

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Hotel Intercontinental Century City, Longquan Hall (5th floor), Chengdu, China
Sunday 9th October 2022 – 14h00 to 16h00 China Standard Time

MINUTES

EC members in attendance:

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

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General
BROWN Michael	ITTF Group CFO (section 5.1)
LAVIER Tristan	ITTF Group Head of Communications (section 5.3)
BESSAH Mounir	ITTF Members Relations Director (section 5.5.1)
DAWLATLY Mohamed	ITTF Competition Services Manager (section 7.4.1)
POUND Matt	WTT Director (section 8)

Apologies:

AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
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1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. President's opening remarks

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the EC colleagues reflecting on being of the last day of what she considered the best-ever World Table Tennis Championships and highlighting the big support from the ITTF Deputy President, Mr LIU Guoliang, the CTTA, the city of Chengdu and the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Ms SÖRLING also congratulated the CEO, Mr DAINTON, for the very good cooperation within the team, and expressed her optimism for the events to come, in view of the excellent spirit existing.

1.2. Roll Call

The EC noted the apology of Dr AZEVEDO, being engaged in a Para Table Tennis competition in Brazil.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted agreeing to put the 100 Years project in the agenda for the meeting in Amman and adding the following sections: 13.1 World Cups, and 13.2 Propositions and Resolutions follow-up meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

3.1. Approval of the Minutes from the last meetings

3.2. The Minutes of the EC Meeting held on 26th – 27th July were adopted after including some remarks and just pending confirmation via email of section 11.6.1, which revised text will be circulated following the conclusion of the WTTTC Finals.

20221009-EC-01

The Executive Committee adopted the Minutes of the EC Meeting held on 26-27 July 2022 in Malmö.

3.3. Business arising from the Minutes

The EC Noted the business arising from the Minutes with the completed actions and those are still in progress.

4. CEO Report / Strategic Plan

The EC noted the CEO report, who reflected on the fact that the World Team Table Tennis Championships were back after four years. Mr DAINTON highlighted the unity within the ITTF Executive Committee, being the strength of this new group, the incredible WTTTC Finals, which despite all the challenges, are about to be successfully completed on the day of this meeting, from the preparations and charter flights to the superb sporting facilities and hospitality provided, excellent transport service, cultural activities available for the participants, and the fact that during the event, the EC and management had the opportunity to meet with a potential investor.

The EC also noted the two WTT events confirmed to be held immediately after the WTTTC Finals: the WTT Champions in Macao and the WTT Cup Finals in Xinxiang.

Mr Dainton also referred to the 2023 calendar, the positive discussions about investment, and the appointment of Mr LIU Guoliang as the Chair of the WTT Board during the week.

In relation to the ITTF Foundation activities, the EC also noted the new health festival to be established and the new dates proposed for World Table Tennis Day.

To conclude, Mr DAINTON referred to the upcoming ITTF Summit in Amman, which preparations are being made and is expected to be a success as well, and to the upcoming key areas of focus following the WTTTC Finals and thanked the EC for their support, particularly, Ms SÖRLING, Mr LIU and Mr AL-MOHANNADI considering there is an opportunity for table tennis that was not existing before.

5. Operations

5.1. Finances

5.1.1. Forecast 2022

The EC noted the updated forecast for 2022, impacted by the currency fluctuations and the planning of the Summit, as key differences from previous versions. Mr BROWN informed the EC that the current forecast is more favourable (income vs expenditure) than what was presented in Houston at the 2021 AGM.

5.1.2. Budget 2023 and 2024

The EC noted that there are no significant changes from what was presented in Malmö and was asked to confirm whether the current Budget can be approved to be put forward to the AGM in Amman, with the only possible change being in relation to the potential sale of the property in Renens.

On a question about when the annual balances may turn positive, Mr BROWN reflected on the fact that the pandemic affection in the ITTF operations is still present, but the forecast is to have positive balances from 2025 onwards.

Mr DAINTON added that potential new revenues, such as Education or IT may assist in having earlier positive balances, being not traditional income streams.

Mr NATRAN reflected on the fact that while the projected forecast for 2022 is around 10% of a negative result (income vs expenditure), for 2022 it is around 0.5%, which can be considered negligible and, in fact, it could result in being a positive result, however, the Finances department prefers to take a prudent approach and present forecasts in the safe side.

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The Executive Committee adopted the draft budget for 2022 to 2024 to be presented in principle to the AGM in Amman.

5.1.3. Audit tender process 2023

The EC noted the process made by the Audit and Finance Committee in the selection of the Auditors for 2023, highlighting the fact that there were received offers from important global consultancy firms, and agreed to put forward to the AGM the name of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Auditors for the period 2023.

