2020 without a financial loss.

Mrs Sörling gave a brief summary on the discussions held during a pre-meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December together with the President, the CEO, SG, CFO and Marketing Director, informing that at this stage there is a much clearer view on the overall financial situation and the direction to take in comparison to the time when the previous financial report was presented, during the 2020 AGM.

The CFO, Mr Michael Brown, updated the EC on the 2020 financial situation, presenting the reports of the different entities that fall under the ITTF Group and how they consolidate from a financial perspective:



- ITTF (Switzerland)
- ITTF Asia Pacific Ltd (Singapore)
- ITTF North America (Canada)
- ITTF Foundation (Germany)
- World Table Tennis Pte Ltd (Singapore)

At the request of Mrs Sörling, and in order to clarify the status of the ITTF North America, Mr Brown reminded that during the meeting held in December 2018 in Incheon, the ITTF EC decided to move forward in relation to the establishment of regional offices and agreed to select North America as an initial pilot project to trial how valuable or suitable a regional based entity will be. Mr Brown explained that ITTF North America is consolidated into the ITTF due to being an entity created by the ITTF, in comparison to the other continental entities that don't fall under the authority of the ITTF (i.e., ETTU or ITTF Oceania). Mr Brown considered that it was important to undertake a review in 2021 to evaluate the model used for the regional based entities.

Following Dr Meshref question, Mr Brown clarified that the ITTF Equipment office in Cologne, Germany, is not a separate legal entity but is considered a branch of the ITTF Headquarters in Lausanne.

The 2020 financial report presented by Mr Brown included:

- An overview of the allocation process of the Olympic Funding over the 4 years Olympic cycle and the decision to be made in relation to the final amount to be released in 2020.
- Information about the incomes and expenses of 2020 #RESTART events in China
- The significant reductions in expenditure due to inability to conduct activities
- The cost reductions in relations to HR due to salary sacrifices (1/3 of the initial forecast)

Mr Brown indicated that the report is made assuming that the WTTC in Busan will not go ahead based on the latest news, thus, including 1.3 million in expenses.

On a question of Mr Ryu, Mr Brown explained the different methods of distribution of the Olympic revenues over the four years period.

Mr Primorac requested receiving a detailed financial report from #RESTART events in China, being interested to better understand the decision of the change (of the World Cup) and knowing the financial outcome of the bubble.

Mrs Sörling's stated that Mr Brown can do it, however, these figures will certainly not include the majority of the investment done by China, adding that in any case, the #RESTART events in China should be seen as something very positive which put ITTF in a favourable financial situation, as most of the expenses were covered by the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA) and the Local Organisers. Mrs Sörling emphasized that if the events would have taken place anywhere else in the world, an additional financial investment would have been needed from the ITTF's side. However, there was no problem to share the detailed report of the 2020 #RESTART with the rest of the EC.

ACTION 20201221#03	In charge: CFO	Deadline: 2021-01-15
To share the Financial report of the 2020 #RESTART in China.		

ACTION 20201221#04	In charge: EVP of Finances & CFO	Deadline: 2021-01-31
To make a proposal for the payment of the bonuses in 2020.		

Mr Brown then presented an overview of the 2021 Budget breakdown for the 3 different entities:

- ITTF – pending on the IOC contribution linked to Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games which requires a conservative but agile and flexible approach in the first 6 months. To make a further decision after the OG.
- 2021 WTT Business Plan – an overview of the first 6 months of 2021, including the first 3 series to take place in Qatar, China, and Europe, reflecting the MLA payable amount to ITTF and the amount guaranteed through the equity partner. The overview is presented pending on how many events can take place in China in 2021.
- ITTF Foundation – A conservative Budget for 2021 with the primary financial support coming from ITTF, including the financial breakdown correspondent to the different programs.

Mrs Sörling thanked Mr Brown for the robust report and the tremendous work done during this exceptional year, especially with the financial situations changing day by day.

