

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Video Conference

Sunday 16th May 2021 – 12h00 CET to 15h00 CET

Monday, 31st May 2021 – 12h00 CET to 15h00 CET

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1 President's opening remarks

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed everyone and started the meeting reminding that we are still in pandemic times and hoping the Olympic Games (**OG**) will take place.

1.2 Roll Call

Thomas Weikert	ITTF President (except for the point 8.4 of the agenda)
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	ITTF Deputy President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President - Finance
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao*	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
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President (except for the point 8.4 of the agenda)
Michael Brown	CFO
Matt Pound	Marketing Director - only for the related section
Gabor Felegyi	Competition Director (Interim) – only for the correspondent point
Mounir Bessah	Member Relations Director - only the correspondent point
Dylan Mah	Legal Counsel - only for the correspondent point
Anthony Indaimo	Withers Legal Rep – only for the correspondent point (16 th May)
Pierre Killian	PwC Forensic Director - only for the correspondent point (16 th May)
Virginia Sung	USATT CEO – only for the correspondent point (16 th May)
Dragomir Cioroslan	USOPC Representative – only for the correspondent point (16 th May)
Apologies	
Zoran Primorac	16-05-2021
Shi Zhihao	31-05-2021

2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meetings

2.1 Approval of the Minutes

The EC noted that the Minutes of the EC meeting held on 14th March 21st March and 11th April 2021 will be circulated to the EC members for comments and approval.

The EC noted and approved the Draft of the Minutes of the EC meeting held in December 2020 together with the Continental Presidents regarding the cancellation of the 2020 WTTC in Busan. Those Minutes will be attached to those of the regular EC meeting held just before that day.

Dr Meshref suggested that for transparency reasons, it would be better if the EC agrees to restart publishing the EC Minutes, including those of 2020 meetings (instead of publishing only the decisions) and, if necessary, the parts that need to remain confidential due to business reasons can be redacted.

The EC members agreed to make them available and publish them retroactively.

It was also agreed that the first draft of the Minutes of the EC meetings, as prepared by the staff, should be circulated to all the EC members at the same time, and not only after being edited by the President.

The EVP, Mr Bruce Burton, questioned Mr Weikert's decision to circulate a letter to the entire Table Tennis community about the ITTF Tribunal decision without previous consultation nor prior notice of the EC. Mr Burton considered this was contrary to the decision taken on 14th March that, from that moment onwards, all EC decisions should be taken collectively, and added that this decision was taken exactly because Mr Weikert was taking decisions unilaterally.

Mr Burton suggested Mr Weikert to give some thought to this matter, and to consider how he wants to work together with the EC colleagues in the best interest of the sport.

Mr Weikert said he will consider.

ACTION 20210516#01	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To review what confidential information in 2020 and 2021 EC Minutes needs to be redacted before publishing and present to the EC.		
ACTION 20210516#02	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-07-15
To publish previous 2020 and 2021 EC Minutes once approved by the EC.		

2.2 Business arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the previous EC Meeting Minutes other than the ones already included in the Agenda.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with the addition of the following points:

9.6. 2022 WVC Entry fees

- 12.1 ITTF Museum in Shanghai
- 12.2 Finance and Audit Committee & Ethics Commission
- 12.3 Georgia - Membership issue
- 12.4 Brisbane

The Deputy President, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, addressed the fact that Mr Weikert invited the USATT and USAOPC representatives to attend the EC Meeting for the 2021 WTTC & AGM update, without any prior notice nor consulting any of the other EC members. Mr Al-Mohannadi reminded that this was not the first time that such arrangements were made without his knowledge, and that as the EC Member in charge of the WTTC, it was fundamental for him to be involved in the process.

Mr Weikert indicated it made sense to clarify this matter at EC level together with the LOC of the 2021 WTTC, reason why he invited the guests.

The EVP, Mr James Morris, indicated his concern about the decision of Mr Weikert to invite the USATT and USAOPC representatives to the EC meeting without having yet clarified internally the situation within the EC itself, and there was still some confusion whether USATT had the right to host the AGM during the 2021 WTTC.

Mr Weikert suggested that his reason to invite them was to hear from the USA if they feel that the AGM should be in Houston, in view also of the report of Mr McLaren, to which he agrees.

4. COVID-19 situational report

The EC noted the COVID-19 situational report acknowledging that the situation is continuously changing at global level, and while the situation was improving in some countries, the number of active cases continue to rise in different parts of the world.

5. CEO Update

5.1 2021 and 2020 Outlook

Although the situation seemed to be more stabilized in some parts of the world, the ITTF CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, expected that 2021 and 2022 will both be complicated years in terms of international travel, which will have a major impact on the international sporting events. In that regard, Mr Dainton recommended that ITTF should continue adopting a flexible and agile approach.

Mr Dainton reported that despite the very positive discussions held with the local authorities, due to the concerns raised by the current circumstances, it was unfortunately not possible to move forward with organising the event in Zadar, Croatia.

Mr Dainton assured that the ITTF staff is working hard trying to ensure hosting as many events as possible after the OG in Tokyo and hoped to have some normality in 2022 if the external environment situation allows it.

Mr Weikert thanked Mr Primorac and the staff for the hard work and extra effort in trying to find a solution to host international events. Mr Weikert expected some positivity for the remainder

of the year and hoped that the successful hosting of the OG would become a reference and a great platform for the future events.

5.2 Strategic Plan

Mr Dainton reminded that the first ever ITTF Strategic Plan was approved by the 2018 AGM and given the recent growth experience by the ITTF in the last years and the fact that the world changed dramatically due to the global pandemic, it was now necessary to update the Strategic Plan to reflect the current reality and situation of the ITTF and its entities.

Mr Dainton reported that the ITTF staff was working together with Deloitte on this matter and a draft of the updated Strategic Plan version will be shared in the next 6-8 weeks.

ACTION 20210516#03	In charge: CEO	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To share a draft of the updated ITTF Strategic Plan.		

6. **Members Relations Program**

6.1 Master Continental Agreements

The Member Relations Director, Mr Mounir Bessah, updated the EC on the discussions held with the Continental Federations and the progress made in relation to the Master Continental Agreements.

Mr Bessah reported that the MCAs have already been signed with the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU), and the African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF), and informed that the discussions with ITTF Americas and ITTF Oceania were still in progress, hoping to finalise the signing in the following days.

The EC also noted the work done by the High Performance and Development Department in collaboration with the Member Relations Department in relation to the MAs Participation Program.

As already mentioned in the previous meetings, Mr Bessah stated that despite ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU), at the moment, there was no indication that ATTU was willing to sign the MCA. As agreed with ATTU, Mr Bessah informed that the ITTF will work directly with the MAs of Asia.

Mr Burton praised the work done by the ITTF staff in these challenging times and for the positive development in the current context of a global pandemic.

Mr Morris also thanked the ITTF staff for the work done with the Continental Federations and especially resolving some of the issues raised by ITTF Oceania.

7. **Athletes' Commission update**

Mr Primorac couldn't attend the meeting.

8. Operations Program

8.1 Finances

The EVP, Mrs Sörling, updated the EC on the 2020 Audit process which was close to being finalised and indicated that the next Finances and Audit Committee meeting will also be held following the completion of the Audit.

