

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Eiffel 1 Meeting Room – Mercure Paris Porte de Versailles Expo
Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th, and Tuesday 6th August 2024 – 09h00 to 12h00 CEST

MINUTES

EB members in attendance:

SÖRLING Petra	President
LIU Guoliang	Deputy President
AL-MOHANNADI Khalil	Senior Executive Vice-President
MESHREF Alaa	Executive Vice-President – Finance
AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
NATRAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member
LIU Shiwen	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair
ACHANTA Sharath Kamal	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General
BESSAH Mounir	ITTF Deputy Secretary General
BROWN Michael	ITTF Chief Financial Officer
ANDERSSON Mikael	ITTF Sports Development Director
LEMAITRE Michelle (via Zoom ®)	IOC Head of Sustainability
RIPOLL Enric	ITTF Integrity Board Chair

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. ITTF President's Welcome

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the EB colleagues thanking them for taking the time to attend the EB meeting in the middle of the Olympic Games.

Ms SÖRLING provided a short update on the key decisions taken at the IOC Session held on the 23rd and 24th of July, which included the creation of the Olympic Esports Games starting in 2025 in Saudi Arabia, through a partnership with the Saudi Arabia NOC for 12 years.

The EB also noted the allocations of the Winter Olympic Games in 2030 to the French Alps, France, in 2034 to Salt Lake City – Utah, United States of America, and Switzerland was given a "Privileged Dialogue" status for the 2038 edition.

Ms SÖRLING highlighted that the Paris 2024 Games are the first organised under the Agenda 2020 + 5, and provided an update on Paris 2024 preparations, indicating that the Games are currently on budget, and managed to secure gender parity among the competitors. Ms SÖRLING also referred to the important use given to existing facilities and to the fact of being Games in the city, with many activities, including the popular Marathon, where the citizens can run the same Marathon circuit as the Olympians.

Ms SÖRLING invited Mr RYU to address his colleagues on his IOC capacity. Mr RYU congratulated the ITTF for the fantastic organisation of the table tennis events at the Olympic Games and

thanked the EB colleagues and the administration for the support given during the past eight years, indicating that it has been a truly amazing experience. Mr RYU confirmed that the results of the IOC Athletes Commission elections will be known on 7th August.

1.2. Roll Call

The Roll Call was conducted with all EB members present.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted agreeing to take mainly all reports on Saturday and all points with decisions needed on Sunday.

Ms SÖRLING invited Mr DAINTON to address the EB. Mr DAINTON stated that besides spectacular matches seen, there have been absolute record numbers in terms of media reach and media views, with all sessions being sold out.

3. Minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting

3.1. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting (22nd May 2024)

Mr DAINTON explained that the Director of Operations left on 31st May, and the ITTF is still looking for a replacement, which has delayed the preparation of the last EB Meeting Minutes.

3.2. Business arising from the Minutes

The EB noted that from the Busan EB Meeting, the tasks assigned are still ongoing.

4. CEO Report / Strategic Plan

The EB noted the report of Mr DAINTON, who reflected about 2024 being the busiest year of table tennis yet, with more events than ever before. The EB noted the update from Mr DAINTON on his visit to the WTT event held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Las Vegas, USA, to explore a potential Grand Smash in the United States, Chongqing, China, where a fantastic WTT Champions was held, in a venue with 10,000 seats sold per session, a further visit to Hong Kong, China, to explore the possibility to host the WTT Finals event in 2025. Mr DAINTON continued reporting on the planned events for the rest of 2024, reflecting that it is the first time that after the Olympic Games the sport of table tennis has such comprehensive calendar of events.

Speaking about Paris 2024, Mr DAINTON, referred to his previous comments and considered the operations are going very smoothly to date.

About the key focus areas to consider, Mr DAINTON referred to the finalisation of the 2025 calendar, which will be probably even bigger than 2024, the reflections of the WTT Structure development, and the partnership with World Sports, which will be touched on Sunday. To conclude, Mr DAINTON referred to the relationship with IMG indicating that more details will be given on the second day.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI reported that his USA VISA was granted and thanked everyone who supported him in the process of obtaining it, particularly Mr CALIN.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr AL-MOHANNADI for the update and expressed her satisfaction to be able to close this issue positively.

