

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Fairmont Hotel, VIP A Meeting Room, Singapore
Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th March 2022 – 09h30 to 13h30 SGT

MINUTES

EC members in attendance:

SÖRLING Petra	ITTF President
AL-MOHANNADI Khalil	Executive Vice-President
AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
LIU Guoliang (via Zoom ®)	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
MESHREF Alaa	Executive Vice-President
NATRAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
PRIMORAC Zoran	Athletes Commission (AC) Chair
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General

Invited staff (in order of intervention):

BROWN Michael	ITTF Group CFO (sections 5.1, 7, and 8)
LOURDES Charlotte	ITTF Group HR Manager (section 5.2)
LAVIER Tristan	ITTF Group Head of Communications (section 5.3)
FELEGYI Gabor	ITTF Competitions Director (section 7)
POUND Matt	WTT Director (sections 8)
CEHOVIN Polona	ITTF HPD & Education Director (section 9)
OLVECH Leandro	ITTF Foundation Director (section 10)
BESSAH Mounir	ITTF Members Relations Director (section 11)

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. President's opening remarks

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the EC members in attendance, noting the participation via Zoom ® of Mr LIU Guoliang.

Ms SÖRLING thanked the persons involved in the organisation of the Singapore Smash, as well as Mr AL-MOHANNADI and the QTTA for the events happening simultaneously in Doha, Qatar; appreciation was also expressed to all other associations that are organising ITTF Group events worldwide.

Ms SÖRLING thanked the trust of the EC colleagues for her to be full-time President, for what she will be stepping down from her current business position in the coming months (started 1st January 2022).

1.2. Welcome from Singapore authorities

The EC noted that the welcome of the Singapore authorities would be made in a formal lunch reception on Wednesday, 16th March at 13h30 SGT.

1.3. Roll Call

The meeting started with all the EC members in attendance from Singapore, except Mr LIU Guoliang, who attended via Zoom ® from China.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted after adding sections 11.8.4, Sports for Climate Action Framework, 11.8.5, IOC Membership, and 13.1, Sale of the ITTF property in Renens, Switzerland.

3. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

- 3.1. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2022 were approved.

20220315-EC-01

The Executive Committee approved the Minutes of the EC Meeting held on 29th January 2022.

It was agreed that the draft Minutes of the EC Meetings held from 1st August until 22nd November and the recordings of those Meetings would be made available in the coming weeks via SharePoint ® repository for the EC members to review and eventually approve via email, as -to date- only decisions have been published.

- 3.2. Business arising from the Minutes
Ms SÖRLING reviewed the business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January, confirming that the actions agreed are either completed, in progress, or included in the agenda of the current meeting.

4. CEO Report / Strategic Plan (SP)

The EC noted the update report made by Mr DAINTON.

5. Operations

5.1. Finances

The EC noted the presentation of Mr BROWN about the 2021 ITTF consolidated financial statements being finalised and the 2022 budgets.

Mr NATRAN also referred to the planned Risk Assessment workshop and the upcoming meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee.

The EC noted the information from Mr BROWN about the tender process being opened to appoint the next auditors.

To conclude the Finances section, Mr NATRAN added that the ITTF should seek possibilities to reduce costs in the forthcoming years to have a prudent and stable financial management, for what meetings with each EC member will be organised in the coming days, to have a better understanding of the different needs of each of the ITTF areas of activity.

The EC noted additional updates on IT and Legal matters by Mr BROWN, and a planned walk-through of the Singapore Smash venue to see first-hand how the different IT systems are integrated.

Dr MESHREF thanked the entire IT team for the progress in IT, highlighting that the historical information such as articles and tournament results should be preserved.

The EC noted the procedure required to update the incorporation of ITTF Asia Pacific Limited (**ITTF APL**) membership following the 2021 ITTF elections.

5.2. HR and Sustainability

The EC noted the presentation from Ms LOURDES, which addressed the different HR areas of focus for the ITTF Group.

It was requested to produce a chart that provides an overview of the overall ITTF structure.

5.2.1. Staff Contracts

Discussions were held about how the pandemic affected the staff in 2020-2021, and the importance of a prudent approach to the current world situation.

Mr NATRAN indicated he would be reviewing the different areas of expenditure and following discussions with Ms SÖRLING. Mr DAINTON will be reverting to the EC colleagues about any HR decisions needed.

Ms SÖRLING thanked the EC colleagues for their reflections, asking Mr NATRAN to request Mr BROWN to add to the SharePoint ® of the EC a detailed report on the costs of the different organisations, particularly about staff.