In reference to an article published by *insidethegames.com*, Mrs Sörling reflected on the situation of other International Federations (IFs) which were financially struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, being very reliant on the Olympic Funding. On the other hand, the ITTF managed to have a much positive financial result as it was not as reliant as other IFs on the IOC contribution.

With regards to the way in which the ITTF releases Olympic Funding following the share received from the IOC after each Olympic Games, historically these funds would be released over a four-year period between Olympic Games. However, due to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games by one year, this has resulted in the funds being stretched to five years. At the beginning of 2020, there were USD 6 million still available for release, which will now be distributed across both 2020 and 2021. Due to this approach being necessary, it has contributed towards the financial loss for 2020.

With respect to the OG in Tokyo, Mr Brown reported that the ITTF was able to obtain a refund for the cancelled accommodation which meant a significant reduction of costs.

As per the auditor's recommendation, the financial team will be looking at different ways on how to reduce the overall financial loss at the end of the year, especially due to being unable to conduct events for which ITTF received pre-paid funds.

Mr Weikert informed that during a call with the IOC President, Dr Thomas Bach assured that the preparations for the OG were going ahead. With respect to the Olympic Funding, the IOC reported that they will do their best to fulfil their financial commitments towards the IFs, so they can hopefully receive the expected amounts.

Taking into consideration the cases of other IFs that are finding themselves in a difficult financial situation, Mr Burton recommended ITTF to be cautious and reconsider the USD 3 million investment for the organisation of the 2021 WTTC in Houston, which seemed a huge commitment for one event of reduced scale and capacity in comparison to the previous editions.

Dr Meshref asked what would happen in case the OG were to be cancelled and how would that affect the ITTF reserves. Based on that assumption, he also raised the question if ITTF was in a safe position to invest USD 3 million into the WTTC without a negative impact on the overall ITTF Finances.

Mr Brown confirmed that there was sufficient cashflow for the remainder of the year and the ITTF has approximately USD 5,5 million in cash, in addition to other assets. However, in case the OG would be cancelled, it will have a massive impact on the future cashflow and the ITTF will have to adopt drastic measures and reconsider its entire structure, in a worst-case scenario.

Mr Brown also stressed about the uncertainty around international events and the impact that this may cause on the cashflow.

To better understand the overall financial situation, Mr Sörling considered it was crucial to present a two-year cash flow analysis (2021 and 2022) including all the financial investments and extra support necessary to host international events.

Dr Meshref asked clarifications regarding the status of the payment of the USD 2 million license fee, which should be paid by WTT to the ITTF as per the MLA. Mr Brown confirmed that the first USD 500,000 payment corresponding to Q1 were received at the end of March and the next payment was scheduled to be received at the end of Q2.

Dr Meshref also solicited further information about the financial forecast with respect to the potential events scheduled for the remaining of the year and asked what was ITTF's commitment and financial contribution towards hosting such events during a pandemic.

Mr Brown explained that from a financial perspective, the ITTF and WTT contribution should rather be considered more of an investment and a support to ensure that events can be held during a pandemic.

In terms of actual costs, Mr Dainton indicated that the financial contribution would be intended to cover the COVID-19 protocol and prize money, mentioning that although this kind of events would not generate profits, it was important to make all the possible efforts to host international events.

Mr Dainton mentioned that the estimated costs were USD 75,000\$ from ITTF for the implementation of the COVID-19 protocol and USD 75,000\$ from WTT to cover the prize money, indicating that the rest of the budget would be the responsibility of the LOC.

Taking into consideration such estimated cost, the ITTF can afford to support 5-6 similar type of events to be held in the second half of the year.

However, in case there was a request to improve the level of sport presentation, quality of the TV production and prize money, WTT would have to invest a higher amount.

Mrs Sörling explained that hosting international events during the pandemic will require additional financial support and ITTF will have to make various investments in different parts of the world.

Mr Dainton indicated that only a few MAs are currently in a good financial position and would be willing to invest in hosting international events. Mr Dainton mentioned that the income generated in the bigger markets must be re-invested in other parts of the world where it is not possible to obtain support from local governments and partners.

Mr Al-Mohannadi stated that hosting events during a global pandemic was a new challenge and experience for everyone. In terms of costs, Mr Al-Mohannadi emphasized that in case of 2021 WTT ME Hub, the overall costs corresponding for the implementation of the COVID-19 protocol

was estimated to USD 180,000, and such amount need to be considered when planning future international events.

Mr Al-Mohannadi was very pleased to see that the ITTF and WTT staff was working very hard trying to organise events and expecting to hear some positive news from potential hosts in the second half of the year.

ACTION 20210516#04	In charge: CFO	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To present a 2-year cash flow financial analysis for the EC consideration.		

8.2 Human Resources

Mrs Sörling updated the EC on the discussions held in a group formed by the ITTF President, the CFO, the HR Manager, and herself as the EVP of Finance (Staff), regarding the ITTF CEO employment contract which was not valid given the current situation and structure of the ITTF.

Mrs Sörling mentioned that following the transition to a new format of employment contracts for the ITTF staff, from a time bound employment contracts to rolling contracts, it was now the time to update and finalise the ITTF CEO employment contract. In her perspective, as a modern organisation, the employment contracts should not be conditioned by the politics.

Mrs Sörling indicated that as per the current CEO contract, a high proportion of the salary was conditioned by the commissions applicable to the yearly income of the organisation, and, considered that, as a group CEO, it was preferable to establish higher base salary and determine the applicable commission structure based on performance and results. Mrs Sörling informed that the final draft of the CEO employment contract has already been circulated to the members of the group. Mrs Sörling was hoping to finalise this matter as soon as possible and she was not comfortable asking the staff to operate without a valid contract.

Although in agreement with Mrs Sörling, Mr Weikert raised his concerns in relation to the potential conflict of interest perceived due to CEO's relation with both entities, ITTF and WTT, which might interfere with some of the terms and conditions stipulated by the MLA. To clarify and discard any COI, Mr Weikert asked the Legal Counsel, Mr Dylan Mah, to check the legality of the contract and ensure that everything was done in a proper way.

Mr Brown updated on the progress and the amount of work done during the process to update all the current contracts and underlined the importance of finalise this matter as soon as possible while ensuring that all staff were operating under a valid contract.

Mr Burton suggested that if Mr Weikert was on agreement, a much broader discussion about COI could be held at the next EC meeting, and not just when it is of Mr Weikert's interest. Mr Burton added he was very much in favour to have such a discussion but not only about what Mr Weikert founds convenient, as Mr Weikert himself is in a position of COI and month after month this is being ignored.

Without wanting to interfere or comment regarding his own employment contract, Mr Dainton clarified that under the Singapore Law, when setting-up WTT, as a legal requirement he did already declare his COI. Given the urgency of this matter, Mr Dainton requested to the EC

to try and solve this situation as soon as possible as he was not feeling comfortable operating with an invalid contract.

Mr Weikert clarified that it was not his intention to make any accusation against the current CEO nor making any reference to the individual person but raised a general question which should be taken into consideration and cleared from a legal perspective.

Given the same rational, Dr Meshref considered that the ITTF should be consistent and adopt the same approach across all Boards and entities part of the Group: ITTF, WTT and ITTF Foundation.

