

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



**Minutes of the**

## **Extraordinary ETTU CONGRESS 2017**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017, at 1000h**

**Düsseldorf (GER)**

## **MINUTES OF THE ETTU EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS 2017 (Düsseldorf, GER)**

Minutes of the Extraordinary ETTU Congress organised during the Liebherr 2017 WTTC in Düsseldorf (GER) on the 30<sup>th</sup> May, 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 EB member)

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

Arne Madsen (Club Competition Official), Milica Nikolic (Media Official),  
Igor Heller (Ranking Committee Chair), Sandra Deaton (Youth Committee  
Chair), Zdenko Kriz (Veterans Committee Chair), Neven Cegnar (Development  
Manager), Ana Ivosevic (Marketing and Website Coordinator), Andrea  
Bjurström (Administration Coordinator)

Thomas Weikert (ITTF President)  
Petra Sörling (ITTF Vice-President Finances)

Claude Bergeret, Jean-François Kahn, Radivoj Hudetz, Jean-Michel Saive  
(guests)

Delegates of the following member Associations (45) attended the Congress:  
Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina,  
Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland,  
France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy,  
Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova,  
Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Wales.  
The Associations of Andorra, Croatia, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Gibraltar,  
Greenland, Guernsey, Jersey, Macedonia, Monaco, Poland, Portugal and San  
Marino were absent.

### **1. Welcome by the ETTU President Ronald Kramer**

The President welcomed all delegates, Executive Board members, officials, staff and guests. He specially welcomed ITTF President Thomas WEIKERT, ITTF Vice-President Finances Petra SÖRLING and Jean-Michel SAIVE.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The President asked the Congress to accept under any other business “update of the 2017 European Championships”.

The agenda was adopted.

The President of the German Association Michael Geiger welcomed the Congress attendees to Düsseldorf, Germany.

ITTF President Thomas Weikert welcomed the delegates to Germany and wished everyone a successful Congress and Championships.

### **3. President's Report**

The President pointed out that ETTU is on the right track and that since the last Congress, its organisation improved but also the finances and development program. The discussion of the future of the European Championships will be the main agenda item. The President spoke about the need of hosts for future ETTU events.

### **4. Executive Board updates**

#### **a 2016 Budget – Vice President for Finances Dorte Darfelt**

The Vice-President for Finances reported about the financial result for 2016. A surplus of 60.000 Euros was achieved. Mrs. Darfelt thanked the President, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General for all their efforts and thanked the member Associations for their co-operation. Mrs. Darfelt explained briefly the different positions.

The Budget for 2017 being adopted as a break even result and the first months of the year do not reflect variations to it.

#### **b 2017 Development Program – Deputy President Ivo-Goran Munivrana**

The Deputy President reported about the ETTU Development program. In 2014, the Eurotalents program started with a players' participation from 25 countries; 11 players at age 11-12 have been selected. In 2015, 9 players and in 2016, 8 players. Almost 500 players at the age of 10-12 have passed this Eurotalents program.

28 talented players have been chosen and 20 of them were finally retained. The other 8 were no more selected as they could not develop equally compared to the other 20. However 4 new players born 2006-2007 will join this program.

The Development program continued last year with the under 18 program whereof the 4 best players attended a camp in Japan. Mr. Munivrana thanked the Japanese TTA for their co-operation.

On 6-15 August the best 6 under 18 players from Europe will practice 9 days in Singapore with the best players just before the World Junior Championships.

Mr. Munivrana reported about the ETTU development of coaches. All player activities were and are used to also educate coaches.

He continued informing about the successful women's coaching course in Zagreb, Croatia.

He informed about the annual coaching course which will be held in October in Warsaw, Poland.

The University TT study started with 20 students being at the end of the career and 15 of them are doing very well, whereof 2 are supported by ETTU.

ETTU started this year with national Association support. The support is to help local development. Mr. Munivrana announced that 7 Associations will receive ETTU's support.

Mr. Munivrana thanked the Development Manager for his devotion to Europe's development.

#### **5. Future of the European Championships Team events – report of the Events Working Group, Vice President Heike Ahlert Open discussion**

Vice President Heike Ahlert presented a report from the Events Working Group of the future of the European Championships Team events. (attached)

The President added that from the beginning each Association has the chance to become European Champion at the end and also to promote locally and get media attention. He encouraged the delegates for comments, remarks and questions.

Sweden: good idea to start having home and away matches to get to the Championships for promotion and development although some matches were a bit short.

Heike Ahlert: especially in the second stage the level between the teams will become more equal.

Switzerland: congratulated the Working Group. Switzerland and many other nations, the qualification as a sport in Olympic Ranking which is getting points and finally governmental money support depends on different factors as well as how many nations are participating in the World Championships. If in future only 2 per Association can be sent, it should be considered from the outside that groups A and B are already the qualification for the World Championships. If the other Continents have a similar system, there will be 150-170 countries competing for the 72 places for the World Championships.