5.3. Communications and Protocol

The EC noted the presentation of Mr LAVIER, which highlighted the role of the ITTF Group as an umbrella ensuring consistency across the messaging of the three organisations: ITTF, WTT and the ITTF Foundation.

5.4. Table Tennis Sport / Innovation

The EC noted that the ITTF is in the process of recruiting a Sports Director.

Dr AZEVEDO mentioned it would be good for the ITTF to progress in the area of eSports.

5.5. Others

5.5.1. AGM and Board meetings 2022

The EC noted the proposed dates for the key meetings of 2022 as follows:

Executive Committee Meeting:	Thursday 29 th September
Continental Council Meeting:	Saturday 1 st October
Board of Directors Meeting:	Sunday 2 nd October
Annual General Meeting:	Tuesday 4 th October

Which will be communicated to CTTA and Chengdu 2022 LOC for their confirmation.

5.5.2. Call for Nominations to the Nominations Committee

The EC noted that since the election as Executive Vice-President of Mr OSHODI on 24th November 2022, he effectively finished his role as Chair of the Nominations Committee, and Mr Abdulla AL-MULLA, Deputy Chair, became Acting Chair. The EC noted that once the AGM date is announced, the call for nominations to the Nominations Committee will also be launched, with the aim for the EC to appoint the Nominations Committee 2022-2024 at the EC meeting on 29th September 2022.

5.5.3. Equipment

The EC noted Mr SYMONS's report on the Equipment Committee's request to allow coloured lines on tables and on the top of the net in WTT also in 2022. After broader consultation in 2022, and if there is acceptance, a proposition can be formulated for the 2022 AGM to allow coloured lines from 2023 in other events.

The EC agreed to the proposal.

20220315-EC-02

[The Executive Committee agreed to allow experimental use of coloured lines on the tabletop and the top of the net for WTT events in 2022.](#)

Mr MAEHARA mentioned about the difficult visibility of the centre line in second hall courts due to the lighting from the audience seats, and Mr DAINTON suggested this message will be shared with the people in charge for its analysis.

The EC also noted the equipment department's request to prepare a racket control seminar for referees. It was agreed to proceed once the new equipment manager is in place.

Mr PRIMORAC asked in relation to the quality of the balls, which seemed to be dropping from the standards existing the previous year.

6. Athletes

6.1. Athletes Commission (AC) Report

The EC noted the report of Mr PRIMORAC. He provided the feedback from the athletes about the positive highlights and the areas to improve following the experience on the first ever Grand Smash and suggested the ITTF make the effort to assist the key international players of Ukraine in competing in international events.

The AC also shared concern about the situation of the players from Belarus and Russia and the situation existing in Indonesia.

Ms SÖRLING suggested that when the staff evaluates the Singapore Smash, Mr DAINTON will ensure that the AC and Dr MESHREF are part of this review.

6.2. Entourage

The EC noted the report of Ms SÖRLING. Ms SÖRLING and Mr MAEHARA, will approach the continental presidents requesting to appoint one representative for this new group, which Mr Jean-Michel SAIVE will lead.

6.3. High Performance

Mr LIU indicated that once the options of travel are resumed, hopefully, he will be able to bring a more practical report in this area but inviting his EC colleagues to address him via email on any ideas or initiatives they may have.

6.4. Athletes Commission Elections

Mr CALIN indicated that updating the terms of reference for the Athletes Commission is the first step to preparing for the elections.

The meeting was adjourned on day 1 (15th March) at 13:30 SGT.

7. Events

7.1. World Title Events

7.1.1. Houston 2021 WTTTC Finals Debriefing

The EC noted the presentation of Mr BROWN, which highlighted that despite the VISAS issue, it was a success, with more than 30,000 spectators attending the WTTTC Finals.

The figures in social media were also significant, with 46.5 million reach on Facebook, 20 million video views on Weibo, and between 210 and 220 million unique viewers from a TV broadcast perspective.

A total of 189 countries were showing the WTTTC Finals on television, which is probably the highest number ever.

The WTTTC Finals also counted with a 50th Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy Gala Dinner.

The EC discussed the matter of the VISA not being granted to Mr Khalil AL-MOHANNADI, agreeing on the next course of action.

Discussions were held on whether it is possible and adequate hosting events in USA when the USATT has failed to secure the visa for an EC member, suggesting that USATT should remediate this situation.

7.1.2. Chengdu 2022 WTTTC Finals update

Mr DAINTON gave an introduction indicating that the ITTF and the LOC have agreed to a number of 1250 persons coming from overseas, which should be enough to accommodate all players, entourage, and delegates for the key meetings of the World Championships.

The equipment for the WTTTC Finals was also confirmed: Double Fish balls, DHS tables and Enlio flooring.