To provide further context and background, Mr Brown explained that a foreign staff working in Singapore cannot be bound through multiple employment contracts with different entities. Therefore, the intention was to maintain only one legal relationship between the Staff and the ITTF at ITTF Group level, while a service agreement would then be formalised between the different entities of the same ITTF Group.

Mr Al-Mohannadi did not understand why the CEO employment contract was delayed for so long and asked the EC persons in charge to finalise this matter as soon as possible.

The EC decided to entrust the two EC members, the CFO, and the HR to finalise the employment contract of Mr Steve Dainton as ITTF CEO and inform the EC once it's concluded.

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The Executive Committee decided to entrust the group to finalise the employment contract of Mr Steve Dainton as ITTF CEO and inform the EC once it's concluded.

31st May 2021

The EC noted that Mr Weikert was not in agreement with the conditions and refused to sign the employment contract of the ITTF CEO due to the perceived COI in reference to the position of ITTF Group CEO and WTT Director. Mr Weikert mentioned that he already informed the HR Manager about this matter, and insisted that before signing, this subject will require further discussions to clarify this situation of COI.

Mrs Sörling was very surprised about this situation, as she was not aware about such conversation held between Mr Weikert and the HR Manager. Mrs Sörling stressed about the necessity to solve this matter as soon as possible, as it was not acceptable for the ITTF CEO to operate without a valid contract.

Mr Calin suggested that if Mr Weikert was not comfortable to sign the ITTF CEO employment contract, perhaps it would be a solution for him to delegate this task to another EC member with signing power.

Mr Weikert indicated he will not agree to this proposal because as President and responsible for staff, there is a legal matter to solve.

ACTION 20210516#05	In charge: Legal Counsel	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To arrange a meeting together with the group members and the CEO to clarify the potential COI.		

8.3 Letter from Hungarian Table Tennis Associations (HTTA)

The EC noted the second letter received from the Hungarian Table Tennis Association (HTTA) in reference to the termination agreement signed between ITTF and TMS effective 1st January 2017.

The EC noted that Mr Natran was not fully satisfied with the responses offered by the ITTF CEO as per the instruction of the ITTF EC to his first letter and questioned the fact that it took so long to reply to his initial letter sent on 22nd February. Mr Natran complained about the fact that all the decisions taken regarding the ITTF and TMS Agreement were taken internally by the EC without providing any evidence that a rigorous process was followed.

Mr Dainton considered it was necessary for the ITTF EC to be consistent in the way they were handling each of the cases and requests received from the various Member Associations. In that regard, Mr Dainton asked the EC to evaluate if it was necessary to engage a professional external expert to do a further forensic investigation and to determine the next steps to be followed in this case.

Dr Meshref considered that the TMS commercial rights buyback was not a small issue, as it involved a significant amount (USD 7 million) which was currently still affecting the ITTF Finances, and the EC should respect the fact that a MA is asking the ITTF to provide a good explanation for this expenditure.

Dr Meshref believed, in order to act transparently and in line with the principles of good governance, the EC should follow the same procedure as in the case of DTTB letter and to initiate a rigorous forensic investigation engaging external professional experts in order to clear any doubts that might be raised by any MA in regard to the integrity of the organisation or any of the EC members.

Mr Weikert emphasized that there was a clear difference between the two cases (DTTB and HTTA) indicating that the TMS commercial buyback issue was finalised and ratified by the 2018 AGM. Mr Weikert reminded that discussions were held in 2018 with regards to how the amortisation of the USD 7,7 Million should be reflected in the ITTF balance sheet. However, in his opinion, this matter was solved and closed.

Dr Meshref clarified that the establishment of the WTT and the work done by the EC was also ratified in the 2019 and 2020 AGM. Moreover, the ITTF followed a very rigorous process to establish WTT, and obviously that was not the case in the case of ITTF and TMS Agreement.

Mrs Sörling expressed her disappointment in relation to the whole approach emphasizing that the entire work of the EC seemed to be focused only on legal cases.

While understanding the need to adopt a consistent approach, Mrs Sörling considered that from a financial perspective it was not wise to spend more money on legal cases, especially in the

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The Executive Committee decided to agree with the recommendation made by the Working Group (Legal).

8.5 ITTF Head of Integrity

(Part I of the meeting – 16-May-2021)

Following the second round of interviews held with the shortlisted candidates, the EC noted the proposal of the group composed by Mr Weikert, Mrs Söring and Mr Tenca, regarding the preferred candidate.

The EC agreed with such recommendation, and as a next step, it was suggested to try to reach an agreement with the candidate.

ACTION 20210516#9	In charge: EVP Finance & CFO	Deadline: 2021-05-31
To negotiate and make an offer to Mr Kevin Carpenter for the role of ITTF Head of Integrity		

(Part II of the meeting – 31-May-2021)

The EC noted the confirmation that Mr Kevin Carpenter accepted the offer for the role of ITTF Head of Integrity, indicating that the agreement was signed.

8.6 Ethics Commission – Swiss Table Tennis Request

The EC noted the letter sent by Mr Georg Silberschmidt on behalf of the Swiss Table Tennis on 9th May 2021 suggesting expediting the process to establish the new independent Ethics Commission.

Mr Calin suggested to organise a call with Mr Silberschmidt/Swiss TTA to explain the process to be followed in this case and confirm the timelines in line with the ITTF Handbook.

Most of the EC members felt offended by the statements and unfounded accusations made by Mr Silberschmidt. The EC considered that such attitude was unacceptable for the ITTF, and the EC members reserve their rights to take actions in that regard.

Furthermore, some EC members considered that the entire situation in the recent months was very concerning and reflected on how all the unfounded accusations were treated by the ITTF EC.

The EC instructed the Secretary General will draft letter addressed to Swiss Table Tennis in relation to Mr Silberschmidt behaviour.

ACTION 20210516#10	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-05-31
To draft a letter addressed to Swiss Table Tennis regarding Mr Silberschmidt behaviour.		

ACTION 20210516#11	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-07-31
In case of a satisfactory reply, to organise a meeting with Swiss Table Tennis to explain the process and timelines of the establishment independent Ethics Commission.		

8.7 Anti-Doping

The EC noted that there was no further update in relation to the antidoping program.

8.8 2021 ITTF AGM

(Part II of the meeting – 16-May-2021)

It was agreed to include the discussions under point 9.1 World Championships.

(Part II of the meeting – 16-May-2021)

The EC noted the Legal Opinion of Dr François Carrard, shared on 29th of May, which confirmed that the 2019 version of the ITTF Handbook was in effect at the moment of the allocation of the 2021 WTTC to USATT to be held in Houston, reinforcing the statement that the 2021 AGM should be held during with the WTTC in Houston, USA.

Mr Al-Mohannadi and Dr Meshref expressed their concerns and disappointments about the unacceptable behaviour of several ITTF officials which distributed to the worldwide table tennis community, defamatory messages and unfunded statements against the Qatar Table Tennis Association and Egypt Table Tennis Federation in relation to the 2021 AGM.

Mr Weikert condemned the attacks coming from various table tennis stakeholders and blamed this kind of tactics and indicated that the ITTF should support those members that are being currently harassed.

The ITTF EC decided to follow the legal opinion offered by Dr Carrard with respect to the 2021 AGM to be held during the 2021 WTTC in Houston and gave the mandate to the staff to negotiate the WTTC and AGM conditions with USATT as per the rights and obligations stated in the 2019 ITTF Handbook.

