

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Video Conference

Sunday 4th July 2021 – 12h00 CET to 15h00 CEST

Monday, 12th July 2021 – 12h00 CET to 15h00 CEST

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1 President's opening remarks

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, welcomed everyone and started the meeting commenting that those mobile phone Apps to be installed when travelling to Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

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
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission Chair (for the first part, 4 th of July)
Ryu Seungmin	IOC member (for the first part, 4 th of July)
In attendance	
Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Iulia Necula	CEO's Office - Projects Director (for the first part, 4 th of July)
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President (except for the point 8.4 of the agenda)
Michael Brown	CFO
Gabor Felegyi	Competition Director (Interim) – only for the correspondent point
Apologies	
Shi Zhihao	
Zoran Primorac	(For the second part on 12 th July)
Ryu Seungmin	(For the second part on 12 th July)

2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meetings

2.1 Approval of the Minutes

It was agreed to re-circulate the Minutes of the meeting fourth EC meeting of 2021, which was held on-line on three different days: 14th March, 20th March, and 11th April.

ACTION 20210704#01	In charge: SG	Deadline: 2021-07-15
To re-circulate the draft minutes from the fourth EC meeting of 2021.		

(Second part of the meeting on Monday 12th July)

Mr Weikert indicated not being prepared to sign the Minutes from previous meetings and suggested postponing the signature to the meeting in Tokyo, so being able to focus today on the pending issues of the agenda.

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:

8.2.1 2021 WYTTC Qualification and Playing System

8.4.1 Sport Specific Regulations (COVID-19)

8.4.2 Venue inspection (for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020)

10.1 Travel Policy for EC Members

10.2 The Deputy President position

10.3 Email from Mr Al-Mohannadi in relation to the 4th March letter from Mr Weikert

10.4 Election

4. **COVID-19 situational report**

The EC noted the improvement of the situation in Europe, as reported by Mr Weikert.

Mr Maehara reported that the situation in Tokyo has worsened a bit, but he expects the Olympic Games to go ahead as planned. In relation to spectators' attendance to the Olympic Games, Mr Maehara informed the EC colleagues that a decision will be made in the coming days by the Organising Committee.

Mr Morris reflected about the situation, particularly about vaccination worldwide, thinking in the upcoming WTTC in Houston.

5. **CEO Update**

5.1 Strategic Plan

Mr Dainton gave an update on the progress made with Deloitte in relation to the evaluation of the progress being made in this area, mainly coordinated by Mr Morris, as responsible EC and Mr Brown, as senior staff in charge of this area.

Mr Morris added his thanks to the responsible staff of each of the pillars of the strategic plan for the work being made in this area.

Mrs Sörling reminded the group that, due to the pandemic, the development of the Para Table Tennis section of the Strategic Plan was still pending, adding that during the Final World Qualification Tournament for the Paralympic Games event held in Slovenia in June, discussions were held with the Para Table Tennis Committee chair, Ms Crotta, and it will be appropriate to ensure the Para Table Tennis section is developed and incorporated in the next update of the Strategic Plan (**SP**).

Mr Primorac added that it is important to always keep in mind the Para Table Tennis athletes and was pleased to know Para Table Tennis will be included in the next update of the SP.

ACTION 20210704#02	In charge: Mrs Sörling and SG	Deadline: 2021-11-24
To work with the different stakeholders involved to ensure Para Table Tennis is included in the next update of the Strategic Plan.		

6. Athletes' Commission update

Mr Primorac mentioned that on 23rd June the IOC organised a briefing for Athletes on the Tokyo 2020 Playbooks, and thanked EC colleague and IOC member Mr Ryu Seungmin for his work in this area as well.

Mr Primorac referred also to the letter received from Dr Thomas Bach, IOC President, where he assured the Olympic Games will go ahead.

Mr Primorac reported about the good organisation of the European Championships in Poland and mentioned that the athletes were eager to compete and looking forward to the Olympic Games. In regard to the planned calendar for 2022, Mr Primorac asked if it would be possible to explore different locations for events, because, although knowing China is an important market, in the meanwhile other options should be considered so the competitions can go ahead for the benefit of the athletes worldwide.

Mr Primorac mentioned also about a complaint received from a Turkish athlete in relation to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Qualification, mainly about ranking, and reflected that -based on the most recent experiences- it will be important to ensure the system of qualification for Paris 2024 is the best possible.

Mrs Sörling suggested Mr Primorac should be part of the group preparing the qualification system for Paris, taking into account his experience as participant in seven Olympic Games. Also, Mrs Sörling echoed Mr Primorac on the feeling of enthusiasm seeing in the athletes when being able to compete again in Poland.

Mr Dainton explained that the events for the end of 2021 are currently difficult to plan, and multiple options are being considered in case they cannot go ahead as originally prepared. Mr Weikert suggested that, with the European Championships planned at the end of September in Cluj, the feeling is that Europe can organise events. Of course, the financial part is important, but is an option as many athletes will be in Cluj.

Mr Ryu thanked Mr Primorac for his presentation and reported on the postponement of the Asian Championships to the end of September; with the reason of the postponement being to provide a wider break for athletes after the Olympic Games. Also, Mr Ryu wanted to express his support to the ITTF and WTT management that is trying to organise tournaments in this difficult time. Mr Weikert asked about the possibility to host events in other continents. Mr Dainton reported that an event in Tunisia is very likely to be confirmed soon, while other options are being explored, as Mexico before or after the WTTC in Houston.

Mr Dainton added that if China cannot go ahead at the end of the year, an option may be hosting a series of events in the US in the lead to the WTTC.

Mr Dainton suggested hopefully 6 to 8 WTT and ITTF international events will be held before the end of the year, including Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Finland, in addition to those already mentioned before.

In relation to Oceania, even the National Championships were being cancelled in Australia, what makes difficult to make events in this part of the world in 2021.