Mrs Sörling explained that as part of the ITTF Group, including the ITTF, ITTF Foundation and WTT as siblings' companies, the EC was therefore included and informed and everyone was invited to raise any questions in case there was any.

Mrs Sörling also informed about the discussions held with the HR Manager, Mrs Charlotte Lourdes and the decision taken to award a small symbolic bonus to the ITTF Staff to show the appreciation for their sacrifices and contribution in this difficult year. In addition, she also mentioned to award a small performance-based bonus for the exceptional work done in 2020.

Mr Weikert was in agreement with the proposal bonus to every staff member and later a performance bonus for the work done in 2020 and explained the particularities of the staff members located in Germany, being better from the tax and social insurance perspective, to pay it before the end of 2020. Mr Weikert asked the EC colleagues for their agreement to let the decision on Mrs Sörling and him.

Mr Burton agreed for Mrs Sörling and Mr Brown to make a proposal.

Given that 2020 was a very difficult year with very few activities, Mr Primorac was worried about how the table tennis community and players will perceive the fact that ITTF was going to pay bonuses to the staff, asking Mr Brown to send to the EC members all these details (presentation).

Mrs Sörling stated being very comfortable to stand behind the staff, suggesting that to say that there were very few activities (to question the bonus) was not a fair comment. Mrs Sörling added that there were very many sessions on-line during the year, all prepared by the ITTF staff, and that the ITTF conducted many online webinars, session, events addressed to the 226 Member Associations, which the ITTF has been serving the entire year, concluding that the staff work

should not be evaluated only about the result on the players, adding that the ITTF did all that could do also for the players.

Once again, Mr Weikert asked the EC members, if they could entrust Mrs Sörling and Mr Brown to prepare a proposal and Mr Weikert would assist on the background for the German staff.

The entire EC agreed to Mr Weikert's suggestion.

## 7.2 Nominations Committee 2020-2022

Following the report received on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the proposition submitted to the EC by the selection panel established at the last EC meeting (composed by the confirmed Chair, Mr Oshodi, the EVP in charge, Mr Maehara, the ITTF President and the ITTF CEO), the EC confirmed the composition of the 2020 – 2022 Nominations Committee.

### **20201221-EC-01**

The Executive Committee confirmed the 2020 – 2022 Nominations Committee composition:  
Chairman: Wahid OSHODI (NGR); Members: Guerfel LOTFI (TUN), AN Kok-Hee (KOR), Abdulla AL-MULLA (QAT), Sandra DEATON (ENG), Andreas GEORGIOU (CYP).  
Executive Vice-President in charge of the NC: MAEHARA Masahiro (JPN)  
Ex-Officio members: ITTF President, ITTF CEO, Presidents of the Continental Federations  
Support staff member (no voting rights): Raul CALIN (ESP)

## 7.3 Integrity

The EC noted the draft of the job description document prepared by the Legal Counsel, Mr Dylan Mah, for the Head of Integrity which will be leading the ITTF integrity unit as per the decisions of the 2020 AGM.

Mr Calin thanked Mr Mah for the job done on this matter and suggested that he will be working together with Mr Weikert and Mr Tenca on the final details of the document and hopefully, the application and hiring process for the position will be opened by the end of the week.

<b>ACTION 20201221#05</b>	<b>In charge: SG</b>	<b>Deadline: 2020-12-31</b>
<b>To open the applications for the position of Head of Integrity.</b>		

## 7.4 Formal engagement of PwC for the Legal Working Group on DTTB Letter

As decided via e-mail voting the week before, the EC confirmed the engagement of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as the "Independent External Expert" in the first working group (Legal Working Group).

## 20201221-EC-02

The Executive Committee confirmed the engagement of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as the "Independent External Expert" in the first working group (Legal Working Group) created as per the decision **20201127-EC-01** taken at the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 EC meeting.

