

European Table Tennis Union a.s.b.l.



Minutes of the

ETTU ORDINARY CONGRESS 2017

Thursday 14th September 2017 start 09:30 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE ETTU ORDINARY CONGRESS 2017 (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

Minutes of the ETTU Ordinary Congress organised during the European Team Championships in Luxembourg (LUX) on the 14th September 2017.

Present: Ronald Kramer (NED), (President),
 Ivo-Goran Munivrana (CRO), (Deputy President)
 Dorte Darfelt (DEN), (Vice-President for Finances)
 Heike Ahlert (GER), Nikolas Endal (CZE), Sonja Grefberg (FIN),
 Pedro Moura (POR), Cristinel Romanescu (ROU) (Vice-Presidents),
 Petr Korbel (CZE), (co-opted member)

Richard Scruton (Secretary General)
 Pierre Kass (Deputy Secretary General)

Arne Madsen (ETTU Club Competition Official), Milica Nikolic (ETTU Media Official), Igor Heller (ETTU RC), Øivind Eriksen (ETTU TC), Zdenko Kriz (ETTU VC), Isabelle Beumier (ETTU URC), Sandra Deaton (ETTU YC), Neven Cegnar (ETTU Development Manager), Zita Pidl (ETTU Project Coordinator), Ana Ivošević (ETTU Marketing Coordinator)

Petra Sörling (ITTF Vice-President Finances)

Stefano Bosi, Camille Gonderinger, Radivoj Hudetz, Jean-François Kahn (ETTU Honorary Members)
 Victor Andreev (ETTU Badge of Honour)
 Jean-Michel Saive, Alexey Smirnov (guests)

a) President's opening remarks

The President welcomed all delegates, Executive Board members, officials, staff and guests. He specially welcomed ITTF Vice-President Finances Petra Sörling.

The President gave the word to the Luxembourg TTF President André Hartman.

Mr. Hartmann welcomed and updated the Congress on the ongoing Championships.

b) Roll call

Delegates representing the following member Associations (46) attended the Congress: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland (proxy to Isle of Man), Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Jersey, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (arrived after the roll call), Malta, Monaco (proxy to France), Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. The Associations of Andorra, Armenia, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Ukraine and Wales were absent.

46 member Associations including 2 proxies

c) Approval of the agenda

The President asked the Congress to present the Honorary Membership awards to the three candidates under item D) of the agenda item to allow Mr. Gonderinger, being ETTC tournament director, to return to the venue.

With this amendment, the Congress Agenda was approved unanimously.

d) Appointment of Honorary Members

The ETTU President handed over to Mr. Stefano Bosi (ITA), Mr. Camille Gonderinger (LUX) and Dr. Jean-François Kahn (FRA) a certificate and pin for their ETTU Honorary Membership as awarded during the 2016 ETTU Ordinary Congress in Budapest, Hungary.

e) Appointment of scrutineers

Mr. Mathias Neuwirth (AUT), Mr. Mikael Peterson (SWE) and Mrs. Sara Sutcliffe (ENG) were appointed by the Congress to act as scrutineers.

f) Adoption of late entered propositions

Nil

g) Consideration of the reports from the Officers, the Committee Chairs and the Officials

All reports presented to the Congress were unanimously accepted.

The delegate from Slovenia congratulated the Luxembourg colleagues for the organisation of the Championships. He commented on the reports and congratulated the Deputy President and Development Manager.

h) Consideration of the Financial Statement 2016

The Vice-President for Finances presented the audited Financial Statements for the year 2016 as well as the Balance Sheet on 31st December 2016. The auditor's report is included in the annex 1.

The Vice-President for Finances thanked the President, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General for all the work done on the marketing income.

Mrs. Darfelt explained the President's payment since 2013. We all want a President to be available 24/7 and to have that we have to secure a living standard for the President. ITTF had helped ETTU by paying money for leadership grant. During the years the EB discussed many times where and how to book this payment. She apologised for not having been very clear on this. The figure has been placed under salary although it is a daily allowance. The aim is to give everyone a possibility to become President otherwise it will only be members who have money or in pension. In the budget 2018 it has an own line as President's allowance.

Mrs. Darfelt thanked the national member Associations for having paid their invoices and consequently the outstandings are drastically reduced.

A summary of the Financial Statements 2016, as presented at the Congress by the Vice-President for Finances, is annexed (annex 2) to these minutes.