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The Executive Committee agreed to put forward PricewaterhouseCoopers to the 2022 AGM as the auditor for 2023.

5.1.4. Risk Management Project progress update

The EC noted the progress on the Risk Management exercise being conducted with Marsh, a global professional services firm, focused on insurance broking and risk management.

5.2. HR and Sustainability

The EC noted the written report presented by Ms Charlotte LOURDES.

5.3. Communications and Protocol

Ms SÖRLING welcomed Mr Tristan LAVIER, ITTF Group Head of Communications, and congratulated him and his team for the work being done on the promotion of the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals.

The EC noted the presentation of Mr LAVIER, which touched on the complexity of operations at the WTTTC Finals due to the strict close loop and on the excellent reputation achieved for Table Tennis, being the only sport having an event of this magnitude in China in 2022 since the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

The EC noted the different lines of communication established: stories about the players and historical team performances, institutional stories, relationships with other institutions such as FISU, etc., and Mr LAVIER highlighted some of materials produced daily, such the press releases, media notes, and even resources put at the disposal of the member associations, namely photos, small videoclips and interviews in players' own languages so to serve the media covering the event remotely.

Overall, this resulted in an excellent reach, with over one billion cumulative viewers.

To conclude the presentation, Mr LAVIER thanked the entire content and creative team, led by Mr Joachim DAVY.

Mr RYU asked in relation to the Instagram account of the ITTF, and Mr LAVIER commented that the plan is to have it active once the ITTF has dedicated staff that can feed it regularly.

5.4. Table Tennis Sport / Innovation

The EC noted the written report presented by Mr Mikael ANDERSSON.

5.5. Others

5.5.1. ITTF Summit 2022: AGM, Board, and other key meetings

The EC noted the update from Mr Mounir BESSAH, ITTF Deputy Secretary General, on the ITTF Summit, which aims to be a very different way of presenting the key annual meetings of the ITTF, namely AGM and BoD, but also, to provide an opportunity to the Members to discuss, to speak about the future, and to hear from each other on good practices and to engage in a more participative way. Key external speakers will complement the ITTF ones, and the plan is for this Summit to be held yearly.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI reported on the high quality of the hotel selected, which will make all participating delegates enjoy first-class hospitality.

5.5.2. Equipment

The EC noted that the ITTF is seeking an equipment manager following Ms Claudia HERWEG election as DTTB President.

5.5.3. Home of Table Tennis

The EC noted the report of Mr MAEHARA, about the re-activation of the Home of Table Tennis in the coming weeks, and that further updates will be made in Amman, in December.

6. Athletes

6.1. Athletes Commission Report

The EC noted the report of Mr PRIMORAC, who congratulated CTTA and Mr LIU for delivering great WTTTC Finals. Mr PRIMORAC emphasized that despite the initial fears due to the strict COVID-19 protocols, everything worked extremely well, from hospitality to competition and practice conditions, players' lounge, transport, etc., and that was the feedback received from the athletes taking part. Mr PRIMORAC also congratulated the ITTF and WTT for the work done on the implementation of the event.

With the upcoming AC elections, Mr PRIMORAC reflected that from December, the ITTF will have two voices of athletes, one female and one male in the EC, and wished the communications between athletes, EC, and management will be strengthened. As future tasks for the AC, Mr PRIMORAC highlighted having the voices of the athletes better heard, perhaps through a dedicated Athletes Newsletter, the publication of the Minutes of the Meetings, an eventual strategic plan for the AC, and keeping the existing excellent communication and relationship with the IOC Athletes Commission.

Mr PRIMORAC ended by thanking all his EC colleagues for their support during his four years mandate.

Mr RYU thanked the ITTF EC for the support in securing two athletes in the EC and Mr PRIMORAC for the leadership and work done over these four years in the AC.

6.2. Entourage

The EC noted the report of Mr MAEHARA, with four out of the five continents having already appointed their representative to the Entourage Working Group. Once completed, the WG will start their duties.

6.3. High Performance

The EC agreed that this section will be covered in the meeting in Amman.

6.4. Athletes Commission Elections

The EC noted the update on the AC election process, with the nominations being received for the 8 athletes + 2 para-athletes positions available until 12th of October.

6.5. Others

6.5.1. Gender Identity and Sex Variations

The EC noted that the WG has been already communicating with the SSMC and reviewing some scientific publications as well as the work already done by other IFs. More information and discussions will be held during the ITTF Summit in Amman.

6.5.2. Dr MESHREF thanked Mr PRIMORAC for the work during his mandate as Chair, and to Mr RYU for his support, and indicated that will provide feedback from the athletes in written to WTT, as agreed in the meeting held in Malmö.