In regard to a new DTTB letter<sup>1</sup> which the EC received from Mr Al-Mohannadi on 19<sup>th</sup> December, Mr Al-Mohannadi indicated his desire to ensure to follow the ITTF regulations. Asked by Mr Weikert, Mr Al-Mohannadi suggested the letter should be sent to the working group responsible for this matter.

The PwC Director, Forensic Services, [REDACTED] gave a brief overview of the project and explained the procedure to be followed and the 5 areas to be covered during the investigation:

1. The history of the decision to establish WTT: the rationale and the background
2. The decision-making process
3. The tender process: the role of Deloitte, the role of the Selection Panel, etc.
4. Conflict of interest checks of the Selection Panel members of the tender
5. Email review: standard practice to see the information shared inside and outside the Selection Panel in order to identify potential unfair advantages

[REDACTED] informed that PwC would provide a report based solely on factual findings, adding that PwC will take an inclusive approach, including interviews with the five 5 Selection Panel members of the tender, but also with DTTB, Deloitte and Withers, therefore, giving everyone an opportunity to express concerns or highlight items that should be examined.

A first draft report is expected to be issued in the middle of January 2021, which will be then circulated for comments, to ensure the redaction is adequate. A final signed report will follow once the feedback has been received.

As the full report may contain private and confidential information which should not be disclosed to external persons, [REDACTED] explained that an executive summary will also be provided, which can be circulated to the Member Associations.

On behalf of the EC, Mr Weikert thanked PwC for the very tight timelines to produce their report.

It was agreed that Mr Calin will be the main contact in this project, and he will be providing regular updates to the working group members in charge of this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> Not the DTTB letter circulated to an undetermined number of recipients on 18<sup>th</sup> November, but another letter addressed by DTTB Honorary President, Mr Hans Wilhelm Gab, to the ITTF CEO.



## 8. Competition Program

### 8.1 World Championships update

The KTTA President, Mr Ryu Seungmin, gave a brief update on the discussions held with the national authorities including the Presidential Office and the Ministry of Sports, informing that due to the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) would not allow major international sporting events in the next few months.

On that background, the EC unanimously decided to cancel the 2020 WTTC in Busan, however, a formal decision should be taken together with the Continental Presidents in the meeting scheduled after the EC meeting.

It was also noted that the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships will be held after the Olympic Games and a process will be put in place to finalise the details of that event to be announced in January 2021.

Mr Dainton proposed organising a meeting to determine the correct procedure but given the unprecedented circumstances and the financial investment made, if there is a chance, the ITTF will try to prioritise Busan as the host of the 2021 WTTC.

Mr Primorac stated he already predicted putting the event end of February was very optimistic and being a pity for the athletes and for KTTA, he was hoping there is another opportunity to have an event there at a later stage in the year.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked the EC to support Busan to host the 2021 WTTC, and asked to determine what is the correct procedure, particularly with the letters received from Houston and Morocco.

Mr Calin suggested that once the decision is formally taken in regard to the 2020 WTTC at the upcoming meeting together with the Continental Championships, the next step is to deal with 2021 WTTC, stating that he will be working together with the Legal Counsel on the formal steps to be followed, clarifying the situation with USA, MAR, and eventually with KOR Table Tennis Associations.

Mr Ryu thanked the ITTF EC and the staff for the support showed to the 2020 WTTC and KTTA. The Local Organising Committee (LOC) in Busan asked the ITTF EC to consider them for the event or another major World Title event in 2021, to help amortize the potential financial loss of both institutions.

<b>ACTION 20201221#06</b>	<b>In charge: SG and Legal Counsel</b>	<b>Deadline: 2021-01-20</b>
<b>To determine the procedure for allocation of the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships.</b>		

### 8.2 Olympic qualifications update

The point was deferred to the following meeting with the Continental Presidents due to time constraints.

