



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Zoom ® Videoconference

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 – 14h00 to 15h00 CET (Central European Time)

### 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
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
NATRAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
LIU Shiwen	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair

#### Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General
BESSAH Mounir	ITTF Deputy Secretary General

#### Apology:

ACHANTA Sharath Kamal	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair
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#### Absent:

AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
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## 1. Welcome from the ITTF President

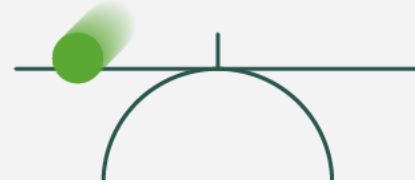
### 1.1. ITTF President's Welcome

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the EB colleagues, thanking them again for the work done in 2024. Ms SÖRLING explained that following the recent news about Olympic Champions' retirement, and upon consultation with the EB colleagues, it was essential to meet as soon as possible, thanking particularly the colleagues who have responded to her request for calls in the last few days.

## 2. Matter of the retirement of three Olympic Champions

Ms SÖRLING indicated that, as discussed, the proposal for this EB is to create a Task Force (TF) which can work in the coming weeks to address the issues raised by the athletes aiming to complete the task and produce a report by the Singapore Smash dates at the end of January / beginning of February.

Ms SÖRLING passed the word to Mr LIU, in his multiple capacities as Deputy President, Chair of WTT and President of the CTTA. Mr LIU emphasised that while our sport will continue to grow and develop in 2025, at the present time, and following the withdrawals of the three Olympic Champions from China from the World Rankings, this is a sensible matter that the ITTF EB has to tackle. Mr LIU thanked all the colleagues for their readiness to meet so soon, indicating that this situation also affects other



stakeholders such as fans and their sentiment toward the sport, sponsors, partners, etc., which might affect the growth and development of our sport; wondering if, following the conclusion of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, is the time to adjust some of the events regulations, especially the mandatory events, and the associated penalties, referring to the social media interactions of several international athletes in recent days.

Mr LIU thanked the EB colleagues once again for their readiness to discuss and asked for their thoughts and opinions.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr LIU for his intervention and for keeping her informed on the developments within China in the last few days.

Mr DAINTON concurred with Ms SÖRLING and Mr LIU on the necessity of immediate action and agreed that creating a Task Force is a good solution.

Ms SÖRLING indicated that although Mr ACHANTA is sick, which is why he was absent from today's meeting, he is ready to be part of such a Task Force. Ms SÖRLING suggested having also in the TF Dr Alaa MESHREF, EVP in charge of Athletes, and Mr Wahid OSHODI, EVP in charge of World Ranking, plus some staff to be appointed by the CEO.

Ms SÖRLING highlighted the importance of working diligently within the TF to engage in active communication with players, coaches, and entourage before and preparing a report for the next EB meeting. It was also suggested that a players' forum be held in Singapore, as many of them will be present, so it is an excellent opportunity to listen to them.

Dr MESHREF and Mr OSHODI confirmed their readiness to contribute to the TF in their respective capacities, emphasising the importance of listening to the athletes' voices, particularly when in a very short period our sport has moved from a small calendar to a very busy one.

#### **20250102-EB-01**

The Executive Board agreed to create a Task Force composed of Dr Alaa MEHSREF, Mr Wahid OSHODI, and Mr Sharath Kamal ACHANTA, with support staff members to be appointed by the CEO. The task force will gather feedback from the players and review existing regulations, aiming to have their conclusions by the end of the Singapore Smash and prior to the next EB meeting.

Ms SÖRLING thanked everyone for their contribution.

### **3. Adjournment**

Not having any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 14h30 CET.

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**Petra SÖRLING**  
ITTF President

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Date

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**Raul CALIN**  
ITTF Secretary General

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Date