Item h) and i) are dealt together.

The delegate from Slovenia expressed his appreciation to ETTU for having achieved a good result but that transparency and openness should be also a high priority. He agreed ETTU needs a President 24/7. He heard rumours that the President receives a salary or daily allowance and requested clarification. He pointed out that the statutes have nothing written that the President can be employed by the Union.

The Vice-President for Finances replied that ETTU statutes do not foresee salary payment to the President and therefore a working group was established to look into the statutes to eventually propose changes.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina said that it is good to have a positive result but that he understood the EB was not so well prepared as the salary had to be put in the budget.

From the 2018 budget the EB found the correct place to book 60.000 Euros President's allowance. He asked why in the past the EB did not put this amount in the budget and later half of it in the staff's salary and half in the development budget. Money from ITTF which is received without any specification was not to use on the President's allowance but on development.

In the delegate's opinion the statutes do not permit a paid President. He gave an explanation on how to make the right steps to make it legal. He proposed a court could decide if the payments were a daily allowance or a salary. He claimed that the first time the EB discussed about it was during the EB meeting in December 2016. He said being ETTU President is a honour and not a paid position. He said the President has to renounce from payments until the next ordinary Congress is accepting. He advised the EB to cut off the 60.000 Euros from the budget until next Congress as there is no proposal.

He said that when he was ETTU President he never made it for money but only for serving his beloved sport.

The delegate from Germany pointed out that apparently the delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina is having more insight in discussions within the EB than the other delegates and asked the EB to confirm what has been said.

The Vice-President for Finances replied that the EB discussed this item several times since 2013 and clarified the ITTF money received was given for leadership grant and not unspecified. She admitted being surprised that internal discussions from EB meetings were to be heard during the Congress. Mrs. Darfelt pointed out there that there were no wrong intentions and is of the opinion that nothing illegal has been done.

The Deputy President said he is in an unpleasant situation and explained he alerted the EB members. He was afraid that the EB did something wrong and proposed doing it in a transparent way and inform the Congress who shall decide. He said that it was discussed first time during the EB meeting in December 2016. He said having taken legal advice and it cannot be called different than salary but the Congress should decide. The budget should be transparent.

The President said that all are working on good governance and transparency in the budget including the EB remuneration which is an allowance. For 2018 the President's allowance is now explicitly laid down in the budget. The Congress then can vote on it. The constitutional working group came to the conclusion that it was not illegal according to the constitution. The recommendation from that group will be that in the future constitution this will be clarified.

The delegate from Jersey stated that the delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina made some valid comments but believes the EB had acted in the best intentions and does not want this to interfere into ETTU's development and work. He proposed to put it all right from now on and to skip what has happened in the past and the Congress to support the EB.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina said it is quite clear that nobody in the Board was aware about the President's payments.

Mrs. Ahlert pointed out that she and all other EB members were aware of it since 2013. It was stated in all budgets as staff and President's remuneration.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina asked if she knew the amount paid to the President.

Mrs. Ahlert replied that she knew about the 30.000 from ITTF for this and knew there was something added from ETTU side.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina asked the other EB members if they also did not know the exact amount the President received and agreed with the delegate from Jersey that the Congress shall decide.

The President called for a point of order and pointed out that it is not up to a member of the Congress to have a public investigation of the behaviour of the EB.

The Secretary General agreed to some and disagreed to other comments said in the discussion. He said that when he came to office in 2013, he inherited a rather difficult situation in terms of finances and in terms of staff morale. The new EB has in the last 4 years improved the situation financially, improved morale and the ETTU family in a better way. He agreed with the delegate of Jersey that ETTU needs to move forward and proposed to have a later discussion with the delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The EB on reflection could have handled the matter slightly on a better way but all figures were within the proposed yearly budgets. He could not attend the EB meeting in December 2016 due to health problems. He said that the President is working 24/7 and supports his staff. He hoped the Congress would give its support for the 2018 budget and was sure the EB and the constitutional working group would look to see if there are any required changes to be proposed to the next Congress. He was of the opinion the EB was transparent and that the EB fully supports its President. He wished the Congress to support the EB and that ETTU can move forward.

i) Consideration of the reports from the Auditor

Item treated under h).

j) Release (Discharge) to the Executive Board

The Congress granted release to the Executive Board for the work done by them since the Congress in 2016 in Budapest (HUN) by majority of the votes (28 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 11 abstentions).

k) Appointment of the Audit Commission

The Congress accepted the President's proposal to reopen the application for an Audit Commission.

l) Consideration of propositions

Upon request from some delegates to have a European Championships for the smaller Associations, the President stated to forward the request to the events working group so that stage 1 losers for instance may have a B Championships.