7. Events

7.1. World Title Events

7.1.1. Chengdu 2022 WTTTC Finals update

The EC noted the report of Mr DAINTON about the event about to finish, and the feedback on the takeaways from the areas to improve in the technical side for the future, thanking once again the LOC and CTTA for their tremendous job.

7.1.2. Granada 2022 World Para Table Tennis Championships

The EC noted the progress report on the World Para Championships to be held in Granada, and that will count on the attendance of the IPC President, Mr Andrew PARSONS.

7.1.3. Tunis 2022 World Youth Table Tennis Championships

The EC noted the progress report on the World Youth Championships to be held in Tunis.

7.1.4. Oman 2023 World Veterans Table Tennis Championships

The EC noted the progress report on the World Veterans Championships to be held in Oman. Being the first time the ITTF will be the organiser, the EC was encouraged to provide their support in the promotion of the event, to ensure high participation. The EC also noted the very professional job being done by the Oman Table Tennis Federation and their partners, having engaged a professional agency and expert consultants, as reported by Ms SÖRLING and Mr AL-MOHANNADI following their visit in August.

7.1.5. Durban 2023 WTTTC Finals update

The EC noted the progress report on the Durban 2023 WTTTC Finals. Mr Nazeem MATHEWS, a member of the Board of SATTB was present in Chengdu, and different meetings were organized with him as a follow-up to the latest inspections conducted on-site in June and July. A WTT event is foreseen in January, simultaneously with the next inspection, with the aim to build momentum leading to the event in May.

7.1.6. Busan 2024 WTTTC Finals update

With the dates confirmed for the event, 16-25 February 2024, Mr RYU suggested the bar has been set quite high by CTTA in Chengdu, and the organizing committee will work hard to deliver an outstanding event.

- 7.1.7. Others
 - 7.1.7.1. WTTC Finals 2025 – update
The EC noted that at the time of the meeting, two bidders remain in the race for the event, Qatar and Spain, with virtual inspections planned for 18th and 19th October 2022.
 - 7.1.7.2. WYTTC 2023 and 2024 – update
The EC noted the remaining bids still in the race and the upcoming virtual inspections.
 - 7.1.7.3. WVC 2024 – update
Likewise to the previous bid processes, the remaining applicants, Italy, Qatar, and Slovenia, will have virtual inspections and the decision on the host will be taken at the BoD meeting on 4th December, the same as for the World Youth Championships.
- 7.2. Olympic & Paralympic Games
The EC noted the ongoing work in the revision of the text of the Olympic Games Qualification System document, with the aim to make it clearer. The new text will be published once approved by the IOC.
- 7.3. World Ranking
Not having any special matters to discuss, this item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 7.4. Others
 - 7.4.1. Continental Para Championships 2023 – host selections
The EC noted the sole bids received for the 2023 Para Table Tennis Continental Events in Africa (Egypt), Americas (Chile), Asia (China) and Oceania (. For Europe, the EC noted the technical report presented by Mr DAWLATLY for the two bids received from England and Italy.
Following the careful evaluation of the bids received, the EC agreed to allocate the 2023 Continental Para Championships as follows:
Africa: ITTF African Para Championships, to be held in (TBD), Egypt.
Americas: Para Pan American Games, to be held in Santiago, Chile.
Asia: Asian Para Games, to be held in Hangzhou, China.
Europe: ITTF European Para Championships, to be held in Sheffield, England
Oceania: ITTF Oceania Para Championships, to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands

20221009-EC-04

The EC agreed to allocate the 2023 Continental Para Championships as follows:

- Africa: ITTF African Para Championships, to be held in (TBD), Egypt.
- Americas: Para Pan American Games, to be held in Santiago, Chile.
- Asia: Asian Para Games, to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- Europe: ITTF European Para Championships, to be held in Sheffield, England
- Oceania: ITTF Oceania Para Championships, to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands

8. World Table Tennis

The EC noted the presentation of Mr Matt POUND, WTT Managing Director, who started highlighting the appointment of Mr LIU Guoliang as the Chair of the WTT Board.

8.1. Calendar

In relation to the calendar, the EC noted the latest update which was presented to the ITTF Membership one week before. Mr POUND suggested that further updates will be given in the next couple of weeks, hoping to have the complete 2023 calendar released at the start of November.

Mr PRIMORAC congratulated Mr POUND and the whole WTT team on the investment and calendar work being made and hoped for a stable calendar for 2023, being a year of preparation for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

8.2. Investment

The EC noted the work done since the meeting in Singapore, with a two-step process: (1) the World Sports equity deal, for which Mr POUND presented the key elements, and for what a very thorough process has been made in cooperation with Withers, highlighting the potential for the Chinese market, which is already raising WTT's valuation and (2) the search of international investments.