### 8.3 World Ranking

The EC noted the 2021 ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking proposal recommended by the WR working group as well as the Report and Minutes of the WRWG meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Mr Primorac stressed about the urgency of this matter and insisted that a final decision should be taken during this meeting in order to allow athletes to plan and prepare for the next year. In light of the cancellation of the 2020 WTTC in Busan, Mr Primorac asked the EC to make an exceptional decision and give an extra value to the Olympic Games (**OG**) by awarding a higher number of WR points in comparison to the WTTC and Grand Smashes (**GS**). Despite the proposal already made by the WRWG, Mr Primorac believed that the OG should be considered as the major top event for 2021 and re-evaluate at a later stage once the GS gain enough relevance.

Mr Weikert summarised the proposal for the 2021 WR and the decision taken by the WRWG, declining to have Golden Events, and studying the possibility to have prize money at future World Championships. Mr Weikert also explained the decision to award equal points for all the major events like OG, WTTC and GS. Mr Weikert reminded the EC about his discussions with the IOC Sports Director, Mr Kit McConnell, and warned about the potential damages caused for not putting enough value on the OG. Mr Weikert said that in his call (with Mr McConnell), although it was about Paris 2024, he was not amused (about the ITTF WR decision). Despite the decision taken by WRWG, Mr Weikert was in agreement with Mr Primorac and proposed to the EC to increase the number of points for the OG in 2021 and re-evaluate after one year.

Mr Burton stated that, as already indicated via email, the discussions and the proposal presented in the WRWG report are reflecting a reasonable compromise. Moreover, Mr Burton emphasized that a vote has already been taken in the WRWG as it was presented in written in the supportive documents attached to the proposal.

Mr Burton questioned the process followed in this case, especially the fact that the President and AC Chair are presenting a renewed option different than the proposal presented in the document submitted to the EC, without even consulting or discussing it in the WRWG (which already made a formal decision).

Mr Al-Mohannadi thanked the WRWG for the work done in regard to this matter and asked what the rationale was behind awarding more points for the OG, especially as OG is under the authority of IOC not the ITTF like other the WTTC and GS. Giving the example of other major sports, Mr Al-Mohannadi emphasized that Tennis awards zero points to the OG and give the maximum number of points to their own events.

Mr Maehara informed the EC that due to the fact the announcement of the WTT Event Calendar and presentation of the WR have been delayed, the Japanese National Team, similar to other National Associations, were unable to plan a competition schedule and budget for the year and asked the EC to take an immediate action.

Dr Meshref was in favour to award the maximum number of points to the OG and considered that the that the duration (of the validity of the points) should be prolonged on a 4-year period with a % deduction after each year.

The Competition Director, Mr Gabor Felegyi, stated that following the mandate given by the EC, the WRWG tried to find a reasonable compromise in the best interest of the ITTF Group, while taking into consideration the commercial objectives proposed by the new event structure and respecting the traditional events such as OG and WTTC. For that purpose, Mr Felegyi reported that the agreement of WRWG was to award the equal number of points to the three key major events OG, WTTC, and GS.

Mrs Sörling expressed her disagreement regarding the process followed (i.e., introduction of a last-minute amendment to the proposal) and the fact that the EC gave the mandate to an expert group that already presented a formal proposal prior to this meeting in written on the EC package.

Mrs Sörling added that her opinion, as President of an NA (STTA), was that the highest number of points should be awarded to the WTTC. However, as ITTF EC member, she understands the importance of the commercial growth and the need to make the new events relevant in the market. Nevertheless, there was also an argument that the OG and the IOC contribution play a significant role in the development and promotion of table tennis, hence should also be given a higher value. On the other hand, she remarked that the OG are not ITTF events.

Regardless of any personal preferences, Mrs Sörling considered that the ITTF EC should follow a formal process.

Mr Dainton was in agreement with Mrs Sörling, and argued the steps followed in decision-making process, insisting that it was not a good way for ITTF to work as a professional institution, appealing to the EC to follow the correct procedure and formal process and take a final decision.