Proposition 1: CT. European Championships (Team Events) *final stage 16 teams*

Proposition 1 was defeated with 7 votes in favour and 33 votes against.

Proposition 2: CT. European Championships (Team Events) *final stage 24 teams*

Proposition 2 was adopted by majority (30 votes in favour, 9 votes against, 1 abstention)

Proposition 3: D. European Youth Championships D.9 The Draw

Proposition 3 was unanimously adopted.

Proposition 4: E. European Veterans Championships E.11 System of Play

Proposition 4 was unanimously adopted.

Proposition 5 General Regulation B.6 Finances

Proposition 5 was defeated with 20 votes in favour and 22 votes against.

The propositions are attached (Annex 2).

m) Annual membership subscription

As proposition 5 was defeated, the annual membership fee was maintained at its present level, i.e. 350 EUR.

n) Budget of income and expenditure 2018

The Vice-President for Finances presented the budget of income and expenditure for the year 2018.

The delegate from Estonia informed about a typing error in the printed budget.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina stated to vote in favour of the budget with a recommendation to take a legal advice for the future but also for past expenses.

The delegate from Germany pointed out that it is the last year with income from the European Games 2015 and without that grant there will be a loss in case there is no new marketing income. He was not satisfied about the high accommodation costs used at European Championships comparing to ITTF events. He stated being in favour of the budget but said it is not sure that ETTU can continue the same way if the structure is not changed.

The Vice-President for Finances agreed with the delegate from Germany and added that the EB is aware of it and will start the discussion about 2019 in its next meeting.

The President agreed with the delegate from Germany and added that the marketing income figures are budgeted based on security and will continue to work on increasing this income. The difference between World and European is also due with the better income position in general of ITTF and they can spend more money in the event which reflects on the hospitality rate.

The delegate from Slovenia said that the legal advice should have been brought to the Congress already before. He was questioning the legal situation and wanted to ask the audit for their opinion. He stated it is not transparent and open but agreed a 24/7 ETTU President is needed. He said if the money for the President has been received via ITTF, it would be a scandal and that maybe the ETTU President's behaviour in front of the elections of the ITTF President can be understood.

The delegate from Germany reminded the Congress that the original agreement between ITTF and ETTU was made in 2013 with the former President of ITTF.

The President replied that there was nothing illegal going on as otherwise the audit would have stated it and the audit had no remark to the financial statements. He said that ETTU will seek legal advice as requested but that also the constitutional working group has had a first meeting and discussed the matter and concluded that it does not go against the Constitution.

The delegate from Germany was in favour of the budget including a paid President in case these payments are legal. He proposed to accept the budget if the legal advice is clear and accepted otherwise it is not in the budget and he wished to have the clarification / advice still in the year 2017.

The President asked for a vote on the 2018 budget under the condition as proposed by the delegate from Germany.

The budget of income and expenditure for the year 2018 has been adopted by the Congress by majority of the votes.

The budget of income and expenditure for the year 2018 is attached (Annex 3).

o) Presentation of Badges of Honour

The EB awarded thirteen persons with a Badge of Honour:

Mr. Victor ANDREEV (RUS), Mr. Volodymyr GEVORGIZOV (UKR),
Mr. Taisei IMAMURA (JPN), Mr. Matja KRNC (SLO), Mr. Roman MARKOV (RUS),
Mr. Alexandre PETKEVITCH (BLR), Mrs. Tatiana PETKEVITCH (BLR),
Mr. Andreas PREUSS (GER), Mr. Günther RENNER (AUT),
Mrs. Beatrice ROMANESCU (ROU), Mr. Peter SARTZ (SWE),
Mr. Milan STENCEL (CRO) and Mrs. Petra SÖRLING (SWE).

p) 2018 European Championships update

The President reported about a presentation the EB received for the 2017 European Championships from Spain. Details are still under negotiations, but the event was awarded to Alicante, Spain.

q) Miscellaneous

In closing, the President thanked everyone for their attendance, input and discussions and wished everyone a good Championship and a lot of success.