7.1.3. Durban 2023 WTTTC Finals update

Mr DAINTON and Ms SÖRLING indicated that following the very positive meeting held in Houston with the representatives of the Government and of SATTB, it is time to send an appropriate delegation in inspection to Durban to finalise the arrangements for the 2023 WTTTC Finals. Mr AL-MOHANNADI agreed to the proposal.

7.1.4. Busan 2024 WTTTC Finals update

The EC discussed the dates of the event and the future of the WTTTC Finals, particularly after the repositioning of the sport with the creation of WTT.

7.1.5. Others

7.1.5.1. WTTTC Finals 2025 – call for applications

The EC agreed to open a separate call for applications for the WTTTC Finals 2025 and the 2025 AGM.

For the AGM 2025 to be awarded before 2024, a proposition will be put forward to the 2022 AGM, allowing the decision to be taken in 2023 in Durban.

20220316-EC-03

The Executive Committee agreed to open the bid process for the 2025 World Table Tennis Championships Finals, separated from the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

7.1.5.2. WYTTTC 2023 and 2024 – call for applications

The EC agreed to open the call for applications for the WYTTTC 2023 and 2024. The BoD will eventually decide on 2nd October on the hosting cities and associations for the 2023 and 2024 editions.

20220316-EC-04

The Executive Committee agreed to open the bid process for the 2023 and 2024 World Youth Table Tennis Championships.

7.1.5.3. VC 2024 – call for applications

The EC agreed to open the call for applications for the WVC 2024. The BoD will eventually decide on 2nd October on the hosting city and association for the 2024 edition, which will be the first event allocated by the ITTF, being previous editions allocated by the Swaythling Club International.

20220316-EC-05

The Executive Committee agreed to open the bid process for the 2024 World Veterans Championships.

7.2. Olympic and Paralympic Games

7.2.1. Qualification Pathway

It was agreed to defer this point to the Continental Council meeting to be held on 17th March, to avoid a duplicated discussion.

7.2.2. IOC grouping of Sports

The EC noted the report of Mr CALIN regarding the decision of ASOIF General Assembly in 2019 in Gold Coast to not review the grouping of the Olympic Sports until after Paris 2024.

7.3. World Ranking

Mr CALIN reported that the composition of the World Ranking Working Group was being finalised, and soon the WRWG can start their deliberations.

7.4. World Cups

Mr DAINTON informed the EC about the discussions held with Mr PRIMORAC in relation to the World Cups, indicating it was very positive, with Mr PRIMORAC highlighting the importance to keep the tradition and ensuring the legacy of the World Cups continues.

Mr DAINTON indicated that in the coming weeks, a proposal will be presented to the AC, knowing that ultimately any decision to be taken must be done via the Board of Directors.

A coffee break was held at this point of the meeting until 11:30 SGT.

8. World Table Tennis Update

The EC noted the report of Mr Matt POUND, which touched on the calendar, with the events successfully completed so far, and the upcoming events for 2022, as well as the outline for 2023.

The EC discussed the governance of WTT, and it was proposed to add Mr LIU Guoliang as WTT Board Member, replacing Mr Matt POUND, who will focus on the day-to-day operations.

20220316-EC-06

The Executive Committee agreed to appoint Mr LIU Guoliang to the WTT Board.

It was suggested to have more active participation of the ITTF President at the WTT Board meetings and to re-structure the WTT Council to make it more athletes focused.

Concerning the investment in WTT, Mr DAINTON gave a progress report.

Following the EC deliberations, it was agreed in principle to offer 15% equity in WTT and a seat on the WTT Board to World Sports Industry (Beijing) Co. Ltd., for what Mr NATRAN and Mr DAINTON will follow up regarding the contracting of the agreement with World Sports Industry (Beijing) Co. Ltd. and provide detailed information on how the company can add additional value to the ITTF/WTT.

It was noted that all due diligence and all expected governance standards should be adhered to, as usual, and the ITTF President should be well updated on all the details. It was noted that WTT would continue exploring the market to seek further investment.

It was explained, particularly for the new EC members, that the Master Licence Agreement (MLA) between WTT and ITTF is the key document that determines the relationship, and that together with the Constitution of WTT they are available in the SharePoint.

20220316-EC-07

The Executive Committee agreed to enter into a Shareholders Agreement with World Sports Industry (Beijing) Co. Ltd for 15% equity of World Table Tennis.

9. Development

The EC noted the presentation from Ms CEHOVIN in Development, which touched on the different programmes offered.

10. ITTF Foundation Update

The EC noted the presentation of Mr OLVECH, who highlighted the synergies across the different ITTF Organisations, and included an update on the various programmes of support offered and projects currently being carried out.