Mr Weikert replied to Mr Dainton that the reason why Mr Primorac and himself were proposing a last-minute addendum was due to the special circumstances. Mr Weikert added that the ultimate decision stays with the EC, and therefore, taking the WG proposal, there can be other proposals and discussions can be and should be held, as the EC has the power to decide.

The EVP, Mr Shi Zhihao, expressed his agreement with Mr Dainton, stressing that it was important to make a final decision in order to allow the players to prepare for the next year.

After listening to all the opinions, the EC decided to vote regarding the 2021 ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking proposal (regarding the distribution of points) recommended by the World Ranking working group or to adjust the document so that the Olympic Games have a slightly higher number of points.

The EC decided with a majority of 6 votes in favour and 5 against, to approve the 2021 ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking regarding the distribution of points as proposed by the World Ranking working group and not adjusting the point table.

Votes in favour to keep the points as per the WRWG: Mr Al-Mohannadi, Mrs Sörling, Mr Burton, Mr Morris, Mr Shi, and Mr Tenca.

Votes to add more points to the Olympic Games: Mr Weikert, Mr Maehara, Dr Meshref, Mr Primorac and Mr Ryu.

## 20201221-EC-03

The Executive Committee decided to approve the 2021 Table Tennis World Ranking as proposed by the Working Group.

## 9. World Table Tennis

### 9.1 Events 2021

Due to the time constraints, it was agreed that a presentation including the latest proposed dates for the 2021 WTT Events will be shared with the EC following this meeting via email.

<b>ACTION 20201221#07</b>	<b>In charge: Marketing Director</b>	<b>Deadline: 2020-12-31</b>
<b>To share the proposed dated for the 2021 WTT Events.</b>		

### 9.2 Business Plan

Due to the time constraints, the EC agreed to give the mandate to the Selection Panel to approve the WTT Business Plan on behalf of the EC. For that purpose, a meeting of the Selection Panel will be scheduled at a later stage in January 2021.

<b>ACTION 20201221#08</b>	<b>In charge: Selection Panel</b>	<b>Deadline: 2021-01-31</b>
<b>To have a meeting and decide regarding the Business Plan.</b>		

## 10. ITTF Foundation update

### 10.1 Table Tennis United

Due to time constraints, a decision regarding this point to be taken via email.

<b>ACTION 20201221#09</b>	<b>In charge: Selection Panel</b>	<b>Deadline: 2021-01-31</b>
<b>To have a meeting and decide regarding the Business Plan.</b>		

## 11. Member Relations Program

### 11.1 Membership

This point was deferred to the next EC meeting.

### 11.2 CONSUTEME situation

This point was deferred to the next EC meeting.

**12. Any other business**

No other business was included

**13. Next EC Meeting**

Mr Weikert proposed to have the next EC meeting to be held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> or Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Dr Meshref suggested to have it, if possible, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, but Mr Weikert indicated there was a planned meeting of the ITTF Foundation already.

Mrs Sörling suggested to consider for the future having the meetings on weekends, as it takes almost a full working day. Mr Weikert indicated he will finalise the date for the next meeting together with the Secretary General.

**14. Adjournment**

Without further points on the agenda, the first part of the Executive Committee Meeting finished at 13h15 CET, inviting then the Continental Federations representatives (Minutes in the following pages).

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Thomas Weikert  
ITTF President

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Date

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Raul Calin  
ITTF Secretary General

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Date



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH CONTINENTAL FEDERATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

Video Conference  
21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Opening

#### 1.1 President's opening remarks

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed the Representatives of the Continental Federations, apologising for the slight delay due to the previous EC meeting. Mr Weikert reflected on the complicated year 2020 was, mentioning the #RESTART, which was very successful in China and congratulating Mr Pedro Moura and the ETTU for the successful organization of the Champions League in Dusseldorf, without COVID-19 cases, mentioning that the ITTF had also a bit of lack without any COVID-19 cases in China.