Mr POUND reported on about twenty different firms over the last 3-4 months, and the focus has been now put on 2-3 strong leads hoping to finalize these agreements once the deal with World Sports is signed. The EC noted that a more detailed proposal may be presented at the next EC meeting in Amman.

Ms SÖRLING highlighted that the investor was present during the entire period of the Championships in Chengdu, which is appreciated, showing the commitment he has to the sport. Also, Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr LIU for bringing such investors and potential to WTT.

Dr MESHREF congratulated Mr LIU for his WTT Chair appointment and asked what the difference between QG Sports and World Sports was. Mr POUND explained that QG Sports is more focused on training activities, while World Sports is more focused on sporting commercial activities.

Mr DAINTON confirmed the words of Ms SÖRLING and referred to the stress the ITTF lived because of the DTTB letter and the PwC investigation. Therefore, there was a very thorough process, together with Withers, to ensure ITTF and WTT kept their high standards in transparency and governance.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr DAINTON for all his work also in this area.

Mr POUND ended by thanking WTT Board Members Mr LIU and Mr AL-MOHANNADI for their ongoing support.

20221009-EC-05

The EC agreed to sign the shareholder's agreement and services agreement with World Sports (i.e., World Sports Industry (Beijing) Co., LTD and/or World Sports Holding Limited), as well as other connected agreements and corporate approvals, with Petra Sörling and Wahid Oshodi signing on behalf of the ITTF and to take any other steps necessary to complete the present transaction with World Sports.

9. Development

The EC noted the written report presented by Ms Polona CEHOVIN.

10. ITTF Foundation

The EC noted the written report presented by Mr Leandro OLVECH.

11. Governance

11.1. Members

The EC noted the current status of the case of the Table Tennis Federation of India.

11.2. Gender/Diversity

The EC noted the report of Ms SÖRLING on the meetings held on the 20th and 21st of September at the IOC Headquarters with the responsible staff of this area and the IOC's readiness to cooperate and support the ITTF in this area. Ms SÖRLING indicated a meeting is planned with the ITTF Gender Commissioner, Ms Hajera KAJEE, in parallel to the site inspection planned in January 2023 in Durban.

11.3. Integrity/Safe Sport

This item was deferred to the next EC meeting.

11.4. TMS investigation on the request of MOATSZ

Following the investigation initiated at the request of the Hungarian Table Tennis Federation (MOATSZ), and the draft report received from PwC, the EC noted that MOATSZ has approved the report received and considers the case closed from their side. The EC members will receive the PwC report for study and decision on further steps.

12. IOC Member Report

The EC noted the report from Mr RYU on the upcoming ANOC General Assembly in which over forty IOC members will be in attendance alongside with the ITTF President and Secretary General. Mr RYU considered ANOC to be a perfect opportunity to interact with NOCs and IOC members.

The EC also noted the dates for the IOC Commissions meetings, which will be held at the end of November in Lausanne, and in which Ms SÖRLING and Mr RYU will be in attendance.

Ms SÖRLING praised the fact that Mr RYU is a member of six IOC Commissions and, due to his involvement in the ANOC General Assembly preparations, wanted to thank Mr RYU for his

presence in Chengdu for the whole period. Ms SÖRLING added that in the different meetings held in Lausanne, everyone spoke highly about the commitment of Mr RYU, which is something very positive for our sport.

13. Other Business

13.1. World Cups

The EC noted that based on the feedback received from the athletes, the Continental Federations, the potential investors and Mr LIU, the World Cups will be retained. A study will be made on how to improve them, to make the property bigger and better for the benefit of both players and Continental Federations.

Mr DAINTON added

13.2. Propositions and Resolutions follow-up meeting

It was agreed to have a meeting, ideally in the two weeks following this EC meeting.

14. Next Meetings

The EC noted the dates of the upcoming meetings:

Finance Forum	21 st November 2022
Propositions and Resolutions for the AGM	24 th November 2022
Executive Committee Meeting #06-2022	3 rd December 2022
Continental Council Meeting	3 rd December 2022
ITTF Summit 2022	4 th to 6 th December 2022, including,
ITTF Board of Directors Meeting	4 th December 2022
ITTF Annual General Meeting	6 th December 2022

15. Adjournment

Not having further matters to discuss, Ms SÖRLING thanked the EC colleagues for their cooperation to make the meeting very effective, reflecting on the very good decisions taken, and thanking those in attendance in different time zones. To conclude, Ms SÖRLING congratulated the ITTF for the success of hosting the WTTTC, particularly Mr LIU and his team. The meeting was adjourned at 16h10.

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date