7. Operations Program

7.1 Finances

7.1.1 ITTF Finances

Mrs Sörling mentioned the initial plan to have the Audited Financial Statements (AFS) for 2020 finished by the time of this meeting, but the circumstances around the pandemic, and the necessity to have the ITTF CFO moving to Houston to support the planning and organisation of the World Championships have resulted in a slight delay.

Mr Brown added that with the introduction of the Foundation, World Table Tennis and ITTF North America, each of the entities requires a specific audit, and then a consolidation of all the entities' Financial Statements, with such consolidation being the current work in progress.

Mr Brown referred to the fact that 2020 is a more complex year than any previous ones, because there being government grants provided to support staff, events cancellations resulting in lesser revenues than expected, and therefore, the auditors need to look closely at those special events. Having said that, Mr Brown informed the EC that the Finance and Audit Committee should be held in the coming two weeks and that following that, the AFS will be ready to be submitted to the EC, as a first step before sharing with the AGM delegates.

Mr Weikert asked if he could be invited for such meeting, and Mrs Sörling responded the President is always welcomed to the F&A Committee meeting.

7.1.2 President's Honorarium

Mrs Sörling started with a brief historical introduction about the progress of the ITTF President Honorarium, indicating that at the EC meeting held in Halmstad, in September 2017, the EC did discuss the ITTF President's Honorarium in the absence of Mr Weikert, who left the meeting during that section. Mrs Sörling commented that as there are new members on the EC since then, it was important to explain the process. Then, in May 2020, at the EC meeting held on-line, a similar procedure was followed.

Mrs Sörling continued explaining that a few weeks before this EC meeting, she received a proposal from Mr Weikert to bring back his honorarium. Mrs Sörling circulated to the EC members

such proposal and, in order to avoid delaying the current meeting, Mrs Sörling organised a pre-meeting with the EC colleagues, in which all of them provided feedback, except Mr Shi Zhihao.

Mrs Sörling reported that the EC members felt it was too early to decide without knowing the outcome of the Olympic Games (taking place or not) and its financial consequences and added that as the EC decided to bring the honorarium down to 25% and further to this decision, Mr Weikert himself decided to give-up the remaining 25%, the first step was for Mr Weikert himself to request the return of the 25% he voluntarily gave-up, being this Mr Weikert's own decision.

Mr Weikert suggested the financial outcome of the Olympic Games will take a long time to be known, to what Mrs Sörling answered that if the Olympic Games happen in a normal manner, a decision could be taken in an EC meeting in August.

Dr Meshref suggested the decision could be taken in August, after seeing the outcome of the Olympic Games, to what Mr Primorac agreed.

ACTION 20210704#03	In charge: Mr Thomas Weikert	Deadline: 2021-08-06
To decide if he wants to bring back the 25% of his honorarium which he voluntarily gave-up in May 2020.		

7.1.3 Debts of Associations

Mr Calin reported that in the previous years, the ITTF developed a policy for certain groups of events, such the World Tour, in which if an Association was having debts with an organiser, such Association will not be eligible to enter further events of the same group. Already in 2020, it was agreed that such policy should be adopted by all groups of events, i.e., Juniors or Para Events, and very recently, the administration was informed that still three Associations have not fulfilled their payments related to the Final Olympic Qualification Tournament.

The SG suggested to have an overall policy for these situations and if an Association has debts with a particular organiser, this should be red flagged for all organisers of ITTF events, so the situation does not repeat and the organisers of ITTF events are not suffering from this.

ACTION 20210704#04	In charge: CFO and SG	Deadline: 2021-12-31
To develop a policy to ensure protection for the different organisers of ITTF events in case some Associations are not paying their debts with organisers.		

7.1.4 ITTF Tribunal Finance Policy

The EC noted the recommendation of the Secretary General to approve the ITTF Tribunal Finance Policy, as proposed by the ITTF Tribunal itself, with the positive evaluation of the Secretary General and CFO. On recommendation of the CFO, the fees of the Tribunal Members will be established in USD, as the functional currency of the ITTF.

20210704-EC-01

The Executive Committee approved the ITTF Tribunal Finance Policy, as presented by the Secretary General, on recommendation of the ITTF Tribunal itself, with the adjustment to USD as suggested by the CFO.

7.2 Human Resources

Mrs Sörling reported on the meeting of staff held on 1st July, which was the first one since January. Mr Sörling suggested it was very positive to listen from the different departments and to have the opportunity to gather all ITTF staff, even if on-line.

Mrs Sörling added that a pending issue from the last EC meeting was finalising the contract of the CEO. The EC noted that Mr President received the answers to the questions he had made from the Legal Counsel and from the HR Manager and added that a second legal opinion was seek on the request of Mr Weikert. At this point, Mrs Sörling invited Mr Weikert to raise his doubts, if any.

Mr Weikert suggested the second legal opinion received was strange, and he would check by himself in Germany, and then come back in the next days to the EC, so suggested to prolong the contract of the CEO, if necessary, until the elections, but he wanted to check being an ITTF Group CEO contract due to his doubts.

Mr Burton asked -for clarification- that if Mrs Sörling had stated the second legal opinion was received from a Swiss firm, and it was confirming what the first legal opinion stated, what was going on with the position of Mr President (blocking the signature of the contract of the CEO).

Mr Weikert responded that the answers provided by the legal firm were very short and that this is very strange for him, and also, he was wondering why Bird and Bird was not used for the second legal opinion.

Mrs Sörling suggested, in response to Mr Weikert's proposal to extend the validity of the current contract, that it was not a question of prolonging a contract that was no longer adequate due to the restructuration of the work scope, being the CEO now in charge of the entire Group.

Mr Brown, CFO, stated that Bird and Bird doesn't have practice within Switzerland, as Mr Weikert himself can check on their website, therefore, they use a sister company, which was recommended by Bird and Bird.

