

## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, Düsseldorf (GER) 6.-7.2.2009**

Present: S. Bosi (President), E. Schöler (Deputy President), C. Gonderinger (Vice-President for Finances), J.F. Kahn (FRA), A. Matkovic (SRB), Y. Posevin (RUS), Ivo-Goran Munivrana (HRV) (Vice-Presidents), J. Dom (General Secretary), M. Evangelista (Marketing Department)

### **1. WELCOME**

The German President, Mr. Thomas Weikert, as well as the DTTB General Secretary, Mr. Matthias Vatheuer, welcomed all ETTU Officials and wished good success for the meeting. S. Bosi thanked the DTTB for their usual kind hospitality.

### **2. REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS EB MEETING**

The minutes of the EB meeting held in Frankfurt on 29.11.2008 and published on our site were accepted. The discussion about the future role of ETTU Committees was postponed to the Yokohama EB meeting.

### **3. REPORTS**

- 3.1 The President reported about all his efforts and discussions in connection with the finalisation of the EURO-ASIA series, and especially regarding the problem occurring with TMS, who had the right to match the offer we received for televising this event.
- 3.2 E. Schöler reported about the work of the ECL Working Group. So far this group met twice and a 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is scheduled to take place during the German Open in Bremen. He also explained that a questionnaire was addressed to the 16 clubs participating in the league, however only 9 clubs answered. The EB will be provided with a summary of their replies. Mr. Schöler also mentioned his visit to Rotterdam on the occasion of the Youth TOP-10, where in the Cadet Boys event he saw some really promising players, especially coming from France, and he congratulated the French Association for their excellent work in this field. Unfortunately, the situation in the girls sections is not so promising. He also informed that the Men's Team World Cup 2010 will be played in Magdeburg/Germany and that the regulations for the Youth Olympic Games qualifications need to be finalised latest for the Yokohama meeting.

#### **4. ASSISTENT GENERAL SECRETARY**

The President informed the EB members that, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2009, Mr. Pierre Kass, a citizen of Luxembourg, will be entrusted with the position of ETTU Assistant General Secretary for a trial period of 6 months. A final decision will be taken after the European Championships in Stuttgart. This was confirmed unanimously by the EB members..

#### **5. FINANCES**

- 5.1 The Vice-President of Finances informed the EB about those Associations being in arrear with their payments from the year 2007 and earlier. These Associations are: BIH, GEO, MKD, MON, SRB, ESP, WAL. The Association of Georgia remains suspended until this Association finally settled all outstanding invoices. All other Associations with outstandings from before 2008 shall play the due amounts before 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, otherwise they will be suspended as from 01 June 2009 for all ETTU Events.
- 5.2 It was decided to pay a contribution to the French Association for the cups given at the Euro-Mini Champs in Schiltigheim in 2008. However, the ETTU EB decided that the contribution will be paid for the last time.
- 5.3 The EB also decided to support the "International Science Congress – Table Tennis in Aging Population" organised in Porec (HRV) from 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 with an amount of 1,000 €, upon presentation of a relating invoice.
- 5.4 The EB decided all ETTU EB members and ETTU Officials will from now on be entitled to apply for the payment of a daily allowance of fifteen (15) € in addition to the free hospitality – for each full day they spent away from home on behalf of ETTU (e.g. at Meetings or Events).

#### **6. MARKETING**

Mr. Maurizio Evangelista informed the Board about the positive development in the negotiations concerning the EURO-ASIA All Stars Series (European event) title sponsorship, International TV, internet and mobile rights.

As TMS did not match the first offer from third parties received by the ETTU with their own proposal concerning such a single event (TMS only submitted an overall proposal, which was rejected by the EB during its last meeting in Frankfurt), the Marketing Department carried out negotiations with the German Company CONTENTHOUSE which already bought the same rights for the Europe Super Cup event. After thorough discussion, the EB decided to sign a five-year contract with CONTENTHOUSE also for the EURO-ASIA series.

Mr. Evangelista also informed the EB about the late request from the Indian company STAG International to join the ETTU Suppliers Pool with immediate effect, and the EB gave their consent. According to the ETTU Suppliers Pool regulations for new members, the ETTU Marketing Department requested STAG International to pay a higher amount as entry fee for 2009.

In addition, Mr. Evangelista informed the EB about the agreement with the Turkish Association regarding the purchase of the 2010 European Youth Championships title sponsorship right.

## **7. PROPOSITIONS TO THE ITTF AGM/BoD and the ETTU CONGRESS in Yokohama**

7.1 The EB took notice of two propositions which will be put forward by the Chinese Association to the ITTF AGM and BoD. The European ITTF BoD members will deal with this matter during its meeting in Yokohama on 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2009.

7.2 The EB also checked the propositions to be put forward in the name of the ETTU Executive Board to our Congress on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2009. These propositions were accepted with slight amendments. The EB also decided to put forward regulations for a Mixed Doubles European Championships. In case these regulations will pass the Congress the first Championships may be organised from 4th-6th September 2009. Associations wishing to apply for these Championships may do so until the end of the World Championships in Yokohama.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT**

8.1 The President informed about his latest visit to China. According to the discussions there, the Chinese Association is very interested in the Olympic Project and agreed to cooperate in this project. The EB discussed the necessity to have a coordinator in the Development area, and it was decided to offer this position to Mrs. Polona CEHOVIN-SUSIN through a contract for the "provision of services", running up to the end of the year 2009.