4.1. Strategic Plan

For the same reasons for the departure of Mr MAH, it was agreed to defer this point to the next EB Meeting.

5. Operations

5.1. Finances

Mr Michael BROWN was welcomed to the meeting and started by presenting a 2023 Financial Overview. Mr BROWN indicated that the 2023 result of the ITTF entity saw a slight improvement compared to the approved budget but still ended as a loss-making year. Mr BROWN added that while there was a noticeable improvement in general revenue, expenses, particularly from events and operations, still outweighed the income.

Mr BROWN referred to the significant losses in WTT mainly driven by the lack of training services activation and the increased event costs: More events resulted in higher prize money, TV production costs, and related expenditures.

On the ITTF Foundation side, the EB noted a small deficit for 2023.

Speaking about the consolidated position, Mr BROWN reported an approximate loss of \$7.8 million, higher than the AGM-approved budget of \$3 million, adding that this increase was primarily attributed to the WTT's IMG Arena-related situation.

Mr BROWN gave a brief update on the 2023 Audit process and a cash flow situation update, the UBS line of credit situation, and the loan facility from World Sports.

Mr BROWN then turned to the 2024 reports for the three entities, ITTF, with almost the same projections as in the last EB meeting report, WTT, where the biggest challenges are the data and streaming rights, forecasting a variance to have more deficit than planned, and the ITTF Foundation, without significant changes.

On the consolidated 2024 position, the projection following these updates would be increased losses position due to the situation faced with IMG Arena compared to the AGM-approved budget.

Mr BROWN continued providing an update on the 2025-2028 budgets, indicating that the ITTF and the ITTF Foundation would not have significant changes at the moment, while in WTT, with the latest news, the projections would be to have losses.

The consolidated 2025-2028 position would thus turn negative for the quadrennial.

On a question from Dr MESHREF about the significant changes for 2023 and 2024 budgets vs projected results, Mr BROWN reported the over-expectations of more events being able to take place in 2023, while for 2024, the issue was the mentioned reduction in the revenue provided by IMG Arena of which the ITTF was only aware within 2024.

5.2. Information & Technology (report)

The EB noted the written report.

5.3. Education (report)

The EB noted the written report.

5.4. HR (report)

The EB noted the written report.

5.5. Sustainability (report)

The EB noted the written report.

In addition, the IOC Head of Sustainability, Ms Michelle LEMAITRE, presented the sustainability initiatives of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. These initiatives aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 50% compared to previous Games, primarily through minimal new

construction (95% were existing or temporary venues), using renewable energy sources like wind and solar, promoting plant-based food options, encouraging public transport and cycling, and implementing a circular economy approach for sourcing goods and equipment. Ms LEMAITRE also highlighted the commitment to finding second-life solutions for 90% of the equipment and goods used during the Games.

To conclude her presentation, Ms LEMAITRE shared a video on the Paris 2024 sustainability initiatives.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Ms LEMAITRE for the comprehensive presentation and congratulated the LOC for the big step forward in the area of Sustainability.

5.6. Communications (report)
The EB noted the written report.

5.7. Protocol (report)
The EB noted the written report.

5.8. Equipment (report)
The EB noted the written report.

6. Athletes

6.1. Athletes Commission Report

The EB noted the report of the Athletes Commission (**AC**) presented by Mr ACHANTA, who highlighted Paris 2024 being a memorable Games so far for the athletes with the big support provided by the enthusiastic fans.

Mr ACHANTA referred to the requests made in Durban about removing the PDR and NER systems due to the lack of events. With almost a full calendar of Grand Smashes and WTT Champions events now, the AC recommends reverting to using PDR and NER.

Mr ACHANTA then referred to the World Ranking survey sent out after the Saudi Smash to Member Associations, suggesting having access to the report from such survey.

Mr ACHANTA added about the previous request of the AC to have a player on the WTT Board which would allow them to better understand the changes that are decided at the Board level.

Mr ACHANTA also mentioned the request from the athletes to have one or two exceptions to the mandatory events in the year due to personal or injury reasons.

Concerning the travels between tournaments, a request was made to shorten the qualification stages, which in turn will make the main draws of events closer to each other, as it is observed that in some events there is a small number of matches per day, and this could be improved.