Dr Meshref wondered why, having two legal opinions, Mr Weikert keep blocking the signature of the contract, and asked if Mr Weikert is just waiting to receive a legal opinion that goes against Mr Dainton. Dr Meshref referred to the example of the legal opinion about the AGM, which the EC abided to.

Dr Meshref added that Mr Weikert keeps confusing his role as ITTF President, with his professional practise as lawyer, mentioning that it is not up to Mr Weikert to seek "his own legal opinion" but indeed, the EC has received two legal opinions, formally, and the President's legal expertise is not the one being formally seek.

Mr Al-Mohannadi agreed with Dr Meshref and suggested it was already agreed in the previous EC meeting that the contract of the CEO should be finalised before this one.

Mr Burton added that, in reference to Mr Weikert's comments on a potential conflict of interest, it was indeed the EC who appointed the CEO, and it was the EC who put the CEO in the Board of WTT adding this chapter should be closed and let the CEO focus on the business.

Mr Morris mentioned being glad listening the CFO saying she is comfortable with the legal opinion received.

In relation to the comment of Mr Weikert that Mr Dainton's contract could be extended until the elections, Mr Dainton commented he was on the hope the contracts of the staff are not bind to political reasons. Furthermore, Mr Dainton added that it is the EC prerogative, at any point of time, to decide the CEO they want to have, as indicated in the Constitution.

Mr Weikert suggested Mr Dainton raised a valid point, and even if not convinced, if the whole EC sees it positively, he will accept.

Mrs Sörling suggested that -on the request of the President- the ITTF has spent money seeking two legal opinions, and same as it was made in May-June about the AGM, the legal opinion formally seek should be followed.

Mr Weikert referred to past practices where before the elections, for whatever reasons, some contracts were signed for four years and the ITTF should not do the same.

Mrs Sörling added that the new contract being proposed is a modern one, according to best practices, not like those signed in the past.

Mr Burton asked for clarity on what will be the next steps.

Mr Weikert stated he was now convinced by the arguments provided.

Mr Dainton added that his new contract is better for the ITTF as it will be based on performance (i.e., the results of the ITTF) and not in revenues (which, if having more cost, will result in poorer result for the ITTF).

ACTION 20210704#05	In charge: ITTF President	Deadline: 2021-07-15
To sign the ITTF Group CEO contract.		

20210704-EC-02

The Executive Committee agreed to sign the new contract for Mr Dainton, as the ITTF Group CEO.

Mr Morris commented on the departure of Mr James Francis, and asked if HR could update the EC when these situations happen.

Mrs Sörling agreed, as she also found out during the staff meeting, and added that it is important for her to receive the notes from the exit interview, as the EC member in charge of staff.

Mr Dainton suggested he will speak with CFO and HR Manager to ensure regular reports are provided by the EC.

Mr Primorac asked about other staff leaving the ITTF, and the reasons for.

Mr Weikert suggested to receive a full report, to what Mr Dainton agreed.

ACTION 20210704#06	In charge: ITTF CEO	Deadline: 2021-07-31
To provide the EC with an updated report on staff.		

7.3 Integrity

7.3.1 Letter from Hungarian Table Tennis Federation

Mrs Sörling suggested that having received the two letters from the Hungarian Table Tennis Association (MOATSZ), together with the CEO, Mr Dainton, a teleconference was organised with Mr Roland Natran, MOATSZ President, who has experience in finances due to his professional background.

Mrs Sörling reported that having seen Mr Natran the report from PwC as a result of the DTTB letter, he was asking why the same approach was not made in relation to his queries on TMS.

Mrs Sörling suggested that although this would mean further expenses, if the EC was taking no action the doubts will stay there forever, therefore, her recommendation is to use the same firm and the same working group, particularly, after having the call with Mr Natran.

Mrs Sörling added that her impressions of the call with Mr Natran is that he does not want to make troubles, but just to have clarity on the TMS matters.

Mr Dainton added that Mr Natran suggested if the EC does not clarify the matters around TMS, someone else will do.

Mr Weikert agreed with Mrs Sörling and Mr Dainton and asked if the EC should put a limit on how far back in the history the EC could or should initiate such investigations.

Mr Tenca indicated that, based on the appropriate request of the Member Association in Hungary, and due to the importance of the TMS contract, seeking transparency and good governance of the institution, he would agree with the EC decision to start the investigation.

Mr Burton, for consistency with his previous positions in relation to TMS, would abstain on this matter.

20210704-EC-03

The Executive Committee agreed to engage PwC to start an investigation on TMS based on the request made by MOATSZ.

ACTION 20210704#07	In charge: ITTF SG	Deadline: 2021-07-15
To contact PwC as per the EC decision and prepare an engagement agreement.		

7.3.2 Follow-up on the DTTB Letter Working Groups

Mr Calin reported that the work is in progress.

7.3.3 Swiss Table Tennis President email

Before commenting on the Swiss Table Tennis letter itself, Mr Calin informed the EC about the extension of the deadline for receiving applications for the Finance and Audit Committee and for the Ethic Commission for another seven days. Mr Calin added that the goal would be to have the new Ethics Commission in place in September, if the process can be completed by then.

Back to Swiss Table Tennis letter dated 16th June, and having the EC received the translation to English, the SG asked the EC to consider whether the EC should seek clarification on the following statement:

"We have observed transgressions concerning the statutes and regulations of ITTF",

In Mr Calin's opinion, if Swiss Table Tennis is of the opinion that there have been transgressions, they should clarify which ones, and if not, a proper apology should be sent by Swiss Table Tennis.

Dr Meshref indicated his agreement with Mr Calin, commenting the letter has two parts. One is positive, with the apology from Mr Giroud about the language and actions of Mr Silberschmidt, and the second still seeding doubts about the ITTF actions. A response should be sent to Swiss Table Tennis asking to clarify what are they referring to and, based on their response, to decide the next steps.

