

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom ®

Wednesday 19th July 2023 – 12h00 to 13h00 CEST

EB MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

EB Members:

SÖRLING Petra	President
LIU Guoliang	Deputy President
AL-MOHANNADI Khalil	Senior Executive Vice-President
AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
MESHREF Alaa	Executive Vice-President
NATRAN Roland	Executive Vice-President – Finance
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member

Apologies:

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

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. President's opening remarks

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the EB colleagues in attendance, mentioning that in the morning, the new ITTF Offices in Singapore were inaugurated, counting on the presence of the Singapore Table Tennis Association President and some business partners.

1.2. Roll Call

It was noted the attendance of nine EC members at the start of the meeting¹, and the apology of the two AC Co-Chairs.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without further editions.

3. CEO Report

3.1. Update since Durban

Mr DAINTON referred to the current cash flow situation and updated the EB on the search for investors, particularly in the potential deal with one sovereign investment fund. Mr DAINTON added that if the investment would not be materialised, similar adjustment measures to those made at the beginning of the pandemic may be needed, as per the direction indicated by the EB at the Durban EB meeting.

The EB noted that the staff of all three entities had been updated about the potential restructure and rescaling, adding that the presence of Ms SÖRLING in Singapore helps in the decision-making process.

To conclude, Mr DAINTON added that if loans are ultimately needed, as a discussed option in Durban, he hopes that it will be a short-term loan, turning into profitability hopefully soon.

¹ Mr LIU Guoliang was travelling and joined the meeting once the airplane landed.

Ms SÖRLING underlined that actions are being taken, hoping the potential investment becomes a reality, and referred to the cancellation of ANOC 2023 General Assembly planned in Bali, and the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games.

4. Propositions for the ITTF Council and AGM

4.1. Propositions for the ITTF Council

Mr CALIN presented the propositions received for the ITTF Council meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, 23rd August.

Particular attention was given to proposition IC-2023-10, submitted by thirty Member Associations, and IC-2023-11, submitted by Bahrain TTA, and very similar to the previous one. Mr DAINTON referred to the situation the ITTF faced in 2016-2017 when it was difficult to find hosts for the World Championships and the decision of the BoD at that time to create the Future Events Working Group (FEWG). The outcome of the work of the FEWG was the restructure of the WTTTC into qualifications at regional, continental, and intercontinental levels and a WTTTC Finals with 32 teams, later expanded to 40 due to the proposition of Hong Kong TTA, which passed in 2020, even before the model of 32 teams was tested.

Mr DAINTON reflected on the potential difficulties for the two bidders, Table Tennis England, and Thailand Table Tennis Association, as they have been preparing their bids and plans based on the 40 teams' model, wondering if there will be the possibility for any potential changes to not start before 2028, not to affect the current bids.

Ms SÖRLING reflected on whether it will be possible to discuss this at the Summit and find what the best system is for the future.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI, Senior EVP in charge of World Championships, referred to the fact that many associations complain about the impossibility of participating in the WTTTC Finals, putting the example of the Arab Countries, where only two can participate, or Asia, where only around nine can be present, what made him think if the current model is the best, suggesting to discuss the matter in Bangkok and decide what is the best for the ITTF and our sport in the future.

Dr MESHREF suggested that the fact that 31 Associations have presented such a proposition is something important to consider, but at the same time, expressed his concern about the possibilities for the two current bidders that have been working in the model of 40 teams.

Different EB members also expressed their views on the matter and Ms SÖRLING suggested writing back to the 31 Member Associations suggesting allowing the discussions in Bangkok and delay the proposition to 2024 in Busan.

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The Executive Board agreed to communicate with the 31 Member Associations submitting propositions IC-2023-10 and IC-2023-11, asking them to consider delaying their proposition for decision in Busan 2024 ITTF Council meeting.

Mr OSHODI suggested Mr AL-MOHANNADI, as President of ATTU and the Arab TTA could ideally lead the discussion with these 31 Associations.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI indicated he could do so, but it will be also good to double-check with Table Tennis England and Thailand Table Tennis Association whether they could organise the WTTTC Finals with 64 teams.

It was agreed not to ask them formally, but perhaps to raise the question unofficially, not to stress them during the final preparation period for their bids, taking into consideration that they have eventually discussed with their respective governments and have gone through an official process so far for 40 teams.

4.2. Propositions for the ITTF AGM

Mr CALIN presented the propositions received for the ITTF AGM, which will be held on Thursday, 24th August.

Particular attention was given to proposition A-05, submitted by thirty-four Member Associations, and A-06, submitted by Tunisian TTA, and very similar to the previous one.

Mr CALIN referred to the EB discussions in Durban when it was agreed not to open the bid process for the 2025 AGM for a decision in Bangkok due to the very short time available until

the Summit there, but instead, to open the bid process for the Summit 2025 and Summit 2026 after Bangkok for a decision to be taken in Busan.

The EB noted that this proposition would eliminate the possibility for the Member Associations to bid to host the AGM in the future and would allocate it directly to the country where the WTTC Finals are held.

Ms SÖRLING opened the floor for comments or opinions. No comments were made.

The review of the propositions for the ITTF Council and ITTF AGM concluded, and Ms SÖRLING thanked everyone for their attendance.

5. Next Meeting

5.1. Monday 21st August – 9h00 to 12h00 local time in Bangkok.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:10 CEST.

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date