To ensure that the ITTF was following the Constitution, Dr Meshref considered that it was imperative for the LOC of the 2021 WTTC and AGM to fulfil all the rights and obligations stipulated in the 2019 ITTF Handbook.

Dr Meshref expressed his doubts that the current hosting contract between ITTF and USATT was valid or met any of the LOC rights and obligations stipulated in the 2019 ITTF Handbook and believed the ITTF EC and CEO cannot make concessions regarding the constitutional regulations.

Mr Weikert said that during the negotiations between ITTF and the LOC of previous editions of the WTTC, there were always concessions, although maybe not regarding the specific items that are mentioned ITTF Constitution.

Mr Weikert suggested that in his opinion the procedure should change for the future WTTC bids to ensure that all relevant items and financial conditions are agreed and confirmed well in advance, before the awarding a WTTC to a MA / LOC.

In line with the legal opinions and conclusions, Mrs Sörling believed that the Constitution had to be followed during the whole process and proposed that this should be dealt under the supervision of the ITTF EC. While the staff are given the mandate to handle the operational matters, they should not be given the authority to decide and negotiate any of the terms or conditions that are stipulated in the 2019 ITTF Handbook.

Mrs Sörling expressed her concerns regarding the timelines and recommended to establish a deadline for the negotiation to ensure that ITTF can deliver a WTTC in 2021. At current time, there were still no answers from USATT as LOC in relation to the hosting agreement contract that was discussed in the EC.

Mr Dainton emphasized that the ITTF always tried to act in a good faith and with a good moral compass, but given the email circulated by the Honorary President to the entire ITTF Family containing the legal opinion of Prof. Richard McLaren, he was seriously doubting the good faith coming from USATT and Mr Sharara. Especially in these extraordinary circumstances and in a context of a global pandemic, the staff tried to be practical, and take fast and smart decision during every step of the process.

Mr Dainton indicated that it was now necessary to work on a revised hosting agreement to include all the rights and obligations in line with the 2019 ITTF Constitution and Handbook. In that regard, USATT and LOC are obligated to deliver extra obligation in terms of hospitality and room nights for ITTF delegates, officials, staff etc which might incur additional costs estimated at least USD 700,000.

In line with the legal opinion received from Mr Carrard, Mr Tenca agreed that the EC had to accept to modify the previous decision and host the 2021 AGM during the 2021 WTTC in Houston on the premises of the 2019 Constitution.

Mr Al-Mohannadi stressed that a professional contract should include the conditions in relation to the ITTF Financial contribution, implementation of COVID-19 protocol and special provisions in case of event cancellation, etc. Moreover, the LOC must ensure visas are granted to all the countries and delegates that are eligible and entitled to participate in the 2021 WTTC and AGM.

Dr Meshref emphasized about the necessity to receive a clear commitment from the LOC side with all the details included, clearly indicating their fulfilment of obligations, especially in view of the generous ITTF financial support. Dr Meshref considered it was essential for the LOC to confirm the COVID-19 protocols and quarantine conditions without discrimination according to type of vaccine or whether a player or official is vaccinated or not.

Mr Weikert stated that the 2019 AGM awarded the 2021 WTTC and AGM to USATT, and it was now the duty of the ITTF staff to work to negotiate the best hosting conditions. Mr Weikert also explained that such conditions may vary depending on the situation in the different host countries, and the ITTF should find a reasonable consensus that applies in the case of the 2021 edition.

Mr Dainton indicated that the EC was involved in the conversations and negotiations with the LOC and agreed to a financial contribution of USD 3 million and the staff worked under the conditions that were given at the time. The ITTF now needs to re-negotiate in line with the new conditions and this cannot be considered a staff decision, as they were following the instructions given by the EC.

Mr Burton agreed with the statements already made by the other fellow members about following the ITTF Constitution. The EC gave the mandate to the staff to negotiate the hosting contract, offering a record USD 3 Million financial contribution to the LOC for a reduced size WTTC event with a limited number of participants.

Mr Burton continued that under the new circumstances, the AGM will include additional participants, according to the constitution a delegate from each MA for the whole duration of the championships. Mr Burton reminded that the LOC repeatedly stated that they are unable to increase the budget and considered that it was impossible for the professional staff to negotiate without a clear indication of what the maximum financial contribution was.

Dr Meshref insisted that the EC should set a maximum amount to be considered for this event, as the ITTF already agreed to give the highest ever contribution towards the organisation of a WTTC.

Mr Weikert underlined that the EC could not cancel this WTTC based on these circumstances, and it was necessary to negotiate in good faith. Unfortunately, the 2020 WTTC in Busan had to be cancelled and then there was no communication between ITTF and USATT which led to this situation of misunderstanding.

Dr Meshref reminded that HCHSA asked the ITTF to cancel the 2021 WTTC in Houston, which was never announced. Dr Meshref mentioned that according to the timelines, at the time the ITTF announced the new date of the 2021 AGM and opened the bid procedure there was no confirmed 2021 WTTC nor AGM in Houston.

Mr Weikert emphasized that despite the letter received from HCHSA, USATT never cancelled the 2021 WTTC.

Mr Tenca expressed his vehement will to have the 2021 WTTC in Houston together with the AGM, however, he insisted that this should happen within the possibilities of ITTF. Although it was true that the AGM elected Houston as the LOC of the 2021 WTTC and the AGM delegated the task to the EC and the staff to finalise the negotiations with the hosts, Mr Tenca asked what would happen in case those negotiations are not successful, or would put at jeopardy the ITTF finances, or simply USATT would not comply with their obligations as the LOC according to the 2019 Constitution. Mr Tenca considered that in that case, it would be necessary to address this

to the AGM as an extraordinary meeting to determine what are the next steps to follow in case the negotiations fail.

Mr Al-Mohannadi reminded the fact that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ITTF took drastic measures to ensure healthy finances, including a massive cost reduction in HR, and it was now important to determine what was the maximum contribution toward the 2021 WTTC, without risking putting in danger the financial stability of the organisation.

Mr Al-Mohannadi stated that eleven MAs expressed their interest to host the 2021 AGM, from which two, ETTF and QTTA, had already submit their bids and asked how the ITTF will explain this situation and deal with covering their incurred costs.

The EC agreed that the Secretary General will communicate the decision taken by the ITTF EC to these Associations and will send an apologise letter to ETTF and QTTA with respect to the 2021 AGM situation.

The AC Chair, Mr Zoran Primorac, considered that from the players' perspective it would be unacceptable to cancel two editions of the WTTC in a row, and urged the EC to find a solution to secure the 2021 WTTC and ensure crowning the 2021 World Champions.

Mr Primorac appreciated that many of the decisions regarding the AGM were influenced by the political ambitions, however, he asked the EC to think about the players and try to solve this issue without putting in danger the WTTC.

Mrs Sörling reminded everyone that the proposed model was following the example of the IOC and the restricted participation at the OG, and the main reason why the EC recommended to separate the AGM from the WTTC, was to prioritise the health and safety of the players, by reducing the size of the event and separate the different groups of participants.

The EC agreed that the ITTF staff, led by the CEO, should organise an operational meeting with USATT and LOC to initiate dialogue and negotiate the conditions of the 2021 WTTC in Houston. It was agreed that the President, the Deputy President / EVP in charge of the WTTC and the AC Chair should be involved in every step of the process.