11. Governance

11.1. Members

The EC noted the report of Mr BESSAH, who highlighted that four Master Continental Agreements (**MCAs**) have already been signed, with the last one for Asia, being finalised. Mr BESSAH also reported on the different meetings with Member Associations and the websites developed for Africa and the Americas.

11.1.1. IOC decision on 28th February

Ms SÖRLING referred to the emergency meeting held on 28th February 2022 to discuss the IOC recommendation on the players from Belarus and Ukraine. It was agreed to create a task force group, composed initially of Mr AL-MOHANNADI, Mr OSHODI, Mr PRIMORAC, Mr DAINTON, and herself, to deal with the situation on a mandate given by the EC.

20220316-EC-08

The Executive Committee agreed to create a task force group composed by Ms SÖRLING, Mr AL-MOHANNADI, Mr OSHODI, Mr PRIMORAC and Mr DAINTON to deal with the situation that resulted from the IOC recommendation on the 28th February 2022.

11.2. Continental Council

The EC noted the preparation for the Continental Council meeting to be held on 17th March.

11.3. Committee Updates

The EC noted the upcoming work reviewing the different committees' Terms of Reference (ToR).

11.4. Working Groups Update

The EC noted the completion of the first stage of the work made by the Olympic and Paralympic Games Qualification System Working Group, which results will be presented at the Continental Council. The EC also noted that the composition of the World Ranking Working Group and the Governance Review Working Group would be finalised soon, so hopefully, their work can start.

11.5. Gender/Diversity

Ms SÖRLING thanked Ms CEHOVIN for the activities carried out during the Women's Table Tennis Day 8th March and shared with the EC colleagues the nomination by iSportConnect as one of the eight Influential Women in Sport for 2022, considering this is positive for Table Tennis.

Ms SÖRLING added that it would be important to work with the Nominations Committee to ensure more women are nominated and indicated that the ITTF Gender Commissioner, Hajera KAJEE, is working on a document outlining the goals for the Gender and Diversity area.

11.6. Integrity / Safe Sport

The EC noted the report from Mr Kevin CARPENTER, ITTF Head of Integrity, which Mr CALIN presented on his behalf. The information included an update on the situation faced by TTFI, being intervened by a court decision. The EC agreed to write to the appointed administrators seeking clarifications and diligence on the process.

11.7. One Hundred Years

Mr AL-MOHANNADI asked to remind the opening of the bank account for the 100 years celebration of the ITTF. Mr DAINTON confirmed that Mr BROWN will proceed to do so.

11.8. Others

11.8.1. EC members onboarding

The EC noted that with the onboarding sessions held in February and the documents being signed this week in Singapore, the onboarding process is almost completed, with some complementary information to be shared in the coming days.

11.8.2. Travel Policy

This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

11.8.3. Terms of Reference for Committees

Mr CALIN confirmed that the ToRs for the Committees are to be reviewed as part of the Governance Review.

11.8.4. Sports for Climate Action Framework

The EC noted the request from Ms SÖRLING for the ITTF to join the United Nations “Sports for Climate Action” initiative. It was agreed to join it.

20220316-EC-09

The Executive Committee agreed to join the United Nations “Sports For Climate Action” initiative.

11.8.5. OC Membership

The EC noted the report from Mr RYU Seung-Min following the last EC meeting and agreed to formally propose the new ITTF President, Ms SÖRLING, for IOC Membership. It was also decided to seek potential IOC membership for other persons via NOC, Athletes’ Commission, and Individual membership.

20220316-EC-10

The Executive Committee agreed to present the candidature of Ms Petra SÖRLING for IOC membership”.

12. IOC Member Report

The EC noted the report of Mr RYU, which was circulated in written following the previous EC meeting.

13. Other Business

13.1. Sale of the ITTF property in Renens, Switzerland.

Ms SÖRLING reported on the meeting held on 25th February with CBRE, in relation to the potential sale of the property in Renens, with the aim to reinvest this money in a property which can provide a more active use for table tennis.

The EC noted that the property is almost fully rented, a substantial improvement compared to 2019.

13.2. Report to Integrity on the matter of Mr AL-MOHANNADI.

Mr CALIN informed the EC that Mr AL-MOHANNADI has agreed to the recommendation of Mr OSHODI to put the matter in the hands of the ITTF Integrity Unit.

14. Next Meetings

In principle, the next EC meeting will be held in Sweden on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th of July 2022.

15. Adjournment

Ms SÖRLING thanked the EC members for their active participation in the meeting. Without further remarks, the meeting was adjourned at 13h30 SGT.

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date