



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Zoom® Videoconference

Tuesday 11th February 2025 – 11h00 to 14h00 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
AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
NATLAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
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
BROWN Michael	ITTF Chief Financial Officer
TAM Chris	ITTF Director of Operations

1. Welcome from the ITTF President

1.1. ITTF President's Welcome

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the EB colleagues, indicating that she is joining the meeting from the ITTF/WTT Offices in Singapore, accompanied by Mr DANTON and Mr TAM. Due to Mr BROWN having a flight soon, it was agreed to start with point 4.1. of the agenda – Finances update.

1.2. Roll Call

The Roll Call was conducted with all EB members present.

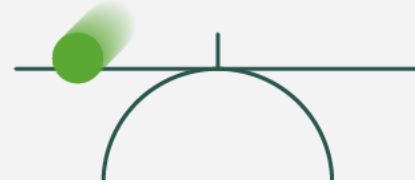
2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of 8.1. Para Table Tennis and 8.2. Esports.

3. CEO Report / Strategic Plan

3.1. CEO update

Mr DANTON reported on the activities since the last EB meeting in Chengdu, which included a WTT management meeting in Beijing, immediately after the Mixed Team World Cup, the situation that arose from the Olympic Champions' retirement, the social media impact, and the discussions which led to the creation of a Task Force (TF) on which there is an specific agenda item later, indicating that the most recent regulations changes which resulted from the TF conclusions have been published earlier in the day.



The EB noted the progress report on the Doha 2025 WTTC Finals inspection held in the second week of January, thanking Mr AL-MOHANNADI for the second venue chosen, the Qatar University. This venue is much closer to Lusail than the other option considered, and this will be beneficial for athletes, coaches, and all the logistics.

Mr DANTON continued reporting on meetings he attended in January in China with Mr LIU and Mr LEI and the decision to hire a PR agency to ensure genuine public communications about WTT and protect its reputation from the recent media and social media attacks.

The EB also noted on the recently concluded Singapore Smash, the bigger and better edition to date, with record ticket sales and attendance, highlighting that ticket sales almost doubled compared to the 2023 edition.

To conclude, Mr DANTON reported on the upcoming Smash events in the USA and Europe, the first Smashes in these respective territories.

4. Operations

4.1. Finances update

Mr BROWN provided a brief update on the process of closing the 2023 Finances and the positive steps being taken to close the 2024 finances on time.

The latest 2023 WTT forecast update was presented, and Mr BROWN reported on the latest conversations with the auditors, acknowledging the efforts being made by Dr MESHREF (EVP Finance) and Ms SÖRLING over the last six months in their discussions with the auditors to confirm the Finance Expenses Fair Value Adjustment. Mr BROWN referred then to the new VIK services agreement for the upcoming ten years, which is being agreed as a result of the above conversations.

The EB noted that the overall result in 2023 will show an approximate nine million USD loss, with the difference from the previous forecast being due to the referred Fair Value Adjustment.

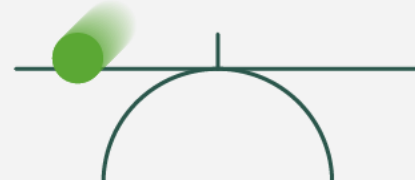
Mr BROWN confirmed that the 2023 Financial Statements are expected to be finalised in the coming weeks, and then referred to 2024, for which the ITTF Group is in a much better position, expecting a final positive result of the consolidated financial statements of all ITTF's entities. The EB noted that this positive change highlights the overall improvement in such a short period of time, thanking once again Dr MESHREF and Ms SÖRLING for their actions during 2024, which led to this commendable improvement.

To conclude his report, Mr BROWN indicated that the Audited Financial Statements for 2023 and 2024 are expected to be published in early May, giving the membership time to review them before the Finance Forum ¹.