Mr Weikert suggest going ahead as per Dr Meshref suggestion.

ACTION 20210704#08	In charge: ITTF SG	Deadline: 2021-09-15
To write to Swiss Table Tennis asking for clarification on their letter.		

7.3.4 Sport Radar contract extension

Mr Weikert reported on the extension on the contract with Sport Radar, which is very important in this point of time, as the betting is increasing every day in our sport.

Mr Weikert also informed the EC on his participation in a seminar organised by the German NOC in which Mr Friedrich Martens from the IOC, and Mr Andreas Krannich, from Sport Radar took part.

Mr Dainton suggested that this area of match fixing will be one of the important areas of work for the new Head of Integrity, Mr Kevin Carpenter.

7.3.5 Anti-Doping

Mr Weikert informed there were no doping controls in Warsaw, Poland, at the European Championships held in June, and asked the SG to double check the reasons.

ACTION 20210704#09	In charge: ITTF SG	Deadline: 2021-09-15
To check with ITA why there were no doping controls at the European Championships.		

7.4 2021 ITTF AGM

7.4.1 Leading videoconferences

The EC noted the report from Mr Calin about adding three more leading videoconferences to the six held in 2020; namely, a videoconference on Equipment, as the one held in November 2020 was very well received, a videoconference to update the members on the Strategic Plan, and a videoconference of presentation of candidates for the EC.

The EC agreed to the proposed plan, as suggested by the Secretary General.

Mr Calin also asked the EC to confirm the date for the AGM, proposing the second day of the World Championships, Wednesday 24th of November.

20210704-EC-04

The Executive Committee agreed to confirm the date of Wednesday 24th November for the 2021 AGM.

7.4.2 Propositions and Resolutions for the AGM

Mr Calin indicated that with the date of the AGM being now confirmed, the closing date for reception of Propositions and Resolutions is also confirmed, 24th August (three months before the AGM).

Mr Calin indicated that the ITTF Tribunal has been working on proposed changes to the judicial regulations, following the first year of operations. Not being yet the ITTF Tribunal a body that can submit Propositions and Resolutions to the AGM, it was suggested that those proposed changes from the ITTF Tribunal will be presented to the AGM by the EC.

20210704-EC-05

The Executive Committee agreed to present to the AGM the suggested changes to the ITTF regulations as received from the ITTF Tribunal.

Mr Calin added that in the coming weeks, the staff will work with the EC members in charge of each of the areas to ensure the EC receives, discuss, review and confirm timely the propositions and resolutions that will be put forward for the AGM and BOD.

Mr Calin added that, together with Mr Primorac, work is in progress to give more visibility to the Athletes in the ITTF regulations, particularly in the Constitution, what is clearly needed in view of the Agenda 2020 + 5 of the IOC.

7.4.3 ITTF Museum

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked if the EC colleagues had the time read the ITTF Museum contract and if the EC members remember when in 2015, at the AGM in Suzhou, it was said that the ITTF would receive an income of two million dollars for the transfer of the Museum to Shanghai.

Mr Al-Mohannadi indicated that everyone visiting the Museum in Shanghai is very pleased with the display, however, having noticed in recent years the income is only 50,000 USD per year, he is seeking clarification about the income being received, as he feels this amount is very small.

Mr Weikert reported that after the elections in 2017, when the new administration had access to the Museum contract, it was noticed it was not an income of two million dollars but, in fact, only a deposit. Mr Weikert agreed with Mr Al-Mohannadi the amount of 50,000 USD per year as income is very small and reported that in December 2019 in Zhengzhou negotiations started to re-discuss the terms of the Museum contract, however, with the pandemic, not much progress has been made.

Mrs Sörling confirmed the words of Mr Weikert in the sense that only in 2017 the new administration had access to the contract, being that moment the first she had access to, as EVP in charge of Finance.

Mr Dainton confirmed no further progress has been made since Zhengzhou 2019.

Dr Meshref asked to clarify about the situation of the two million dollars, and Mr Calin indicated that following the suspension of the former CEO, was when for the first time he had access to some important documents, included the ITTF Museum contract.

Mr Calin added that not being a legal or financial expert was not an impediment to understand, by the simple reading of the contract, that the two million mentioned were not an income, but a deposit.

Mr Calin continued explaining, particularly for the EC members that were not part of the previous administration, that at that point of time he discovered this important issue, he immediately contacted the ITTF EVP in charge of Finance, Mrs Sörling, and the ITTF Auditors, Mazars, to make them aware of this information, and this was the reason why at the 2018 AGM, the information provided in 2015 AGM was corrected, to ensure the Members have the right information. This is explained in the [2017 Audited Financial Statements](#), page 7 (Correction of error) and page 10 (ITTF Museum Equity Guarantee and Term Deposit Fund).

Dr Meshref asked who said in 2015 AGM that there were two million income from the Museum, to what Mr Calin responded that the presentation to the 2015 AGM was made by Mrs Petra Sörling, however, Mrs Sörling did it based on the information she had received at that time by the CEO, Mrs Judit Farago, and the AGM Chair and Honorary President, Mr Adham Sharara, as they were (likely) the only persons having access to the ITTF Museum contract, besides the ITTF Finance Manager, Ms Habiba Besic.

Mrs Sörling commented that the problem was solved at the 2018 AGM as it was only when this administration had access to the information that it could be clarified. Furthermore, at that time in 2015 the ITTF didn't have a proper financial person, and she could only make the presentation based on the information she was receiving from the person that was in charge of the finances, which was the Honorary President and ITTF Chair at that time, Mr Adham Sharara.