#### 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
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission Chair
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
Ryu Seungmin	IOC member
Khaled El-Salhy	African Table Tennis Federation Representative
Dhanraj Choudhary	Asian Table Tennis Union Representative
Pedro Moura	European Table Tennis Union Representative
Jorge Herrera	Latin American Table Tennis Union Representative
Barry Griffiths	ITTF Oceania Representative
In attendance	
Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Apologies	
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission Chair

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without any further additions.

### 3. 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships

Mr Weikert gave the floor to Mr Ryu Seungmin.

Mr Ryu expressed it was an honour to be there and present the report on behalf of Korean Table Tennis Association (KTTA) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC).

Mr Ryu explained that due to COVID-19 the Busan 2020 WTTC were already postponed three times and the BoD had entrusted the EC, together with the Continental Presidents or Representatives, to decide the format of the WTTC to be held in February-March 2021.

Mr Ryu continued explaining the comprehensive discussions held with the Korean authorities, including the Presidential Offices and Ministry of Sports to reduce the quarantine period for athletes and other participants. However, due to a new recent outbreak of COVID-19 the Korean government is tightening restrictions in all social and sporting events.

Mr Ryu added that under this background, Korean quarantine authorities sent to KTTA the week before an official letter with the strong recommendation to refrain from holding any sporting events or conferences in next February. In other words, Mr Ryu continued *"it is impossible to host the Busan 2020 WTTC next February. Therefore, I'm said to recommend you cancelling the Busan 2020 WTTC to be held ordinarily at the end of February through March."*

Nevertheless, Mr Ryu said he wished to propose another event in Busan next year, because *"if we were to cancel completely the event without any alternative, it would bring huge financial damage not only to the KTTA but also to the ITTF who has heavily invested in the event"*.

Mr Ryu suggested then: *"In these extraordinary and unprecedented emergency situations I humble request to the EC and Continental Presidents to consider giving us another opportunity to host the World Championships next year, whether it is individual or team events"*.

To conclude, Mr Ry stated that *"Busan city keeps the passion of hosting the World Championships and give us an assurance that they will keep provisory the pledged subsidy of [REDACTED] if the ITTF gives us another opportunity to host World Championships next year. Also, I'm confident that our title sponsor, Hanna Bank, will pay the agreed amount of [REDACTED] just before the tournament"* and asked the ITTF President, EC Members, and Continental Representatives: *"to give us another opportunity to meet you and the athletes in Busan next year, we will never give up"*.

Mr Weikert took the floor thanking Mr Ryu for the explanation and indicating that everybody understands the complex situation with the successive postponements of the event.

Mr Weikert suggested that before giving the floor to the Continental Representatives, it was good to update them on the discussions held at the EC meeting held immediately before, indicating that the proper process would be, not having yet clear the situation with Houston 2021, and bearing in mind that the ITTF has also received a letter from Morocco indicating that they are ready to host the 2021 World Individual Championships, plus now this situation with Korea and keeping in mid the investment, we need to find a bid process like we did in the past, but to find a middle way which is a good compromise.

Mr Weikert asked then if someone wanted to comment and Mr Pedro Moura took the floor.

Mr Moura said being honoured to be able to discuss these important matters and thanked the welcome words from Mr Weikert regarding the European events held recently.

Mr Moura said being sorry about the situation but also fully understanding the situation KTTA is facing. Mr Moura continued indicating that from ETTU side, it is totally understandable the request from KTTA to have the chance to organize a worldwide event in Busan in 2021 and the ETTU would, if the World Individuals Championships were to be played in the second half of 2021 in Busan, support this idea, as it seems it would not make any sense to consider playing a Team Event. Mr Moura clarified that *"if we are considering replacing Houston by Busan, it seems logical, and without knowing details, generally speaking it is a very good idea and (the ITTF and KTTA) could expect ETTU's support if in fact Houston is not going ahead"*.

Mr Khaled El-Salhy stated also understanding completely the situation and commented that in the case Houston is not ready to host the WTTC 2021, Morocco, as the second bidder for the WTTC 2021 has a real intention to host the event, counting with the Government support.