Dr MESHREF confirmed being pleased with the outcome and the importance of the positive shift in the finances area from 2023 to 2024, thanking the ITTF President, the CEO, and the CFO, as the collective work and firm decisions made have led to this result.

Mr DANTON thanked Dr MEHSREF, Ms SÖRLING, and Mr LIU Guoliang for their hard work in 2024 to turn the finances in the right direction, as well as the Auditors, with whom conversations during the year helped to define the best strategy and actions. Mr DANTON highlighted that the financial result of 2024 in terms of income elevates the ITTF in the rankings of income generated compared to other Olympic Sport Federations.

¹ The Finance Forum will be held in Doha, Qatar, as part of the ITTF Summit.



Ms SÖRLING confirmed the feedback that is being received from other IF Presidents about the perception of our sport, highlighting the big jump from 2023 to 2024.

Dr MESHREF complemented the discussion, indicating that the positive change in 2024 is even more significant when taking into consideration the disappointing reduction in the expected IMG Arena income, and thanked Mr LEI Zhenjian and World Sports/WTMG for their support in 2024, accommodating the ideas on the VIK restructuring.

5. Athletes

5.1. Task Force Report

Ms SÖRLING thanked the Task Force members for their efforts in the short time since it was created, passing the floor to either Dr MESHREF, Mr OSHODI, or Mr ACHANTA to provide their report.

Mr ACHANTA took the floor, informing about the discussions held during the Singapore Smash, and thanking Dr MESHREF for the diligent categorisation of the discussed needs into four categories: i) *Near-Term Action & High Priority*, ii) *Short-to Mid-Term Actions*, iii) *Strategic and Feasibility Study Requested Actions*, and iv) *Long-Term Considerations or Currently Not Advisable*.

Mr ACHANTA also thanked Ms CEHOVIN for compiling the report presented at today's EB meeting and appreciated everyone's contribution within the TF and from the EB for the quick reactions. Mr ACHANTA continued, indicating that it is sincerely felt that the ITTF and WTT did listen and reacted to the athlete's request, with some relevant changes being implemented immediately. Mr ACHANTA also praised specific positive changes, such as implementing best of 7 for the Grand Smashes and the Champions, and for the ability to communicate since the TF was created, encouraging the ITTF and WTT to ensure these positive changes are well spread for all stakeholders to know.

Mr OSHODI thanked Mr DANTON for allocating Ms Polona CEHOVIN and Mr Mounir BESSAH to the TF, considering that the outcome has been excellent.

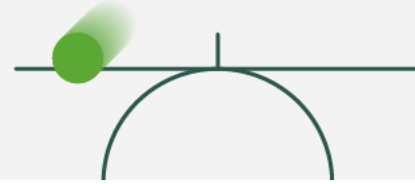
Dr MESHREF complemented the report of Mr ACHANTA, explaining about the process taken, which started with the establishment of the TF by a decision of the EB on 2nd January, the meeting of the TF at the end of January, including the Chair of the Entourage Working Group and the President of FIT, the meetings with the Athletes in Singapore, as well as meetings/communications with representatives of some Member Associations such as China, and Japan, and the fact that the TS has already successfully delivered initial results, plus more to come as per the categorisation mentioned above.

Dr MESHREF praised the excellent synergy of ITTF and WTT in tackling the issues and that this time, listening to the athletes resulted in action.

To conclude, Dr MESHREF thanked Ms CEHOVIN for filing and structuring all the requests received through different platforms, the TF colleagues for their cooperation, the EB for their trust, the WTT Board for their wise decisions, and the CEO for finding solutions to the different challenges encountered during the process.

Mr MAEHARA Masahir thanked the TF members and expressed his hope for the report of the Entourage Working Group to be considered by WTT in the future.

Mr LIU Guoliang thanked everyone within the TF for their active contributions and the quality of the outcome produced, considering that everyone has been considering the athletes' voices, with a lot of improvements having been made. To conclude, Mr LIU thanked Ms SÖRLING and the rest of the EB for their hard and united work hand in hand with WTT to further growth table tennis worldwide.