Mrs Sörling added that with the incorporation of a CFO in 2018, these aspects are being handled in a much more professional manner and shared with the EC colleagues that with the previous administration, she tried to have a CFO and to have regular risk assessments, however, she wasn't successful until the administration changed.

Mr Dainton commented that -speaking specifically about the Museum as it is today- the building and the overall display of the ITTF Museum itself in Shanghai is great. However, speaking about good governance, it was only one person from the ITTF signing the contract in 2014, what was different of the good and modern practices the ITTF has in place nowadays. Furthermore, Mr Dainton added that the contract was signed just a few days or weeks before Mr Weikert was assuming the presidency, following the resignation of Mr Sharara.

Mr Weikert added that, indeed, it was "one of the contracts" signed by the former President in the last few weeks before he took over.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked what decision will be made now.

Mr Weikert suggested to restart the negotiations.

Dr Meshref stated that something wrong was made the past, whether fraud or mistake, by not showing to the AGM and the EC the real details of the contract and mentioning as income what was a deposit. Dr Meshref added that when now some stakeholders are questioning WTT or TMS, he is wondering if just a negotiation with Shanghai Municipality and with CTTA should be made, or also responsibilities should be depurated in relation to the wrong information provided in 2015 to the ITTF family.

Mr Weikert suggested Dr Meshref raised a valid question, and it is true that in 2015, at the AGM in Suzhou, the information given was wrong, and that this was corrected at the 2018 AGM.

Dr Meshref added that if we know something was wrong and we don't take an action, someone else can do.

Mr Weikert suggested to pass the information to the ITTF Legal Counsel, so he can make an expertise and recommend the next steps, which could include the Ethics Commission and/or the ITTF Tribunal and added that -in general- there are two actions to be put in place, one, to re-negotiate the contract and another, to consider whether some legal actions are needed.

Mrs Sörling agreed, as morally she has big doubts, reflecting that once this administration got the information, did what it could, but she was wondering if it is legally correct to make bad business and, clearly, this contract was bad business for the ITTF.

Mr Burton, reflecting on the recent decision of the EC to be fully transparent and publish all EC Minutes, suggested that the misleading information supplied at the time of the signature of the contract will certainly raise questions within the membership.

Mr Dainton mentioned it is a pity Mr Shi is not on the meeting, and reflected on the fact that, perhaps, Shanghai partners were -at that time- thinking that they were acting in the best interest of our sport, and therefore, it should be clearly communicated that we are only questioning the internal ITTF processes.

Mr Weikert agreed the Minutes should be worded very carefully.

ACTION 20210704#10	In charge: Legal Counsel	Deadline: 2021-09-30
To provide a legal opinion on the matter of the wrong information given to the AGM in 2015.		

ACTION 20210704#11	In charge: EC and CEO	Deadline: 2021-09-30
To restart the negotiations with Shanghai Municipality and the CTTA about the ITTF Museum.		

20210704-EC-06

The Executive Committee agreed to engage in negotiations with the Shanghai Municipality and with CTTA to review the contract of the ITTF Museum.

8. Competition Program

8.1 2021 World Championships update

Mr Dainton indicated the priority at the moment is finalising the contract with the LOC as the Harrys County Houston Sport Authority (**HCHSA**) is suggesting keeping the original construct of the contract, what helps to remove risk from USATT and what -in the opinion of the CEO- is the best possible solution.

In relation to the concerns that the EC member, Mr James Morris, circulated via email about the event overnight, Mr Dainton suggested that the estimation of the cost of bringing all the delegates to Houston is an important element of concern to be considered, and the second reason of concern is the feeling expressed by HCHSA CEO, Mrs Janis Burke, about the feasibility to achieve visas for all participants, particularly for delegates.

Mr Dainton asked the EC what the situation would be if not all visas can be achieved for the delegates attending the AGM.

Dr Meshref echoed Mr Morris concerns about the financial part, particularly after an extraordinary contribution of three million dollars, biggest ever for a World Championships, and the second is legal, and related to visas, as for the moment it seems the dates given for visa appointment for many delegations are in 2022, far after the event dates.

Dr Meshref added that the World Squash Federation has a planned event in July and -to date- the Egyptian team has not obtained their VISAS.

Mr Weikert indicated that the situation about VISAS was worse in 2019, at the time the event was allocated to the US, than with the current administration.

In relation to the finances, Mr Weikert mentioned that whichever was to be the location for the AGM, the ITTF would have such cost.

Mr Weikert added that the possibility to have the AGM in a hybrid mode is to be considered.

Mrs Sörling suggested that although the change of administration may help in terms of VISAS, in 2019 there was not a pandemic, which has resulted in many US Embassies and Consulates to be currently closed or only providing emergency appointments.

Mrs Sörling considered the priority should be to ensure athletes get their visas, and asked Mr Weikert what solutions he may propose, as he wanted to have the AGM in Houston.

Mr Weikert said not being so pessimistic about VISAS, having experience as organiser of the World Championships in 2012 in Germany, and suggested that ideally the AGM should be held with the delegates present on site, and if not possible, then having it in a hybrid mode.

Mr Morris abounded on the fact that Mrs Burke is indicating to Mr Brown that there will be US VISA problems and, apparently, Mr Weikert is not worried about it.

Mr Weikert answered that the same VISA problems were there when the World Championships were allocated in 2019, with the exception that some countries were banned from entering the US, and this has changed now. Mr Morris answered that four million people has died in the World because of the pandemic and therefore, it cannot be the same situation.

Mr Weikert continued indicating that he is not responsible for the decision of the AGM and that in the past there were also issues with visas in other countries and mentioned that other sports have events in the US, therefore, there is no reason not to have a World Table tennis Championships in Houston.

Mr Dainton suggested looking for practical solutions and indicated that the priority should be to get the athletes to Houston, for what he asked the EC to agree to first focus on getting the athletes and their entourage's entries, and then, as a second step, looking at the delegates for the AGM.