The second recommendation is that with the new ITTF ranking system it is important for the players that all these matches are counting for the ITTF World Ranking.

Heike Ahlert: agreed and informed that ETTU already sent a letter to ITTF on this issue (new Ranking system). She preferred not calling it the “qualification” but instead “first stage”, “second stage” and “final stage” of the Championships. The Board of Directors will decide about the qualification for the World Championships and if the proposal passes every Continent can decide how to qualify for the World Championships. And this should be Europe’s qualifying system.

Slovenia: expressed his deep appreciation for the decision made of the new system for the European Championships. Home and away matches brought a lot of TV and media attention. Slovenia had live TV coverage and 1500 physical spectators for both their matches. Encouraged the Board not to make it too complicated for the future as the current system proved as good system including the sudden death matches.

Austria: Austria is happy with the reintroduction of the qualification matches. Only points out that groups of 3 is not good as in the last round 1 team is not playing and the other 2 can influence the results. Also the same amount of dates are needed for groups of 3 than groups of 4.

Ivo-Goran Munivrana: groups of 3 have the same number of dates but not the same number of matches for the players. Supports Austria’s wish to have groups of 4.

Pedro Moura: A high percentage of the matches were ending 3-0. By increasing to groups of 4, there will be an even higher difference in strength.

Heike Ahlert: do you agree with the structure to have a reduced final stage? As no comments received, Mrs. Ahlert thanked the Congress agreeing to it in general. The Congress attendees applauded.

Ronald Kramer: we will issue a questionnaire based on this structure, taking up the questions from today and with the replies from the questionnaire, we will have a proposal for the Ordinary Congress in Luxembourg.

## **6. National Championships dates**

The Secretary General stated each year ETTU recommends a date for National Championships and that is by custom the first weekend in March. The exception is in the Olympic year when the World Championships is usually much earlier in the ITTF calendar because of the Olympic Games and therefore our recommended date could be earlier or later. The 3 years in every 4 we are recommending the first

weekend in March for National Championships. It is only a recommendation and not compulsory. The Secretary General asked the delegates if they are happy with it, if it shall be done compulsory, or if ETTU shall change and asked for comments.

Netherlands: wants to have a fixed date (weekend) also for the Olympic year.

Germany: agreed with Netherlands. Germany wants that all national Associations play at the same date.

Ronald Kramer: said it is a good advice to fix a weekend date for all national Associations.

The Secretary General informed that he published a date for 2020 and said he was premature (too early) and will look at it again. The difficulty is working with the calendar many years ahead and this will be mentioned again under the next Congress agenda item 7. We cooperate with ITTF trying to organise the calendar in plenty of time and asked ITTF to think ahead more, to plan more ahead particularly in an Olympic year and that is totally dependent on the World Championships in 2020.

The Secretary General noted the wish for paying more attention during Olympic years and the wish to have as many Associations organising at the same weekend.

## **7. National League dates**

The Secretary General clarified this item being more about the overall calendar each year. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General are preparing the European calendar and wish to work at least 2 years in advance but it is not easy. As an example: in 2016 thinking about 2018 calendar and looking at which events to integrate for Europe; the club competitions season are over 2 years (September to April/May). Some wish to shorten the European club competition season. Then the European Championships in September / October, also accepting the date wishes of the hosts. The European Youth Championships in July. By tradition to play the former Top 12, now Top 16 in the first weekend in February and the Youth Top Ten in September / October. But the information really needed is from ITTF about the World Championships, World Cups and World Tours. Then the ITTF Challenge Tours in Europe and the Junior Circuits. ETTU cannot prepare the European calendar before the international calendar is released.

The Secretary General asked for comments about how ETTU can help the national Associations in regards to their national league dates.

The President added the European Under 21 Championships.

Mr. Kramer asked the delegates how we can improve the situation and also asked ITTF to release their calendar earlier.

Austria: knowing it is a sensitive matter and we are probably not in the position to harmonise playing dates of all national leagues on short term basis. Advised to harmonise dates on mid-term basis. Some play weekends and others during the week. Recommendation: to create working groups by including speakers of the major national leagues in order to achieve this.

The Secretary General added he wishes to work asap on the 2019 calendar, mainly due to European club competitions.

## **8. Any other business**

André Hartmann and Camille Gonderinger (LUX) presented an update on the Liebherr 2017 ETTC.

Belgium: The freedom of choice between the 2 European candidates for the ITTF Presidency must be respected as explained in their letter. Belgium requested fair-play and neutrality.

Spain: Spain welcomed the first letter from ETTU asking for support of the 2 European candidates for ITTF Vice-President and encouraged the European delegates to vote for them.

The President took note about the remark from the Belgium delegation.

## **9. Closure**

In closing, the President thanked the delegates, the German hosts and the Executive Board for their contribution.

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