Mr ACHANTA suggested providing flexibility for the Top 100 players in the WR to be able to enter themselves, to avoid the situations where the Associations forget to enter them.

Ms LIU Shiwen agreed with the points raised by Mr ACHANTA and suggested looking into the regulations and operation guidelines to ensure the safety of players.

Ms SÖRLING thanked the co-chairs of the AC for the precise reports with concrete proposals.

Dr MESHREF thanked the two co-chairs for their report and their patience, urging the WTT colleagues to address the requests from the AC, which are sent sometimes 2 and 3 times. Dr MESHREF considered that adding an athlete to the WTT Board would only be positive, and

requested once again to activate the steering committee, which should have been in place since three years ago.

Dr MESHREF suggested looking at the statistics of injuries, particularly in a year like 2024 with so many events.

Mr DAINTON suggested having a meeting as soon as possible following the Olympic Games with the Athletes to review the regulations and find a proper balance.

Ms SÖRLING suggested adding it as an action on the Minutes to consider the Steering Committee, to ensure it is in the next agenda.

6.2. Entourage (report)

Mr MAEHARA indicated that new meetings of the Entourage Working Group will be held after the Olympic Games.

6.3. High Performance (report)

The EB noted the report of High Performance will be part of Mr ANDERSSON's report.

6.4. Sport Innovation (report)

The EB noted the report of High Performance will be part of Mr ANDERSSON's report.

6.5. Eligibility

Mr CALIN provided an update on the CAS case of Ms Yangzi LIU, indicating that a hearing will be possibly held in Q4.

6.6. Refugees

The EB noted the request from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to approve the participation of Refugee athlete Mr Sayed Amir Hossein Hosseini Pour at the Paris Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

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The Executive Board approved the participation of Mr Sayed Amir Hossein Hosseini Pour at the Men's Singles Class 8 event in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

7. ITTF Events

7.1. Olympic & Paralympic Games overview and report

The EB noted the presentation of Mr BESSAH, which touched on the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games preparations, highlighting the excellent cooperation with OBS and the learnings that will hopefully improve the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Mr BESSAH reported that the qualification process was completed satisfactorily, including the final WR selection, and that four continents had representatives in the quarterfinals and three in the semifinals.

Mr DAINTON suggested trying to push for bigger venues in future Games and reconsidering if we could get either two halls or a different setup with a show court as in the major ITTF events.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI suggested having a better venue for the Los Angeles 2028 (**LA28**) Olympic Games, preferably in a Sports Arena, and ensuring having a better level of hotel for the ITTF family, considering the standards of the accommodation in Paris were low.

Ms SÖRLING indicated that the Olympic Games portfolio is shared by Mr RYU and herself, as the two IOC Members, indicating that even the IOC Members have standard hotel rooms and not suites, and with small sizes. Ms SÖRLING indicated having stayed in both official hotels of the

ITTF during inspections prior to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and reminded the athletes are at the Olympic Village, which does not have the amenities that the hotels have, however, it is accepted as it is the same standard for all participants.

Concerning the venue, Ms SÖRLING indicated that while the venue being used for Table Tennis is not a permanent sporting venue, the advantage is being in a cluster with other sports. Mr CALIN added that the competition team of the ITTF had already meetings with LA28 where a venue is already identified for table tennis.

Mr RYU asked about the events for LA28, and Mr CALIN indicated that by the deadline of 1st March 2024, as agreed at the CC meeting held on 20th February, two options with 6 and 7 events were presented, and the ITTF will receive feedback from the IOC either at the 2024-Q4 or at the 2025-Q1.

7.2. World Title Events

7.2.1. WTTC Finals Busan 2024 Report

The EB noted the Busan 2024 LOC has not yet submitted their final report.

7.2.2. WTTC Finals Doha 2025 Update

Mr BESSAH continued his report providing an update on the preparations for the WTTC Finals Doha 2025, where the ITTF and QTTA are exploring using two venues.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI added that the next inspection in Doha will be held in October.

7.2.3. WTTC Finals London 2026 Update

Mr BESSAH reported on the WTTC Finals London 2026, where the proposal to be submitted to the ITTF Continental Council for their consideration will include a system of play where all 64 teams participating can become World Champions. The current plans for London also include the use of two venues: the Wembley Arena and the Copper Box.