8.2 The EB took notice of the Development Agreement to be signed with ITTF. The EB decided to include up to two (2) EUROKIDS CAMPS per year into this agreement.

## **9. YOUTH MATTERS**

9.1 I.G. Munivrana explained the discussions held by e-mail within the Working Group which was installed to deal with the Russian and French proposal to organise in future a European Championships for the age category "Under 12". The Chairman of the WG will prepare for the Yokohama Congress a document for a discussion with the European Member Associations present. The Executive Board congratulated the WG members for a very good approach in this difficult matter.

- 9.2 The German Association had informed that they withdraw their application to stage the Youth TOP-10 in 2011. The Austrian Association (who was entrusted with the organisation in 2012) has agreed to organise the event already in 2011.
- 9.3 With regard to the Olympic Youth Games, the ETTU decided to organise a special qualification tournament. Playing system and regulations to be drafted, if possible, already before Yokohama, because the ITTF has to be notified by May 15. The final decision has to be taken during the Congress in Stuttgart.
- 9.4 The discussion to integrate Youth players into the Super Cup was postponed to the Yokohama meeting.

## 10. OLYMPIC PROJECT

Dirk Schimmelpfenning, member of the ETTU Expert Group, explained the Olympic Project having as aim and goal to win Olympic Medals in future and to reduce the difference in playing skills between Europe and Asia.

The ETTU experts group proposed to the EB different measures (the EB already accepted their proposals in general during its meeting in Frankfurt) to try to lower this gap. Detailed targets are:

- Olympic Games 2012 (project for top European players);
- Olympic Games 2016 (project for players under 21 and for top players of the Junior age category;
- Olympic Games 2020 (two talent scouting camps to be organised during the year 2009, one in Germany (Marpingen, 100 players) and one in Hungary (Kiskunfelegyhaza, 120 players).
- Coaches education: the 2009 seminar will be organised in June in Istanbul.

For the talent scouting camps, Istvan Korpa was proposed as supervisor.

In addition, Mr. Schimmelpfenning announced that already different training centres provide hospitality for players interested to have strong and competent practice sessions.

The EB informed the representative of the Experts Group that it was decided to engage a youth and Development coordinator and that the budget has to be drafted after this person's start.

## 11. EURO-ASIA ALL STARS SERIES

The EB discussed the two events organised in China (August) and in Europe (Istanbul, November). It was decided to nominate the European players by the June World ranking list. All nominated players may be accompanied by their own coaches. A Team Manager will lead the delegation.

The prize money for this event was discussed as well and the EB decided that in case of a defeat of the European Team to slightly increase the offered prize money, by:

- 1,000 € per individual match won for a player participating in only one event 2009;
- 2,500 € per individual match won for a player participating in both events 2009.

Not considered will be those players having received a wild card.

The EB will decide as soon as possible the additional prize money in case of a win of the European Team.

(A short meeting with the participating top players of the TOP-12 was organised in the evening in the players' hotel.)

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 Our Web-Team informed that hackers damaged our site. ETTU decided to take legal measures.
- 12.2 M. Evangelista informed that the JOOLA Company will produce table tennis flooring in the future as well.
- 12.3 It was decided that the company KILLERSPIN will be excluded from the Suppliers Pool. In case they want to re-enter the pool again, this company has once again to pay the entry fee.
- 12.4 For the moment ETTU has not yet concluded an agreement with Hahn e-Business because they asked for a re-imbusement of costs for ETTU not having respected the contracts for the events in Nantes and Terni. The EB decided to only continue contacts with this company if they withdrew the invoices. If this is the case the ECL and ENL matches will be offered to them.
- 12.5 The Marketing Department informed that a new homepage for the ECL will be ready for the next meeting of the ECL WG. They are also working on a new project to replace the ECL-Yearbook.

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- 12.6 It was decided to offer immediately after the World Championships in Yokohama a contract to the Media Official which will run up to the end of 2009.
- 12.7 ETTU Anthem: It was decided to discuss this matter with the Russian Federation.
- 12.8 EVC in Porec: Mr. I.G. Munivrana reported on all promotional steps in all TT-events. On 04.02.2009 2319 players plus 464 accompanying persons entered the event. He also informed about the Croatian decision to use their own computer experts but that they will invite the ETTU computer expert Mr. M. Theis as a supervisor. He mentioned that Mr. Kriz will visit the city of Porec on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 and he asked ETTU to send the invoices for the levy and the title sponsor.
- 12.9 The decision with regard to which rubbers will be approved and valid during the EVC will be taken at a later stage by e-mail.
- 12.10 The discussion about the promotion and relegation in the JOOLA ENL was postponed to the EB meeting in Prague during the EYC..
- 12.11 The proposed referees lists for Prague (Youth European Championships) and Stuttgart (European Championships) was accepted.
- 12.12 ETC Cup Women: With regard to the car accident the French club Mondeville had when travelling to the semi-final match in Poland it was decided to open a bank account called "Sandra PAOVIC Solidarity Fund". Sandra was very heavily injured through this accident. It was decided to promote this account through our website. ETTU will contribute a starting amount of 5.000 €
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