Mr Ryu suggested the EC should seek solutions a.s.a.p. and prioritize the visas for the athletes.

Mr Tenca indicated he would not comment on the economical part, as he would like to leave it to the President and EVP of Finance, but regarding VISAS, the EC should have a position in case by August the VISAS are not granted for the delegates.

Mrs Sörling asked about the economic impact of having the AGM with all the delegates physically present vs having it on-line. Mr Brown confirmed that the calculation was roughly 1,23 million US dollars for a presential AGM, 233k US dollars for a presential BOD and roughly 74k US for a presential EC, but highlighted the fact that this was with the rates HCHSC negotiated back in February, as with the pandemic hitting the world, probably the hotel would not have expectations to be selling many rooms in November, while the situation now was different, and probably any additional rooms outside the package negotiated would be at a higher cost.

Mr Weikert mentioned that would be the worst-case scenario, as not all the delegates will travel to Houston.

Mr Burton asked to provide an estimation on the likelihood of the delegates reaching to the US.

The EC noted a presentation from Mr Gabor Felegyi in which the number of countries without visa requirement were presented, then the countries that could travel on a "National Interest Exemption Waiver (NIEW)", then the countries that can travel using the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)" and then in different groupings, those requiring visa that can be acquired relatively quickly (between 1 and 21 days), those requiring between 1 and 2 months, those with over 72 das and then a long list of countries where the embassies and consulates are

only opening for emergency appointments and last but not least, those countries where the embassies and consulates are closed.

Mr Felegyi reflected on the fact that most of the countries are having complex and long visa procedures, and with 67 countries with athletes qualified at the time of this meeting, the priority will be to finalise the prospectus and release it to the Member Associations, so they can make their entries a.s.a.p., so the VISA procedures can start.

Mr Al-Mohannadi and Dr Meshref suggested the ITTF should seek clarity a.s.a.p. from the LOC regarding the feasibility to achieve VISAS for the athletes and ensure the ITTF contribution of three million US dollars is not exceeded.

(Second part of the meeting on Monday 12th July)

Mr Dainton informed the EC that during the last eight days, since the first part of this EC meeting, the engagement with the HCHSA has continued. Mr Dainton added that having Mr Brown in Houston has proved to be very useful so far, and indicated that the financial part is being studied, due to the addition of the AGM.

Mr Weikert reported on his recent meeting with Ms Sung and Mr Cioroslan indicating that Mr Cioroslan explained him about a special plan from the US to facilitate visas for sporting events as discussed with the US Secretary of State Department. Mr Weikert added that Houston organisers are optimistic to obtain all the visas.

Mrs Sörling asked Mr Weikert if a written report will be received from the meeting held with the USATT and USOPC and asked why Mr Cioroslan could not join the meeting, as he was invited. Mr Weikert indicated Mr Cioroslan being in Las Vegas was not possible for him to join the meeting.

Mr Al-Mohannadi indicated that the time is flying and still there are no solutions for the VISAS, nor there is clarity about the financial part for the WTTC and asked the EC to take a position in case some athletes will not get their VISAS for the US.

Mr Weikert answered that the situation with the VISAS is not unusual, and it is now up to the USOPC to work on advancing all the interviews that are planned for after the dates of the WTTC.

Mr Dainton suggested, as already mentioned on the first part of the meeting on 4th July, that it is important to prioritise the athletes and coaches, and perhaps the contract should be made into two different parts, one for the WTTC and another for the AGM.

Mr Brown indicated that the main concern from the LOC is about the finances and the VISAS and that as the contract draft was received only last Friday, they will look at in detail and revert with feedback soon.

Mr Burton asked about the potential recognition of the vaccines in the US, as there was already information being spread in regard of the US not accepting travellers with certain vaccines in the near future, or having them obliged to quarantine on arrival, what would add additional cost.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked the CEO, in case the contracts for the WTTC and the AGM are separated, what about the financial conditions, in view of the already significant ITTF contribution of three million USD.

Mr Dainton indicated that the fact that the contracts are joint or separated will not change the final figure, as -in any case- the ITTF will need to add some extra contribution.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked if this precedent will force the ITTF to do the same with the next year's World Championships in Chengdu and Durban.

Mr Burton and Mrs Sörling suggested the agreement should be finalised a.s.a.p., perhaps by a reduced group of persons from the EC and Management, as the meeting on 1st August is too late taking into consideration that the WTTC is starting on 23rd November.

8.1.1 2021 WTTC Playing System

The EC noted the Playing System as prepared by the Competition Department and the Technical Commissioner.

20210704-EC-07

The Executive Committee approved the Playing System for the 2021 WTTC Finals to be held in Houston, USA, in November 2021.

Mr Maehara asked, in relation to the prospectus of the 2021 WTTC, about the clause to allow only players that are ranked within the 256 positions of the WR, and also for the reason of the short notice for entries deadline, particularly in view of the Olympic Games coming soon.

In relation to the restriction to be within the 256 highest ranked players, Mr Dainton replied that this is due to an ETTU proposition that passed at the 2020 Board of Directors meeting, therefore, if this is preferred to be changed, a new proposition should be submitted to the BOD.

In relation to the second question, on the short entry timeline, Mr Felegyi responded that this is due to the VISA situation, as it is very important to start working on the VISAS a.s.a.p., however, the Associations have up until 23rd August to reduce those entries initially submitted.

8.2 World Youth Championships update

8.2.1 2021 WYTTC Qualification and Playing System

The EC noted the Qualification System and the Playing System for the World Youth Championships, as prepared by the Competition Department and the Technical Commissioner.

Mr Burton added that the Qualification System presented is exceptional for this year, due to the pandemic, and it was discussed with Mr Maehara and the Junior Commissioner, Mrs Heike Ahlert.