7.2.4. WTTC Finals 2027, 2028, 2029 Update

Mr BESSAH further reported on the bid process and timelines for the 2027, 2028, and 2029 World Championships, which manuals have been completely revised, with 1st December 2024 as the deadline to receive the preliminary applications, and the 31st March 2025 as the deadline for the final bids submission.

Following the praxis of the IOC with the Olympic Winter Bids, Mr CALIN suggested ensuring that all shortlisted bidders have signed the conditions established by the ITTF before going for a vote at the AGM. Dr MESHREF added that after an event is allocated, is harder to make negotiations.

7.2.5. WYTTC Helsingborg 2028 Update

The EB also noted the preparations for the World Youth Table Tennis Championships to be held in Helsingborg, Sweden, which will be connected with a Youth Summit, of which Mr ANDERSSON will provide more details.

7.2.6. World Masters Rome 2026 Report

In relation to the Rome 2024 World Masters, the EB noted the record figures, with over 6000 registered participants and over 25,000 matches played. The EB reflected on the expectations for the 2026 event in the Korean Republic and thanked the staff for the work done to make it possible.

7.2.7. Continental Para Championships 2025 - Update

Before referring to the Continental Para Championships 2025, the EB noted the update on the World Singles Qualification Event for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games held in Pattaya,

Thailand, which makes the ITTF very comfortable looking at the World Para TT Championships to be held in the same city in 2026.

About 2025, the EB noted that bids received for the Continental Para Championships 2025 were presented (one from Africa and Oceania, three from the Americas and two from Asia), and the reports of the virtual inspections are now available for the EB members.

It was agreed that the EB Members would be given time to review all the evaluations (as they were just received just the day before the EB Meeting), and following the Olympic Games, an online vote will be organised. The EB noted that the Europe event was already allocated in 2023.

7.2.8. Mixed Team World Cup Chengdu 2024 Update

The EB also noted the report on the second edition of the Mixed Team World Cup, which will be held in December in Chengdu, China, which will have a new system of play ensuring a final match after the group stages are completed.

7.2.9. World Singles Cups 2025 Update

Mr BESSAH reported about the World Singles Cup, indicating that the same venue, the Galaxy Arena, is confirmed for 2025.

7.2.10. World E-Sports Championships

In relation to the World E-Sports Championships, Mr BESSAH indicated that following the initial confirmation from Thailand, a few days before the EB meeting TTAT informed the ITTF of their withdrawal. The ITTF is currently exploring other options, with the Swedish Table Tennis Association being interested in hosting it, with the possibility of combining the event with the World Youth Championships.

7.2.11. Para Table Tennis Reforms

Mr BESSAH further reported on the Para Table Tennis reforms, which have been worked with the Para TT Committee and the staff, together with Dr AZEVEDO. The new tour will have three tiers from 2025, a new world ranking system and a new results and entry system foreseen.

Dr AZEVEDO congratulated Mr BESSAH for the work done in revamping the Para TT circuit.

To conclude his presentation, Mr BESSAH updated the EB members on the table tennis evening to be hosted by the ITTF and WTT on Sunday 4th August 2024, and which will be branded as "Spin & Spoon". This gathering will serve to commemorate the 10th appearance of Table Tennis at the Olympic Games.

Ms SÖRLING added that in view of the very high cost of upgrading the Paris 2024 Olympic Lounge and the distance from it to the Table Tennis venue, this commemoration of the 10th presence at the Olympic Games seemed to be the most appropriate.

Mr DAINTON added it was important to organise this gathering to recognize the ITTF sponsors which have been very committed, particularly as equipment suppliers at the Olympic Games.

7.3. World Ranking

There were no updates in this area.

8. World Table Tennis

8.1. Calendar Update

The EB noted Mr DAINTON's presentation on the 2025 calendar, which for the first time will have four Grand Smashes, six Champions, six Star Contenders, 10 Contenders, and the Finals, being the biggest calendar year ever, besides the WTTTC Finals in Doha, and the World Cups for Singles in Macao, and for Mixed Teams in Chengdu.