Ms SÖRLING echoed Mr LIU and confirmed that the TF has completed its mission.

6. Governance

6.1. 2025 ITTF AGM and ITTF Council Propositions and Resolutions

The EB reviewed the propositions and resolutions received for the ITTF AGM and the ITTF Council meetings.

Mr CALIN highlighted that two propositions seem coordinated, as 28 member associations present them with the exact text. The EB noted that two of these Associations, Brazil and Qatar, have representatives in the EB.

Ms SÖRLING highlighted the fact that as neither of these propositions to change the ITTF Constitution would be implemented up until 1st January 2026, and this would mean (in the particular case of the Proposition A-02) that it not be enforced until the next elections, in 2029, perhaps it would be better to discuss these propositions as part of the proposed Constitutional review suggested by the EB in the Resolution A-12.

The EB noted the lack of precision of some of the propositions presented, with wrong terminology in some cases, wrong references to the Constitutional articles referred in other instances, arbitrariness without definition of the rationale for the proposed amendment in others, and the potential legal risk that might arise from the adoption of some of them.

On a question from Mr DANTON, about Proposition A-09, Mr CALIN confirmed that the EB are the elected Officials who nominate the CEO, and it is up to the CEO to appoint the different staff, who are not Officials. Mr CALIN added that the aimed diversity in the representation of Officials mentioned in the rationale was indeed what the two propositions of the ITTF Americas in 2024 AGM intended, and that this Proposition A-09 (involuntarily or not) attempt to portray as Officials the staff, which is wrong.

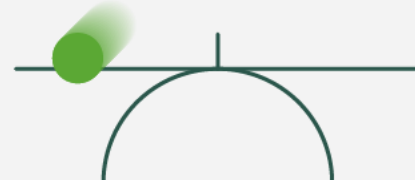
6.2. Member Associations' situation update

The EB noted Mr OSHODI's update on the Federacion Mexicana de Tenis de Mesa (**MEX**), which has finally resolved its conflict. The ITTF legal department will now write to MEX, inform both the Ministry of Sports (CONADE) and the Mexican Olympic Committee, and proceed to make the necessary updates in the ITTF directory.

The EB also noted the update about Federación Colombiana de Tenis de Mesa (**COL**), which was reported to have debts with Argentina and Brazil TTAs in the last EB in December 2024. The ITTF has confirmed the procedure existing in WTT when associations have debts, which consists of blocking the entries for subsequent events until the debts are paid. Consequently, the same procedure will be implemented in Para TT, and the entries for Para TT events will be blocked for COL until they settle their debts.

Concerning the Indonesia Table Tennis Association (**INA**), Mr CALIN referred to the situation in the last EB meeting, in December 2024, when the ITTF EB was ready to proceed with suspending the currently recognised Association, PP PTMSI. However, one day before the EB meeting, the Asian Table Tennis Union (**ATTU**), through its CEO, Mr Nabil ALFAKIH, requested to wait, adducing that they were mediating between the parties, through the ATTU Development Officer, Mr Muchlis MARLIONO.

In recent weeks, ATTU's position has changed, and Mr AL-FAKIH contacted Mr OSHODI and Mr CALIN, indicating that following a meeting of Mr AL-MOHANNADI and the INA NOC President, they would like to establish an interim committee to run table tennis in the country.



In today's meeting, Mr CALIN informed of the reception of a letter from the INA NOC dated 7th February 2025, in which they confirm that INA is no longer a member of the NOC following the determination that INA's conduct violated the Olympic Charter as well as the Statutes and By-Laws of NOC Indonesia. The NOC Indonesia supports the expulsion of the current member (PP PTMSI) and the recognition of a new Member Association, whose statutes were received on time in the ITTF Secretariat (Indonesia Pingpong League).