The EC also entrusted Mr Dainton to seek legal advice and ensure that the process comply with the 2019 ITTF Handbook regulations.

The EC agreed that the Secretary General should inform the MAs regarding the new dates of the AGM to be held during the WTTC in Houston.

Mr Calin confirmed that, given the new timelines leading up to the 2021 WTTC, the ITTF will extend the deadline for the propositions and resolutions for the AGM and BoD as well as the deadline for nominations for the different positions to be elected and appointed.

20210516-EC-03

The Executive Committee decided that the 2021 AGM will be held during the 2021 WTTC in Houston.

ACTION 20210516#12	In charge: CEO	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To organise operational meetings with USATT and LOC to initiate dialogue and negotiate the conditions of the 2021 WTTC in Houston.		
ACTION 20210516#13	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-06-10
To send an apologise letter to ETTF and QTTA regarding the 2021 AGM.		
ACTION 20210516#14	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-06-05
To inform all the MA's regarding the decision to postpone the 2021 AGM to be held during the 2021 WTTC in Houston.		

9. Competition Program

9.1 2021 WTTC update

(Part I of the meeting – 16-May-2021)

The USATT CEO, Ms Virginia Sung and the Director of International Strategies and Development at the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (**USOPC**), Mr Dragomir Cioroslan, joined the meeting to update the EC on the preparations leading up to the 2021 WTTC in Houston.

Ms Sung thanked the ITTF EC for the support and noted that everyone was very excited for the 2021 WTTC to be held in Houston, not only because the WTTC being expanded to a new continent, but also because of the opportunity to promote the sport in the most sophisticated market in the world.

Ms Sung also shared some positive news regarding the COVID-19 situation informing that by the time, 36% of the USA population has already been vaccinated in the USA and added that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national public health agency of the United States of America, has released a statement which now allows vaccinated people to return to a normal life. It is also expected that most of the population will be vaccinated by November.

Ms Sung informed that USATT already started the preparation process, and everything was on track leading up to the 2021 WTTC and was waiting for the ITTF and HCHSA to finalise the agreement to move forward.

On behalf of the USOPC, Mr Cioroslan expressed their full support to USATT and for the city of Houston, towards the organisation of the 2021 WTTC in Houston as awarded to USATT during the 2019 AGM in Budapest and were committed to deliver together an excellent event.

Mr Cioroslan added that during the last decade, the USOPC helped organise more than 65 World Championships in the USA, more than 150 World Cups and Grand Prix events and dozens of congresses and AGMs for IFs of both Summer and Winter Olympic Sports.

Based on that experience, Mr Dragomir assured that the USOPC will continue to be committed and support the WTTC to be the best it can be. Mr Cioroslan reflected on the fact that in the last 18 months, the pandemic had a dramatic impact on the world of sports, with multiple events being postponed and cancelled, and it was still uncertain how things will move forward and how many countries and MA's will be able to organise future sport events.

As the situation seems to be improving, Mr Cioroslan ensured that they are now able and fully committed to organise high standard international sporting events in the USA, mentioning that a total of nine World Championships are being organised in the USA in the last year.

Mr Cioroslan added being aware that questions have been raised around the capability for the United States to provide visas for all participants in the World Championships and Meetings, and indicated that, as earlier communicated, he wanted to renew his commitment and capability to provide visas to everybody who is qualified to participate in the World Championships this year and in the Meetings.

Dr Meshref raised questions with respect to the COVID-19 protocols implementation and quarantine conditions and expressed his concerns regarding the potential discrimination based on the different types of vaccines and/or the standards and treatment imposed by the USA health authorities in relation to whether a player or official will be vaccinated or not.

In terms of visas, Dr Meshref also stressed about potential restrictions to certain countries where there might be new variants of the virus, which may prevent some of the qualified players or participants to enter the country.

Mr Cioroslan agreed that the COVID-19 situation was not the same all over the world adding that USA made significant progress with many of the mitigating rules and regulations put in place to provide a good situation for the country and expected that by November the situation will further improve. Mr Cioroslan added that indeed, there were still many issues with different variants of the virus, however, in the USA they were able to manage this process of vaccinating people, implementing safety and security measures to host business activities and sport events as successfully showed so far.

Mr Cioroslan expressed that Houston has offered to provide free vaccines to all those participating in the 2021 WTTC and AGM, adding that at present time, he is personally in charge of a project to offer free vaccines to all 41 countries of the Americas, for their athletes participating at the Tokyo 2020 Games, highlighting the tremendous medical capabilities of the city of Houston.

In terms of COVID-19 protocols, Mr Cioroslan confirmed that the LOC plans to use a similar model of playbooks and mitigation system as it will be agreed with the ITTF, ensuring that if someone will be tested positive, measures will be put in place as agreed with the ITTF.

Mr Cioroslan ended indicating that Houston can offer a kind of bubble conditions to provide safety and the degree of restrictions is to be agreed with the ITTF as far as being compliant with the requirements in Houston.

Mr Ryu Seungmin appreciate the hard work and the huge efforts of USATT to organise an event in this global pandemic and thanked them for offering the athletes the opportunity to participate in a WTTC after the cancellation of the previous edition of the WTTC in Busan. Mr Ryu expressed his full support and wished all the best for a successful 2021 WTTC in Houston.

Mr Al-Mohannadi declared being very happy for the ITTF to be able to host the 2021 WTTC for the first time ever in the USA, and second time outside Europe and Asia and was convinced that HCHSA will be able to deliver an amazing and successful event in Houston.

Mr Al-Mohannadi reminded everyone about all the steps taken in the process following the 2019 AGM decision to award the 2021 WTTC to Houston, USA, as well as the timelines of all the actions and decision taken by all the parties involved in the process, taking into consideration the ITTF and USATT agreement, in which USATT ceded all the rights correspondent to the 2021 WTTC to ITTF, as well as the letter received from HCHSA regarding the cancellation of the 2021 WTTC in Houston.

Mr Al-Mohannadi expressed his disappointment with USATT and Ms Sung's reactions, particularly the engagement of an external lawyer and the legal communication with respect to the 2021 AGM. Mr Al-Mohannadi could not understand this approach especially as the ITTF was willing to cooperate out of good faith and was willing to support with highest financial commitment towards a WTTC ensure a successful event in Houston. Mr Al-Mohannadi asked clarification regarding the different messages received on one side from USATT and on the other HCHSA.

Ms Sung addressed Mr Al-Mohannadi's concerns, suggesting that she preferred not to comment on the matter of the AGM due to the legal ramifications, so the lawyers will.

Ms Sung suggested there is an "element of unity for the sport of table tennis, having people coming together to the best country of the world to meet and celebrate" indicating that this is the goal and objective of USATT.

Ms Sung clarified that the different messages received from the different entities were more in reference to the budget not about the event or any core issues, and ensured that USATT, HCHSA, and USOPC are working together and are committed to deliver a successful WTTC.

On the request of Mr Weikert, Mr Cioroslan addressed the issue of the 2021 AGM and ensured that the USOPC is fully committed to deliver the 2021 WTTC and any meetings associated with it to the best of their abilities.