The EB noted the key dates in the calendar for the major events, and in order to ensure alignment with the Athletes' demands, Mr DAINTON suggested that following the Olympic Games, Mr ACHANTA could visit the WTT Offices in Singapore to discuss how to better cooperate.

Mr RYU and Mr ACHANTA commented on the importance of progressively publishing the calendar earlier, year by year, for the Association's budgeting and player's planning.

8.2. New Structure Proposal

To try to solve the revised forecasts for the future years, the EB noted the presentation on a Management Buyout (MBO) offer to resolve the financial situation of ITTF and WTT.

There was a counter-presentation to open discussion following which the EB was not welcoming the MBO at that time. As this raised some sensitivities concerning potential conflicts of interest, and as an important business decision it would be, it would need external professional consultation, therefore, it was proposed to postpone the decision to the coming meeting.

Finally, the EB agreed to entrust the President and Deputy President to meet and find a solution for this matter, with the information passed to the EB later on.

9. Development

Mr Mikael ANDERSSON provided an overview of the ITTF's Development activities planned for 2024, including continental activities within the Hopes programme, (young players aged 12 and under), highlighting the upcoming Hopes Week to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay in November.

Mr ANDERSSON referred to the international umpire exams with over 1,200 entries, made online, as the best current education activity that the ITTF has online; continued speaking about the two Para Table Tennis training camps held in 2024, in Slovenia and Thailand, for scholarship holders, and the 'My Gender, My Strength' initiative to strengthen female coaching with online training and practical experience.

Ms SÖRLING suggested considering the WISH programme to support more female coaches.

Mr CALIN added that in conversations with Mr Teddy MATTHEWS, President of the Caribbean Table Tennis Federation, they agreed that online courses and initiatives should be also made available as soon as possible in the coaching area, ideally as "evergreen" courses, which can be accessed 24/7 from every part of the world.

The EB also noted the presentation of Mr ANDERSSON on the ITTF Sports Development Agenda 2028. As a new Olympic cycle is about to start, Mr ANDERSSON indicated the importance of the upcoming Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, particularly when observing that players such as FAN Zhendong, or Hugo CALDERANO, medallists at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games, were contesting medals in Paris 2024.

The EB noted that focus will be put on promoting female player progression, redefining ITTF Academies as permanent venues in key markets, strengthening education services, ensuring packages of quality equipment are made available to active associations on the rise, and establishing Esports World Championships.

Mr DAINTON added that while the last years have been focused on quantitative growth, it would be good to look at some qualitative projects in the next phase, particularly in the female side of the sport.

10. ITTF Foundation

Mr Leandro OLVECH presented the ITTF Foundation's Annual Activity Report of 2023, highlighting the successful World Table Tennis Day (**WTTD**) celebrations with over 800 events in 121 countries. The EB noted the video of the celebrations of the ITTF Foundation's fifth anniversary held in Leipzig, on the occasion of the WTTD, which included a round table discussion on diversity and inclusion with stakeholders from various organizations.

Mr OLVECH mentioned the presence of the ITTF Foundation at the World Masters Championships in Rome, with a booth during the entire event and the participation of two players with Parkinson in the event. Mr OLVECH also mentioned the Health Festival events planned in October 2024 in France, which will include the World Parkinson's Championship and the Table Tennis for Health Congress. Additionally, Mr OLVECH discussed collaborations with organizations like UNESCO, the Yunus Sports Hub, and the plan to strengthen cooperation with WTT for the presence of the ITTF Foundation in key WTT events.

Ms SÖRLING encouraged the promotion of the World Health Festival to ensure worldwide representation.

11. Governance

11.1. Members

11.1.1. Indonesia

Mr CALIN reported on the situation in Indonesia, where the latest recommendation following the meeting with the Indonesia Olympic Committee Secretary General, Mr NOERADI, would be to explore the potential suspension of the current Association, as per the ITTF Constitutional process, and in the meanwhile monitor the possibility of creating a new Member Association in the country, which would be accepted by both the NOC and the Ministry of Sports. More information is to be received by the next EB Meeting.

11.1.2. Mexico

Mr OSHODI reported on the complex situation, with the report received from the lawyer appointed by recommendation of the ITTF Council Member, Mr ZAMORA. The case involves conflicting claims about leadership and player nominations, and the recommendation would potentially be to suspend the Association and hold new elections. Mr OSHODI addressed the concern about the Pan American Championships coming soon, and the importance of the two parties to work together.