Mr Jorge Herrera, on behalf of Mr Juan Vila, wanted to thank Mr Ryu Seungmin and the ITTF EC for all the efforts made, and to show its sympathy due to this situation. Mr Herrera indicated that LATTU fully understands the frustration of everyone after such hard work and confirmed the support for the decision that must be taken.

Mr Choudhary said it was disappointing to learn that Busan will not be able to host the World Team Table Tennis Championships, as this was a great chance for the Athletes to participate and to earn World Ranking points, but that nevertheless, the ATTU understands the situation as Mr Ryu has well explained, because of COVID-19 and with the Government not allowing to hold the event.

Mr Choudhary added that the EC and the AGM should determine who should host the 2021 World Individual Championships as soon as the worldwide situation allows to take a decision.

Mr Weikert then summarized as follows:

- The Busan 2020 World Teams Table Tennis Championships will be cancelled
- The ITTF will try to have a World Individuals Table Tennis Championships in the second half of the year, after the Olympic Games, in the best interest of the ITTF, the Continental Federations and specially for the Athletes
- We have noted the request from Mr Ryu to have the WTTC in Busan. We have to clarify the situation with Houston, as they were confirmed to have the Championships in June 2021, but we have to clarify the contractual situation, if they want to have the Championships in the second half of the year, we have also the letter from Morocco, as they originally bid for 2021, so there are in principle three options
- We need to find a proper process that does not take too long, and we need to find a solution, although it will not be a perfect solution, to have a Championships in the end of the year
- The EC will try to find the best possible solution

Mr Weikert asked the Continental Representatives if they were comfortable with this summary and/or if someone had further remarks.

Not having any further remarks, the summary was accepted as a true record of the decisions taken, and the EC will take into consideration the three options (KOR, USA and MAR), working in the first half of January with Mr Al-Mohannadi, as the EC member in charge of the World Championships.

Mr Moura added a remark to say that although understanding the position of Morocco, when taking into consideration the investment already made by KTTA to organize the Busan 2020 WTTC, he was of the hope that this will be taken into consideration when the decision will be taken and the ETTU would support a decision that helps KTTA.

Mr Weikert added that the financial situation is one of the pillars that has to be considered for the wellbeing of everyone, informing the attendees that the meeting will be recorded and suggesting the Secretary General, Raul Calin, to prepare Minutes of the Meeting.

Mr Dainton added that before the event can be relocated to Korea, and despite the ITTF has received a cancellation letter from Houston, we have also to deal with USATT to clear that the event is fully cancelled before engaging with other Associations, and also because of Morocco's eventual bid, we need to ensure a proper process is carried as per the ITTF regulations, asking Mr Calin to abound on it.

Mr Calin added that as per the ITTF Handbook, between the AGM's (4.1.1.5) the BoD shall have the power to transfer the Championships or to take any other appropriate action, therefore, the first step is to clarify with Houston, and if not possible, then to eventually look for other alternatives.

#### **20201221-EC-04**

The Executive Committee, together with the Continental Federations Presidents and Representatives, agreed to cancel the Busan 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships due to the impossibility to host the event as per the instructions given by the Korean Government and the Korean quarantine authorities to the KTTA, asking them to refrain from hosting any social or sporting events in February/March 2021.

#### **4. 2021 World Individual Table Tennis Championships**

It was covered in combination with point 3.



## 5. Continental Qualification events for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Mr Calin gave an update indicating that Africa has already completed their Continental Qualification (CQ) event, Europe and Latin America have done so partially, and Oceania and Asia are still to be made.

Mr Calin continued explaining that together with the Competition Director, Mr Gabor Felegyi, and the Members Relations Director, Mr Mounir Bessah, meetings have been held with the respective EVPs of the continents and with Continental Presidents, Secretaries General or equivalent, with the offer to host the continental qualification events that have not been completed in Doha, Qatar, in the month of March together with the World Qualification Tournament.