Mr Dainton mentioned that since the very beginning, the ITTF was very happy and excited about the news of the 2021 WTTC being hosted in Houston, USA, and despite the uncertainties caused

by the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation letter received from HCHSA, the ITTF had always a positive approach and negotiated in best faith to find a solution to host the event in USA.

Mr Dainton added that during the entire process and all the discussions held with USATT and the LOC regarding finding a solution for the event, the AGM was never mentioned nor taken into consideration. Mr Dainton also said feeling very uncomfortable with the USATT approach as the first time to learn about the AGM being an issue was through an email copying USATT lawyers.

Mr Weikert stated that the 2021 WTTC were awarded to the to USATT and not to the city of Houston and suggested that the previous EC decision to open an expressions of interest process (**EOI**) for the AGM might have been rushed due to the pandemic, but he was totally in favour to host the 2021 AGM in Houston.

Ms Sung indicated that Mr Dainton was correct when saying that USATT never mentioned the AGM during the discussions, adding that this is why they were quite surprised by the ITTF announcement¹ (of the EOI).

Ms Sung added that during the discussions, the event budget was always a priority, and considered that this was a miscommunication as there was no occasion where USATT declined to host the AGM.

Ms Sung ensured that USATT was also always acting in good faith and the emails were only sent to clarify the situation and confirm that the USA is fully committed to host the 2021 WTTC together with the AGM.

Dr Meshref disagreed with Ms Sung's statement about never having discussed the AGM matter, reminding that the budget presented by HCHSA CEO, Ms Janis Burke, included "the deduction of the costs related to the AGM in order to reduce the overall budget" what implied awareness of the discussion being held. If the AGM was to be held in Houston, Dr Meshref questioned who will be covering the extra costs, and if additional financial support will be required from the ITTF above the three million USD.

Mr Calin mentioned that the EC decision of 14th March announced on 17th March to the Membership, to host the AGM on 18th September was known by USATT and added that having attended a videoconference a few days after such announcement with USATT and HCHSA, nobody made any single comment or expressed any concern about the EOI process for the AGM being opened.

Mr Calin added that at the EC meeting held on 11th April, he personally asked Mr Weikert if he had any indications from Ms Sung or from Mr Cioroslan about the AGM matter being an issue or a reason of concern, to what Mr Weikert said not having such feedback neither from Ms Sung not from Mr Cioroslan.

In consequence, Mr Calin suggested that the statement made by Ms Sung of "being quite surprised", was not supported by the time sequence of videoconferences and emails exchanged.

¹ However, the EOI was open on 17th March and there were conferences and email exchanges since then up until the day of the announcement of the WTTC in Houston, on 13th May 2021, and during this 26 days period the USATT never mentioned any concerns or "surprise", and only after the announcement was made the USATT questioned the AGM procedure.

On the contrary, the budgets presented by HCHSA via emails in which USATT was copied, were reflecting that the AGM was not being budgeted as part of the WTTC.

To conclude, Mr Calin added that it would have been better to receive a direct message from Ms Sung between 17th March and 11th April, before making any public announcements. However, that was not the case and the USATT raised only such concerns after the ITTF made the announcement of Houston being confirmed as host for the WTTC.

Ms Sung outlined that communication goes both ways and blamed the fact that ITTF announced the AGM bidding process without any prior discussing with USA and hoped to be able to improve the communication channels in the future.

At this point, Ms Sung and Mr Cioroslan left the EC meeting.

Mr Burton expressed having many concerns as it seemed this situation was caused more by political reasons than anything else and stressed that the all these extra cost and COVID-19 strategies are not built into their budget for the WTTC, being concerned there is a strategy behind for the ITTF to pay such extra costs.

Mr Burton added that from a purely financial perspective, the ITTF should do a serious evaluation, in addition to the legal ramifications. Mr Burton reminded that at the time the ITTF made the 2021 AGM EOI announcement (17th March 2021), there was no WTTC 2021 yet confirmed, therefore, the EC exercised its Constitutional obligation to call for an AGM.

At this point of the meeting (15:15 CEST), Mr Weikert asked how to move forward as the expected three hours were passed and in view of other commitments from EC members.

Mrs Sörling stated that this matter was very important as involving major financial concerns and it would require further discussions, suggesting to continue the meeting another day.

Dr Meshref expressed his concerns about the fact that during a global pandemic the ITTF was offering USATT, the Association of one of the richest countries in the World, the highest financial contribution ever for any type of event, USD 3 million to support the organisation of the 2021 WTTC in Houston, adding that maybe other MAs might be able to host the WTTC in other countries with less ITTF contribution.

With regards to the WTTC and AGM being held together, the EVP, Mr Shi Zhihao, considered that in these difficult times, less travel for the participants was better than more travel.

Mr Ryu suggested to organise a separate meeting with USATT and the LOC and take a decision during the next meeting.

Mr Calin explained the timelines for the 2021 AGM and asked the EC for approval to comply with the formalities and circulate to the Membership the relevant documents in relation to 1) Propositions and Resolutions, and 2) Nomination forms for elections and appointments.

Mr Weikert agreed that -in precaution- it was good to circulate them.

The EC members debated with respect to the AGM matter in general and about the legal opinions that have been circulated.

The EC considered appropriate for the ITTF to seek its own Legal Advice from a firm with experience in Swiss Law. regarding the AGM location.

ACTION 20210516#15	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-05-20
To publish the Propositions & Resolutions Form for AGM and BoD and the Nominations Forms for elections for EC and BoD and appointments for the Committees.		
ACTION 20210516#16	In charge: SG & Legal Counsel	Deadline: 2021-05-31
To seek external Legal Opinion regarding the 2021 AGM.		
ACTION 20210516#17	In charge: SG & Legal Counsel	Deadline: 2021-05-31
To write to Prof. Richard McLaren, Counsel of Mr Adham Sharara, to ensure he had access to all pertinent information when issuing his Legal Opinion.		

9.2 World Youth Championships update

The Competition Director, Mr Gabor Felegyi updated the EC on the discussions and the work done by the Competition and HPD Departments together with the input EVP in Charge of Competitions, the EVP in Charge of Junior Programme, and the Technical and Junior Commissioners in relation to the new World Youth Table Tennis Championships system.

Mr Felegyi explained the need to adjust the system to the new reality of 2021 in the context of the global pandemic to accommodate the maximum number of participants in a bubble format event. The new system will be evaluated at the end of the year and further adjustment could be made after 2021 WYTTC.

The EC noted that the 2021 WYTTC will be held in Portugal between 1-8th December.

The EC noted the proposed qualification and competition structure of the WYTTC and decided to agree with the proposition to be formulated as such and presented to the BoD to vote by electronic means.

20210516-EC-04

The Executive Committee agreed to submit the proposed structure of the WYTTC to the BoD to be confirmed by electronic vote.

9.3 Olympic and Paralympic Games Qualification update

Mr Calin updated the EC on the OG Qualification process, indicating that both remaining events: Latin American Singles and Mixed Qualification Tournament held in Rosario (ARG) on 13-17 April and the 2021 European Olympic Singles Qualification Tournament Guimaraes (POR) on 21-25 April, were concluded successfully.

The EC noted that despite a few positive COVID-19 cases registered in both events, the two LOCs did a great work and put a lot of efforts to organise such events during these challenging times.