Mr AZEVEDO stated that there were elections already in May in Mexico and disagreed with the Pan American Confederation's position to recognise the Association not recognised by the Mexican Olympic Committee.

Ms SÖRLING commented that at her meeting in the IOC Headquarters with the Director of NOC Relations, Mr Jérôme POIVEY, the IOC suggested that the IF should listen to all parties and make its own decisions based on IF's rules.

11.2. Continental Council

11.2.1. MCA updates/discussions

The EB noted the report from Mr CALIN, who informed that the Master Continental Agreements 2021-2024 addendums for 2023, which were not signed last year, were finally signed in May 2024 for all five continents. Following that, the MCA addendums for 2024 were signed in June, also for all five continents. Mr CALIN wanted to put on record his

appreciation for the collaboration of all five continental federations' Presidents, Secretaries General, CEO's, COO's for the smooth process.

Mr CALIN added that discussions for 2025-2028 have started.

11.3. Committee Updates

11.3.1. Nominations Committee

The EB noted the Nominations received for the Nominations Committee 2024-2026. After some discussion, it was decided to defer the decision to the next EB Meeting, trying to explore the best way to find an agreement.

11.3.2. Sports Science and Medical Committee

The EB noted the resignation of Prof. Miran KONDRIC. Mr MAEHARA wanted to put on record his thanks for the sport over the years, particularly as chair of the SSMC.

In view of his resignation, and after careful consideration and consultation, Mr MAEHARA suggested the EB colleagues to appoint Ms Taísa BELLI as acting chair of the SSMC, particularly in view of the necessity of having someone leading the preparations for the Sports Science Congress to be held in Doha in 2025.

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The Executive Board decided to appoint Ms Taisa BELLI as the acting chair of the Sports Science and Medical Committee.

11.4. Working Groups Update

There were no updates in this area.

11.5. Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

The EB noted the written report.

11.6. Integrity/Safe Sport update

The EB welcomed Mr Enric RIPOLL, Chair of the ITTF Integrity Board, who presented a report on the Integrity Unit and Integrity Board activities.

Mr RIPOLL thanked the EB for the opportunity and encouraged EB Members to reach out anytime, even beyond the Olympic Games, for queries regarding the Integrity Unit.

Mr RIPOLL highlighted the Integrity Unit's Role and referred to the existing challenges with betting and match manipulation. Mr RIPOLL indicated that the IOC has identified table tennis as a high-risk sport for manipulation due to the ease of betting and reported on the growing issue of suspicious betting patterns, especially in unsanctioned private events, spilling over to ITTF and WTT events.

Mr RIPOLL referred to the ongoing efforts, partnering with betting authorities and monitoring patterns, collaborating with organisations like the Cyprus Betting Authority and attending, among others, forums such as those called by Interpol on cases involving illegal betting activities.

As for Education and proactive measures, Mr RIPOLL indicated the focus on educating athletes and Federations about safe sports practices and ethical guidelines.

Mr RIPOLL indicated that creating awareness about the Integrity Unit's role and resources continues to be important being a relatively young entity.

Mr RIPOLL referred to the Strawman Paper presented in Busan, which outlines a structured plan for updating ethics codes and regulations, aiming for approval by the Doha 2025 ITTF Council and AGM.

To conclude, Mr RIPOLL advocated for increased funding and resources for the Integrity Unit., stressing the importance of collaboration with the EB, the ITTF Council, and the AGM, to strengthen integrity initiatives.

Ms SÖRLING reflected on the report of Ms LIU Shiwen the previous day, about creating a safe environment for the athletes, suggested adding Integrity initiatives at the upcoming meetings with the Athletes, and asked Mr RIPOLL about his perception of the capacity and the direction of the Integrity Unit.

Mr RIPOLL, referring to the anonymous report provided, indicated that a total of 28 cases are currently opened at the Integrity Unit, and stressed the growing issue of athletes receiving threats after matches due to gambling losses, emphasizing the need for athlete protection and safe environments.

Mr RIPOLL abounded on the challenges investigations, with the complexity of the "he said/she said" scenarios in harassment cases, the unit's limited powers compared to law enforcement agencies, the cross-border issues such as language barriers and jurisdiction, and mentioned successful steps, like hiring local investigators to expedite inquiries.