Mr Calin added that this is of course not mandatory, but looking at many considerations, including sustainability aspects, for Member Associations and Athletes it would perhaps be better to have the events concentrated in one place rather than having to travel eventually to two different continents, having eventually two quarantines, but nevertheless, as soon as the dates for the Bubble in Qatar are confirmed the ITTF will be providing more details about this offer.

Mr Calin concluded indicating that if the Continental Federations prefer to keep the events in their continents, the ITTF will accept it as far as any necessary changes are still in compliance with the IOC approved QS principles adding that, if the events European, Latin American and Oceania events cannot finally be held in April as planned, we will need to have a system in place so those places are relocated, normally to ranking, and ensuring any eventual relocation is made with a method that is clear for everyone.

Mr Moura mentioned that the CQ event for Europe is in principle allocated to Moscow in Russia and the ETTU is working closely with the local authorities but, nevertheless, also working in a plan B, and eventually in a plan C and D if the event cannot be held in Moscow.

Mr Moura explained the ETTU will exhaust all possibilities to host the event in Europe and to try to do before the World Qualification, in the same dates originally planned in February and if it is needed to postpone, the ETTU will try to relocate it before the World Qualification, so the European athletes can play both events if they need to.

Mr El-Salhy asked if the Final World Qualification Tournament will be in Qatar during the bubble, what was confirmed by Mr Calin.

Mr Calin added in reference to Mr Moura's comments that at certain point of time, a decision will be needed to be taken on whether the kind offer of QTTA is accepted or not, suggesting that although the ideal solution is to host the European Qualification event in Europe, if for any reasons none of the options explored is doable, it is also important to keep in mind the possibility or not to make an eventual relocation of the event to Qatar, as this would need to involve different stakeholders, such Ministry of Health, etc, to confirm if an extra event can be added with short notice.

Mr Moura suggested the final decision by the ETTU is expected to be taken by the end of 2020, hopefully on time to eventually going to Qatar if needed.



Mr Choudhary suggested that as Thailand Association is unable to conduct the event, the ATTU agrees with the ITTF to host the CQ event in Qatar.

Mr Al-Mohannadi updated the attendees on the preparations being made, particularly the COVID-19 protocols being discussed with the Government and Ministry of Health, and their request to have the names of all attendees at least forty-five (45) days before their arrival, to ensure they can participate with express 1-2 days quarantine.

## **6. Continental Agreements**

Mr Dainton briefly commented that Mrs Polona Cehovin and Mr Mounir Bessah have been discussing with the CFs the Continental Agreements (**CAs**) and after a first round of one-on-one discussions with them, and with the feedback received, as for example to include all parts of the ITTF in the agreements (ITTF Foundation and WTT as well), although knowing we are a bit behind schedule, the hope is to have them finalised soon.

Mr Dainton indicated he expects the next draft of the CAs to be circulated soon, commenting that the amounts of support are depending on several factors, as for example if the Olympic Games will go ahead or not, or if the ITTF can have events starting soon in 2021, as this will significantly affect the ITTF budget. If those events can be organised, the ITTF can generate income that can be injected in the CAs.

Mr Choudhary commented on the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November with the initial proposal, including the principles of Good Governance, Events and Development Program, indicating it was a very successful meeting and confirming the ATTU has agreed in the framework and will be waiting for the detailed proposal and documents, being hopeful the agreement can be soon finalised.

## **7. Any other business**

Mr Weikert suggested that if there was no further business, he wanted to wish everyone Merry Christmas, take care, stay healthy, have a good New Year and hoping 2021 is a year with some more competitions, with the Olympic Games being held, with the World Individual Championships going ahead, with Bubbles, and in the second part of the year Grand Smashes and other WTT events, hoping to see everyone physically and not just via videoconference.

## 8. Adjournment

Without further points on the agenda, the Meeting was adjourned at 15:00 pm (CET time).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Weikert  
ITTF President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Raul Calin  
ITTF Secretary General

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date