On behalf of the EC, the Secretary General will draft and send a thank you letter to both MAs, FATM (Argentina) and FPTM (Portugal), for the successful organisation of the OG Qualification events during a global pandemic.

Mr Calin updated the EC on the Paralympic Games (**PG**) Qualification process, informing that the World Qualification Tournament will take place in Lasko (SLO) on 3rd-5th June 2021, with over 200 players were expected to participate in the event. Mr Calin reported that the large majority of the participating countries expected to travel to Lasko got their visas, and appreciated the work done by the LOC to assist in securing them.

Mrs Sörling praised the work done by Slovenia TTA and Slovenia NPC in relation to the organisation of Para TT events and confirmed her attendance to the event representing the EC, hoping it will conclude satisfactorily.

ACTION 20210516#18	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To draft and circulate a thank you letter to FATM and FPTM for the successful organisation of the OG Qualification events during a global pandemic.		

9.4 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr Calin updated the EC on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games preparations, indicating that the latest version of the Playbooks (v2) is now available.

The EC noted that Mr Dimosthenis Messinis and Mr Mohamed Dawlatly, are confirmed COVID-19 Liaison Officers (CLOs) for the OG and Mr Freddy Almendariz and Mr Barry Goh are confirmed as CLOs for the PG in Tokyo. The CLOs will assist with all the necessary information and will approach all the ITTF accredited persons in relation to the requirements for their trips to Tokyo.

The EC noted that the IOC distributed a template of the COVID-19 Sport Specific Regulations (SSR) for the OG, outlining how a confirmed positive COVID-19 case or a close contact should be managed.

It was agreed that the specific Table Tennis SSR draft will be finalised with the help of the Competition Department and Technical Commissioner, and it will be circulated to the EC for feedback and approval before being submitted to the IOC for ratification.

The EC noted the Tokyo 2020 Table Tennis Venue Inspection Report presented by the EVP, Mr Masahiro Maehara. Mr Maehara informed that the inspection visit was held in the same morning of Monday 31st May, together with JTTA men's and women's team captains and athletes.

Regarding the lighting system at the Table tennis Olympic Venue, Mr Maehara reported that the lighting angle was disturbing for the players during their tests. This issue was caused mainly due to OBS's desire to sharpen the angle of the light to highlight the players.

The EC noted that a further Venue Inspection was scheduled in the middle of June.

Mr Calin outlined that during the inspection held in Tokyo in 2019, the ITTF expressed their concerns and dissatisfaction with the overall lighting plans and communicated to the TOGOC multiple times that the lights planned were not ideal.

Mr Primorac explained that in his experience as seven times Olympian, during the OG there are always different problems with the Field of Play and in his opinion, the playing conditions should be perfect in an event of this level. Mr Primorac expressed his concerns and offered his full support and assistance to try to improve the conditions for the table tennis athletes during the Tokyo 2020 OG.

Mr Dainton mentioned that this is becoming an issue in terms of event management and sport presentation, as the OG standards start to be lower in comparison with the high standards being set by ITTF for its own events. As ITTF was constantly trying to improve the table tennis quality and sport presentation, Mr Dainton hoped to have a parallel upgrade on the OG conditions in the future.

Mr Burton highlighted the challenges that come with the organisation of multisport events, when the ITTF has no control on the technical aspects.

In the case of Tokyo 2020 in Tokyo, Mr Burton would have expected that in Japan, as one of the biggest table tennis markets, the overall conditions, technical aspects, and sport presentation would be at the highest level.

On behalf of the EC and AC Chair, the Secretary General will send a letter to the IOC addressing the concerns regarding the playing conditions for the Table Tennis event at the Tokyo 2020.

Mr Ryu fully supported the idea to ensure the best playing conditions at the OG for the table tennis athletes, however he understood the difficulties in terms of preparations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTION 20210516#19	In charge: AC Chair & SG	Deadline: 2021-06-15
To draft and send a letter to the IOC addressing the concerns regarding the playing conditions during the Table tennis event at the Tokyo 2020 OG.		

9.5 2024 WTTC Bid

Mr Felegyi updated the EC on the 2024 WTTC Bidding process, indicating that the extended deadline of phase one was set for Saturday 29th May.

The EC noted that five expressions of interests were received from three different continents: Argentina, India, Korea, Portugal, and Sweden, which proved that the reforms adopted in terms of WTTC system resulted in a larger footprint and a higher participation.

Mr Felegyi explained the next steps in the process with the specific documents and event manuals being shared with the MAs containing all the detailed information and requirements in terms of the event technical specifications and sport presentation.

9.6 2022 WVC Entry Fee

The EC noted that the preparations leading up to 2022 WVC in Oman (to be held in January 2023) were on track.

The EC agreed with the proposal made by the LOC of 2022 WVC in Oman in terms of entry and participation fee established at USD 175\$ for players and USD 65 \$ for accompanying person.

The EC gave the mandate to the Veterans Manager, Mr Jose Bentes, to work together with the LOC and prepare the hosting agreement draft contract.

10. **World Table Tennis**

10.1 2021 and 2022 Calendar

The World Table Tennis (WTT) Director, Mr Matt Pound, updated the EC on the WTT activity, indicating that 2021 continued being a very complicated year and, given the uncertainties around COVID-19, any new events were still at risk. The event calendar is being worked on, but it is difficult to have a concrete plan due to all the limitations around international travels.

Mr Pound explained that due to the feedback received by the Athletes and their Associations that they were not comfortable traveling, doing long quarantines, or risking getting infected leading up to the OG, WTT decided at the start of the year to facilitate the athletes preparation for the Games, and focus its activities on the second half of the year.

Despite all the challenges, Mr Pound ensured that the WTT Team is working very hard to try and hopefully will be able to deliver as many international events as possible all over the world after the OG.

The EC noted the draft calendar for 2021 acknowledging that the inactivity period experienced in the first half of the year led to a very busy second half.

Mr Pound added that many positive conversations were held with potential LOCs from Europe and Asia to have a decent number of events and hoped to be able to make announcements in the next weeks.

In terms of 2022 Event Calendar, Mr Pound announced that the information regarding the bidding process for 2022 WTT events will be released in the next 24 hours, in two stages, as follows:

1. WTT Series top tier events including Grand Smashes, Champions, Star Contender and Contender events, and WTT Cup Finals.
2. WTT Feeder Series, a bottom tier of international events addressed to a wider range of players and more accessible for the MAs to organise. The concept of the new event structure was ready to launch following the feedback of more than 20-30 MA's proceeding from different continents.

Mr Pound informed that Mr Felegyi will be helping to distribute the ITTF Strategic Calendar to all the table tennis stakeholders in the next weeks and hopefully with the feedback received will help create a much longer-term strategic calendar to be synchronise and adjusted to all competitions and stakeholders. WTT will soon announce and organise a new open forum or webinar addressed to the MA's.

10.2 Commercial Deals update

Mr Pound informed that the uncertainty around event calendar delayed a lot of the conversations with commercial partners and TV broadcasters.

Mr Pound indicated that partnership sales have been difficult with the uncertainty around the event calendar and most global companies are still financially affected by the global crisis caused by the pandemic. Ongoing positive discussions are being held with several potential partners and some new exciting commercial deals will be announced in our biggest markets in the coming weeks as well as some up-and-coming regions.