Mr RYU advocated for event-based education and mandatory athlete awareness programs to address betting and manipulation risks, suggesting the implementation together with the Athletes Commission at a Grand Smash or similar type of WTT event.

The discussion concluded with Ms SÖRLING and others thanking Mr RIPOLL and the Integrity Unit for their efforts and expressing a shared commitment to continuing progress.

11.7. E-Sports

The EB noted the opening remarks of Ms SÖRLING about the creation of the Olympic Esports Games and that the ITTF is seeking to confirm soon the host of the first-ever ITTF Esports World Table Tennis Championships.

11.8. Others

11.8.1. 5th ASOIF Governance Report results

Mr OSHODI congratulated the ITTF on the improvements made in this area, thanking particularly Mr CALIN and Mr DAINTON, noting that although there are still areas to improve, such as gender equality, the ITTF has continued its progress towards better governance.

Mr CALIN suggested referring to the written report for more details, and Mr DAINTON thanked the staff, particularly Mr CALIN, for the work done in this area, considering that everyone should be proud of ITTF's progress.

Ms SÖRLING reflected that finishing in position 8 among all the IFs is impressive, particularly thinking that at the first exercise of the ASOIF evaluation, the ITTF was not even in the top 20 of the Summer Olympic International Federations. Ms SÖRLING encouraged the EB members to read the written report, and joined Mr OSHODI in congratulating Mr DAINTON, Mr CALIN, and the team for their work.

Dr AZEVEDO congratulated Mr CALIN and all the staff, and suggested to implement a similar ASOIF governance self-assessment exercise in the Member Associations.

On a question from Ms SÖRLING about the scoring in the different areas, Mr CALIN indicated that the areas of Integrity, Control Mechanisms, and Development, while in the areas of Transparency and Democracy are where the ITTF had better results.

12. IOC Members Reports

Ms SÖRLING referred to Mr RYU Seung-Min, whose term as IOC AC Member will expire at the end of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and with that his formal membership in the ITTF EB, as per the ITTF Constitution.

However, Ms SÖRLING proposed to invite Mr RYU as an advisor to future meetings of the ITTF EB, and also of the AC if the two co-chairs are agreeable to such a proposal. The EB Members agreed to such a proposal.

13. Other Business

13.1. IMG A update

There were no updates in this area.

13.2. WADA update

13.3. ASOIF update

13.4. SportAccord update

The EB noted that Ms SÖRLING was elected to the Executive Committee of Sport Accord. Mr DAINTON considered this election very important for our sport.

13.5. Belgium TTA protest

The EB noted the appeal received from the Belgium Table Tennis Association against the decision of the WRWG to penalise Mr Adrien RASSENFOSSE for his withdrawal of the WTT Feeder in Havirov. After consideration, the EB decided not to consider their request.

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[The Executive Board decided to reject the appeal from the Belgium Table Tennis Federation against the decision of the WRWG on the case of Mr Adrien RASSENFOSSE.](#)

13.6. TTR

The EB noted that the Paris 2024 Organising Committee considered the time was too short to try to implement TTR, therefore, it was discarded. However, it will be tested at the XTWC in Chengdu.

13.7. One Hundred Years

Mr AL-MOHANNADI indicated that the time is really getting close for the centenary, and although a bank account was already opened for the purpose of preparation for the Centenary, currently it has no funds.

Ms SÖRLING agreed with Mr AL-MOHANNADI on the importance of this historic milestone and suggested planning ahead of the preparations of the 2025 budget and took the opportunity to thank all the staff that worked on the table tennis celebration of the 10th appearance at the Olympic Games. Ms SÖRLING suggested exploring possibilities to make the 2026 centenary a year-long celebration, with activities across different continents and months of the year.

14. Next Meeting

Ms SÖRLING passed the word to the ITTF Deputy President, Mr LIU Guoliang, who thanked the EB colleagues for the productive discussions during the two days and welcomed all EB members to Chengdu, where the next EB Meeting will be held, and this will also be the opportunity for the EB Members to witness the Mixed Team World Cup.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr LIU for the invitation.

15. Adjournment

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date