Mr AL-MOHANNADI referred to the visit of the President of the INA NOC to Doha in January and their request to establish a Committee to control the table tennis federation until they hold elections. Mr AL-MOHANNADI asked Mr CALIN why such a letter had not been sent after having agreed upon it in a phone conversation with Mr AL-FAKIH.

Mr CALIN responded, indicating that in the communications with Mr AL-FAKIH, both in writing and verbally, it was expressed that the matter would be followed up, not that a letter would be sent in terms which are not clear according to the ITTF procedures, particularly the Constitution.

Mr CALIN added that the ITTF (or the INA NOC) cannot conduct elections in an Association which the INA NOC does not recognise, and that -as clearly written in the letter of the INA NOC sent to the ITTF on 7th February 2025, they advocate for the establishment of a new Member Association, for which it is necessary to i) expel the current Association, and ii) accept a new Member, being important that the ATTU understands the formal procedure according to the ITTF Constitution.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI asked for further clarification on why the communication wasn't sent yet to INA NOC, to which Mr CALIN insisted that the matter is not to establish a committee, but to follow the ITTF procedures, and to have the decision taken by the EB, which was planned for 9th December 2024, but which ATTU asked not to take one day before, and out of courtesy to Mr AL-MOHANNADI and Mr AL-FAKIH, the EB delayed it.

Mr OSHODI suggested having a call at the earliest convenience between Mr AL-MOHANNADI, Mr OSHODI, Mr AL-FAKIH, and Mr CALIN on this matter, to what Mr AL-MOHANNADI agreed.

7. IOC Member Report

Ms SÖRLING reported on the visit made to Los Angeles in December, to meet the organising committee of LA28 and to visit the table tennis facilities with the ITTF Secretary General, Mr CALIN. The EB noted that the visit happened a few days before the fires started in that region of California, and showed its condolences to the citizens of Los Angeles and the region, as well as to the LOC.

The EB also noted that the 144th IOC Session will be held in Costa Navarino, Greece, from 19th to 21st March, and that Ms SÖRLING will be accompanied by ITTF CEO and SG, Mr DANTON and Mr CALIN. The EB also noted that the seven candidates for the IOC presidency presented themselves to the IOC colleagues in a closed session on 30th January 2025.

8. Other Business

8.1. Para Table Tennis

Dr AZEVEDO reported that the changes announced in December in Chengdu in the Para Table Tennis events are already being implemented, adding being very pleased with the outcome and the progress made in this area.

Dr AZEVEDO highlighted the online entry system being used for the first time in Para TT, the new tiers of events, and the new ranking system. Dr AZEVEDO thanked Ms SÖRLING for the confidence and assignment of the Para portfolio, and congratulated Mr BESSAH for the delivery.



Ms SÖRLING expressed her satisfaction in hearing Dr AZEVEDO's report, encouraging the ITTF colleagues to spread the message around the positive changes.

Dr AZEVEDO asked Mr DANTON to explore the possibility of investigating with the sponsorship department concerning the importing taxes for equipment, now that the Para circuit has an official sponsor (Butterfly), as it is very important to be able to practice with the same equipment at home.

Mr ACHANTA indicated that a similar situation happens with the tables to be used at the Doha 2025 WTTC Finals (in relation to taxes and importation).

8.2. Esports

Ms SÖRLING reported on the upcoming Olympic Esports Games, whose inaugural edition will be held in 2027 in Saudi Arabia, as per the announcement made earlier in the day.

Ms SÖRLING added that last week she was in Saudi Arabia, meeting the new KSA TTA President, Prince Mohamed AL-SAUD, and from the conversations there, Mr AL-SAUD expressed his willingness to support the ITTF in the development of Esports Table Tennis so to better position our sport for the inaugural Olympic Esports Games.

9. Next Meeting

The EB noted that its next meeting will be held in Doha, Qatar, during the WTTC Finals.

10. Adjournment

Not having any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 13h00 CET.

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date