Mr Pound added that in case anyone has any questions or requires additional information he remains available for an open dialogue and discussions as the main objective was that all stakeholders work together trying to grow the sport of table tennis.

10.3 Business Plan

Mr Pound updated the EC on the work done by the selection panel formed by Mr Weikert, Mr Al-Mohannadi, Mrs Sörling, Mr Dainton, and Mr Pound, in relation to the WTT Business Plan, indicating that to move forward it will require the ITTF EC confirmation and approval.

Mr Pound emphasized that it is important for the ITTF and WTT to have a clear direction and being aligned on the Business Plan and on what the ITTF tries to achieve with this new entity.

Mrs Sörling praised the work done in order to present the WTT Business Plan in a very detailed and comprehensive way, emphasizing the importance of receiving regular updates as there was a lot of information to digest.

Mr Pound indicated that as per the MLA requirement, WTT must send a quarterly detailed report on all key business operations and financial records and projections, reminding that the Q1 WTT Management Pack has already been distributed to the ITTF EC members in the previous months.

Mr Pound also mentioned that the team was already working on the necessary arrangements to finalise the next report corresponding to the Q2.

Mr Pound encouraged the EC to send their feedback and instructions on how they would prefer to receive such report and to ensure that information is presented in a comprehensive manner.

Mr Pound will re-send the Q1 Management Pack including the Business Plan to all the EC members.

Mr Weikert asked WTT to answer internally to the questions raised by Mr Georg Silberschmidt in relation to the statements made in an anonymous email circulated to the table tennis

community, particularly the cash flow situation and the loans received by WTT so far, as well as the information regarding QG, as WTT partner.

Mr Pound clarified that the detailed information regarding all the financial matters was included in the Management pack report which was already circulated to the EC.

Mr Al-Mohannadi insisted that as professional organisations, the ITTF and WTT should not address any matter stated in an anonymous email and should only respond to official requests sent through official communication channels.

Mr Dainton ensured that WTT was in constant contact with the QG representatives and their partners, and they are still very much committed to work with WTT and the ITTF. Mr Dainton explained that many discussions and negotiations were held between them and WTT, and due to all the changes during the last year due to the global pandemic and political issues, it was necessary to re-evaluate the whole structure and future collaboration.

Additionally, the statements made in the DTTB Letter raised many concerns and caused many problems to WTT, and they wanted to clear all the accusations and misleading information. Moreover, there seemed to be many questioning and bad press regarding internal ITTF problems which were putting at doubt the integrity and credibility of ITTF as an organisation.

Mr Dainton highlighted the fact that they were sceptical to work in an environment that is constantly controlled by the politics, and which may potentially affect any business decision taken in the future. However, there are no issues with WTT's partners in China, and the USD 2,5 million loan that they granted showed their will and commitment to continue working with the ITTF and WTT.

In relation to the statements mentioned in the anonymous emails circulated by the different table tennis stakeholders, Mr Dainton said they were only rumours which should not be considered otherwise. Mr Dainton said it was worth reminding that they were responsible for finding incomes for the WTT Macao and although 2021 posed many challenges, they are ready to help organising events in China.

Mr Weikert expressed the interest to have a direct conversation and suggested to invite QG representatives to the next EC meeting.

Dr Meshref believed it was understandable for the MAs to feel puzzled, especially when reading unfounded statements and wrong information circulated by different stakeholders, and as an EC member he felt it was essential to ensure that the right message containing correct and accurate information was being communicated to make the ITTF Members feeling more comfortable.

Mr Ryu appreciated the work done by WTT in this difficult environment and requested to also send more frequent updates regarding the evolution of WTT to the players, and make sure that they better understand the vision and mission of the organisation.

Mr Pound informed that the team created a "Welcome to WTT Player kit" including relevant information and the key benefits which will soon be shared with the players.

Mrs Sörling mentioned that WTT already held several webinars in the past and that it was essential to keep both stakeholders well informed but also encourage the MAs to also fulfil their obligation to educate and inform their players.

In reference to the DTTB Letter, Mr Al-Mohannadi reminded that the WG working group was given the mandate to determine if a rigorous process was followed in relation to the establishment of the WTT, and the PwC Conclusion report cleared the ITTF and WTT from any wrongdoings. In his point of view, it was not possible to keep initiating internal legal investigation every couple of months.

With respect to the ITTF Group and its entities, Mr Dainton outlined that it was fundamental to have clear instructions and concise structures on how to report and communicate with the different entities and stakeholders.

Mr Primorac insisted that the ITTF should follow the rules and use the approach and the procedure according to the Constitution. Mr Primorac was in agreement with Mr Ryu, that it was necessary to ensure a good and regular communication with the athletes to gain the confidence in any future decision.

ACTION 20210516#19	In charge: WTT	Deadline: 2021-06-15
To resend to all EC members the Management Pack for Q1 of 2021.		

11. Sustainability working group update

Mrs Sörling updated the EC on the discussions and the work done by the Sustainability working group with the focus on the 3P's: People, Planet and Profit. Mrs Sörling indicated that it was necessary to collect more data before taking any further strategic decisions which eventually will be put forward to the EC.

The EC noted the vision and mission of the Sustainability working group:

- Vision: Table Tennis. For All. For Life. Forever.
- Mission: At the heart of the ITTF's vision it's to make table tennis accessible for all, for life and for future generations, and to achieve this, the sport must make its mission to focus its efforts towards three key areas: People, Planet and Profit.

The EC agreed that the Sustainability Working Group can continue in this direction.

12. Any other Business

12.1 ITTF Museum in Shanghai

The EC noted that the ITTF Museum was transferred from Lausanne to Shanghai by a contract signed in 2014.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked clarifications regarding the contractual agreement and emphasized that the EC never received updates regarding the ITTF Museum activities and had no understanding of what happened so far and what the plans are for the future.

Mr Al-Mohannadi requested that the Contractual Agreement in relation to the ITTF Museum to be shared with all EC members and proposed to include this point on the agenda of the next EC meeting for further discussions.

ACTION 20210516#20	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-06-30
To share the ITTF Museum Contract with the EC members.		

12.2 Finance and Audit Committee & Ethics Commission

The EC noted the email circulated by Mr Calin, including the detailed information and role descriptions for the vacancies in the Finance and Audit Committee and in the Ethics Commission.

Mr Calin indicated that a similar process will be followed as in the case of the ITTF Tribunal and suggested to open the call for applications to the six available positions: three in the Finance and Audit Committee and three in the Ethics Commission.

12.3 Georgia – Membership

The EC noted the letter received regarding the Membership of the Table Tennis Federation of Georgia.

Mr Calin indicated that the old Association was being dissolved and a new Association was being created to be in line with the new laws in the country, so they were asking for a termination of the old Member Associations and the recognition of the new one.

Mr Calin explained the procedure to be followed in this case, including this matter in the agenda of the next AGM under the section of Membership.

12.4 Brisbane 2032 OG

The EC noted that Mr Weikert and Mr Calin participated in a meeting organised by the IOC together with the responsible persons of the candidature of Brisbane to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Not having any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 14:55 CEST.

13. **Next EC Meeting**

The next EC meeting to be held on 4th July 2021 at 12:00 CEST.

 Thomas Weikert
 ITTF President

 Date

 Raul Calin
 ITTF Secretary General

 Date