20210704-EC-08

The Executive Committee approved the Qualification System and the Playing System for the 2021 World Youth Championships to be held in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal, in December 2021.

8.3 Olympic and Paralympic Games Qualification update

The EC noted the report of Mr Calin on the completion of the Qualification Tournaments in Argentina and Portugal (for Latin America and Europe respectively) and that currently, the final places were being confirmed after some cancellations.

For the Paralympic Games, the last bipartite quota places were being confirmed at the time of this meeting.

8.4 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The EC noted a detailed presentation from Mr Maehara on his visit to Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium on 30th June 2021, where -among other elements- the lighting system was reviewed.

The EC thanked Mr Maehara for the very precise report and praised the look of the Games for the Table Tennis venue.

8.4.1 Sport Specific Regulations (COVID-19)

The EC noted the presentation from Mr Calin on the Sport Specific Regulations for COVID-19 cases at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. This regulation is aimed to ensure that in such sports where two athletes, pairs, or teams, contest each other to advance to the next stage, if a positive COVID-19 case happens, the IOC and the ITTF can secure the medals can be contested on the field of play. The EC noted that those athletes, pairs, or teams, having tested positive will not lose the position achieved, but their opponent in the previous round will equally progress to ensure the contest can happen.

Mr Ryu suggested to share these details with the AC, so they can have a look at these regulations.

Mr Primorac reflected on the fact that someone would progress a round without having really deserved that, and asked about the practical implementation, i.e., when the tests will be made, and the results will be obtained.

Mr Zoran Primorac, asked to share this information with the AC commission and to wait a few hours before communicating back with the IOC, and Mr Weikert suggested to give an EC "in

principle” approval, pending of the discussions of Mr Primorac with the AC and then, Mr Primorac reverting to Mr Calin, for the final communication with the IOC to be made.

(Second part of the meeting on Monday 12th July)

Mr Calin reported that Mr Primorac, after consultation with the AC, confirmed the proposed wording for the SSI COVID-19 regulations, and it was submitted to the IOC for their final approval at the IOC EB level.

9. World Table Tennis

Mr Weikert commented on the questions and criticisms he has raised about World Table Tennis, particularly the ability to overview the finances, as he is directed to the SharePoint server, but he cannot have a feeling by just reading the documents as presented, not being a person with financial background.

Mr Weikert suggested he wants to know the risks and the financial situation, and after seeing the ITTF audit, maybe a special audit is needed on WTT.

Mrs Sörling indicated she already gave an answer to Mr Weikert on a call they had, plus sent an email to Mr Weikert with copy to all EC members. Mrs Sörling added that the same Auditors Company is performing the audits in Switzerland and Singapore and reminded that Mr Weikert is invited to the Finance and Audit Committee meeting, which as it is well known, has independent members.

Abounding on the understanding of the documents, Mrs Sörling indicated that when checking the SharePoint server, she can find all the answers to the questions of Mr Weikert, particularly, the fulfilment of the contract, the shareholders agreement, and also in relation to the social media accounts.

Mrs Sörling suggested if Mr Weikert has further questions, the meeting with the Finance & Audit Committee meeting is the perfect place to ask for.

Mr Weikert asked in regard to the expected payment of 500,000 USD from WTT to the ITTF due 30th June 2021.

Mr Dainton took the floor and suggested whenever Mr Weikert has any questions or doubts, the best is if he would contact the CFO, Mr Michael Brown. Answering specifically this question, Mr Brown confirmed the payment is being processed and that the payment of 500,000 USD related to Q1 was done already a few months ago.

Mr Weikert confirmed he is satisfied to wait for the Finance and Audit Committee meeting and if the answers given then are not satisfactory, the ITTF should think in a Forensic Audit, adding that he would prefer to have the information in two pages, rather than having to look at the SharePoint server.

Mr Dainton answered the ITTF works now in a professional way, and all those documents are stored like companies do, in secure servers, so it is clear who is accessing to the information, particularly because there have been cases where documents of the EC have been leaked, and it is ITTF responsibility to exercise due diligence. Mr Dainton suggested Mr Weikert that if he has any questions, he can always take the phone and call, adding that -to date- no other EC member has complained about the SharePoint server system.

Mr Dainton added being surprised listening the President mentioning a "Forensic Audit" which is normally something done when someone has a feeling there are illegal practices.

Mr Weikert said he is not accusing anyone but want to have an easy access to the information and he does not understand the documents as he does not have financial background.

Mr Dainton suggested if he has any doubts, he should ask the responsible persons, particularly the CFO, Michael Brown, who is the financial expert, for financial matters, or the WTT Director, Matt Pound, for social media matters, instead of spreading sentences such the need for a Forensic Audit. Mr Dainton added that it is the first time in the ITTF history that all the documents, contracts, financial documents, meeting minutes, all are in a central location.

Mr Weikert said he appreciated that, but he needs to wait to know the financial situation.

Mrs Sörling asked Mr Weikert for an explanation on his sentence about having a Forensic Audit.

Mr Weikert answered he wants to be 100% sure about the finances as he is afraid about the finances of WTT because there are not many competitions.

Mrs Sörling answered that the audit is about the process and not about the result, as it is clear we are in the middle of a pandemic, but the audit intention is to ensure all financial matters have been dealt with in a correct manner.

Mr Dainton added that with or without WTT, the economic situation will be difficult, and the fact that Mr Weikert mentions a Forensic Audit makes him feel that Mr Weikert thinks that something is illegal.

Mr Weikert answered that the EC is ultimately responsible, reason why he raises questions.

Not having any further questions on this matter, Mr Weikert asked Mr Burton if it was true that he make the decision, together with Mr Madsen, to move the followers from ITTF to WTT.

Mr Burton replied that he would need to check his notes and that nevertheless, he has access to both platforms, and added he is not in the position to answer specifically in this moment.

Mr Weikert then asked about Instagram, to what Mr Weikert said Mr Pound confirmed this was made in agreement with the account managers of Facebook and Google who were very comfortable with the legality of the transfer and that Mr Pound added this was mentioned in an EC meeting, and the decision was made together with Mr Burton and Mr Madsen.

Mr Burton answered he will need to check the timelines and what was documented on the EC meetings, asking Mr Weikert what his primary concern is.

Mr Weikert answered that a transfer of fans cannot be made by a decision of Mr Burton or Mr Madsen adding that that this is not correct in any case.

Mr Dainton expressed his disappointment by the way Mr Weikert is making questions, which seems to be accusations, when at the end of the day, WTT is an ITTF property. Mr Dainton added that if there are mistakes, they can always be rectified, but the approach to the discussions (of Mr Weikert) should change, as it seems that it is more attacking the people, when at the end of the day, everyone in the ITTF is working to try to achieve what is best for the sport.

Mr Weikert replied that he was not getting any answers, reasons why he is asking in this way.

Mr Dainton suggested it will be good to check previous EC meeting minutes, being 99% sure it was mentioned, to what Mr Weikert encouraged him to do so.

At that moment of the meeting, Mr Calin put on the screen the draft of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March, 20th March and 11th April 2021, which confirmed the statements of Mr Burton and Mr Dainton, commenting that this draft was circulated already three times to the EC members.

Mr Weikert mentioned he could not remember that ¹.

At this point, Mr Burton asked Mr Weikert to apologize for his biased arguments and words a few minutes earlier, when not even in a single occasion Mr Weikert approached Mr Burton on this matter, and only raised the issue during the meeting (in an accusative manner).

Mr Burton stated being astounded by Mr Weikert's fixation against WTT, adding that the central theme is the objections of Mr Weikert to WTT, and that Mr Weikert spend all time on his objections not leaving space for other important points on the agenda of the EC meetings.

Mr Burton added that the levels of frustration are enormous, with Mr Weikert mentioning a forensic audit just because he does not understand finances, when the CFO, the CEO, and the EVP of Finance being extremely competent in that area, but simply due to the lack of understanding of Mr Weikert.

Mr Burton ended his speech mentioning that -as a leader- Mr Weikert is crossing lines that are simply unacceptable and in fact quite embarrassing to even witness.

Mr Weikert apologised for not checking the minutes and added he does not think this decision is correct (about the social media followers) and that he was not accusing Mr Burton on anything.

Mr Dainton suggested he will ask the staff to prepare a report on the rationale of the transfer, as he thinks it was good with good intention.

Mr Weikert confirmed he also thinks it was done with good intention.

¹ Note however Mr Weikert received this draft minutes three times before this meeting.

ACTION 20210704#12	In charge: CEO	Deadline: 2021-09-30
To ask the staff to prepare a report on the rationale of the transfer of the social media accounts.		

10. Executive Committee matters

10.1 Travel Policy for EC Members

At this point of the meeting, the staff was invited to leave the meeting except for the CEO and the Secretary General.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked how the procedure for approval of travels of the EC is, referring to the fact that when he was invited to the European Olympic Qualification in Moscow, Mr Weikert suggested this trip should not be paid by the ITTF, because the invitation came to him on his capacity as QTTA President, not as ITTF Deputy President, what Mr Al-Mohannadi accepted.

But then, Mr Al-Mohannadi realised that Mr Weikert travelled to New York for the World Parkinson Championships with an accompanying person and that this ticket was paid by the ITTF, and he wanted to know who approved this trip.

Mr Weikert answered he was travelling alone.

Mr Al-Mohannadi then asked who approved the flight ticket of Mr Danijela Pospis. Mr Weikert said he didn't approve it, and he thinks it was from Croatian Table Tennis Association.

Mr Al-Mohannadi answered he had proofs it was paid by the ITTF.

Mr Weikert responded he does not know who did approve that ticket and commented "maybe Steve".

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked why EC members being invited to certain events cannot travel on ITTF cost, but other persons from outside the ITTF can travel on ITTF's cost.

Mr Weikert answered he does not know anything about this trip of Mrs Pospis.

Mr Al-Mohannadi asked Mrs Sörling who approved it and Mrs Sörling answered she will ask the CFO to check.

Mrs Sörling also mentioned that when she travelled to the commemoration of the Independence Day in Kosovo, in February 2020, Mr Weikert also questioned her for the travel and said this should not be paid by the ITTF, and she accepted the later apology of Mr Weikert (for his approach on the matter).

Mr Weikert concluded he didn't know anything of who approved the ticket of Mrs Pospis to New York.

Mr Morris suggested Mr Brown can check who approved the ticket in question.

ACTION 20210704#13	In charge: CFO	Deadline: 2021-09-30
To check who approved the flight ticket of Mrs Danijela Pospis to New York.		

10.2 The Deputy President position

Due to the short time available, Mr Burton suggested to defer this point to the meeting on 1st August, but not putting it at the end of the agenda.

10.3 E-mail from Mr Al-Mohannadi in relation to the letter of Mr Weikert on 4th March

Due to the short time available, Mr Al-Mohannadi suggested to defer this point to the meeting on 1st August.

10.4 Elections

Mr Morris wanted to update the EC colleagues on the fact that he will not be seeking the re-election as Executive Vice-President of the ITTF, mainly for family reasons.

Mr Weikert mentioned it was a pity after the long-time worked together.

Mr Burton added being disappointed for the news but wanted to give his heartfelt appreciation for the level of integrity Mr Morris brought to his position, what was echoed by Mrs Sörling and Mr Weikert.

11. Any other Business

There was not any other business.

12. Next EC Meeting

The next EC meeting to be held on Monday 1st August 2021 at 18:30 JST in Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Thomas Weikert
ITTF President

Date

Raul Calin
ITTF Secretary General

Date