

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



Minutes of the

ETTU ORDINARY CONGRESS 2018

Wednesday 19th September 2018 start 09:30 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE ETTU ORDINARY CONGRESS 2018 (Alicante, Spain)

Minutes of the ETTU Ordinary Congress organised during the European Championships in Alicante (ESP) on the 19th September 2018.

Present: Ronald Kramer (NED), (President),
Ivo-Goran Munivrana (CRO), (Deputy President)
Heike Ahlert (GER), Nikolas Endal (CZE), Sonja Grefberg (FIN),
Pedro Moura (POR), Cristinel Romanescu (ROU) (Vice-Presidents),
Galia Dvorak (ESP), (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), Andrea Bjurström (ETTU Administration Coordinator)

Thomas Weikert (ITTF President), Petra Sörling (ITTF Vice-President Finances), Bruce Burton (ITTF Vice-President), Steve Dainton (ITTF CEO), Raul Calin (ITTF Secretary General), Iulia Necula (ITTF Executive Assistant & Athletes Manager), Jordi Serra (ITTF)

Stefano Bosi, Camille Gonderinger, Radivoj Hudetz, Jean-François Kahn, Rudolf Sporrer (ETTU Honorary Members)
Bianka Stak, Stefan Debus (Sportradar)
Jacques Barraud, Claude Bergeret, Vincas Franckaitis, Roman Plese, Danijela Pospis, Nenad Raicevic (guests)

Excused : Dorte Darfelt (DEN), (Vice-President for Finances)

a) President's opening remarks

The President welcomed all delegates, Executive Board members, officials, staff and guests. He specially welcomed the ITTF President Thomas Weikert, Vice-President Finances Petra Sörling, Vice-President Bruce Burton and thanked the Spanish Federation for hosting the event and gave the word to the Spanish TTF President Miguel Angel Machado.

Mr. Machado welcomed the Congress delegates to the Championships in Alicante.

b) Roll call

Delegates representing the following member Associations (55) attended the Congress: Albania, Armenia (proxy to Austria), Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece (proxy to Serbia), Greenland (proxy to Sweden), Guernsey (proxy to Jersey), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel (proxy to Luxembourg), Italy, Jersey, Kosovo (proxy to Macedonia), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova (proxy to Slovenia), Monaco (proxy to France), Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Scotland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Wales.

The Associations of Andorra, Georgia and Gibraltar were absent.

55 member Associations including 8 proxies

c) Approval of the agenda

The Congress Agenda was approved unanimously.

d) Appointment of scrutineers

Mrs. Sara Sutcliffe (ENG), Mrs. Anne Boileau Demaret (FRA) and Mr. Guiseppe Marino (ITA) were appointed by the Congress to act as scrutineers.

e) Adoption of late entered propositions

Nil

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

The Deputy President added to his report that he did nothing dishonest, illegal or with bad intention and did not want to take part in something what could be a violation of principles of good governance and transparency or eventually illegal, and that he had warned the President and then the EB of wrongdoings, after not being able to solve the problem internally he then informed the national Associations.

He continued that all his acting was done transparent, in public and clearly undersigned his letters, not hiding himself. He has been in charge for development activities where he received many congratulations and the merit belongs to the devoted ETTU Development Manager.

As in the last EB meeting the President proposed to the EB to dismiss Mr. Cegnar for alleged verbal misconduct. Fortunately Heike Ahlert, Cristinel Romanescu and Pedro Moura joined him in not supporting this proposal and Mr Cegnar being still devoted Development Manager, for a period he does not know.

He continued, If Congress does not solve the existing problem today, then we have to await the Luxembourg court decision. If the court verdict will be that President salary from the legal point of view was correct, he will send his resignation the next day after the decision has been announced but if the court decides that the whole

procedure was wrong and not fully legal, the President and Vice-President for Finances should resign and then he will also leave ETTU because he feels guilty for not having done enough from the beginning to prevent these wrongdoings.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina expressed his dissatisfaction that the President uses the official ETTU INFO to attack an opponent with wrong arguments and said that the former EB did not leave ETTU with a bad financial situation and requested the sources of the results.

The delegate from Luxembourg did not agree with the President's statement in the last info which said that the EB had to repair the very significant financial damage that was left from the former EB. He stated that the former EB left ETTU in 2013 with 600.000 euros which is far away from a financial damage and added the services and competitions that had been added for the national Associations. He asked the President to revoke from this statement as otherwise he has to vote against the release of the whole EB.

The delegate from Slovenia asked the President about the sources used by saying that there was a significant financial damage and did not agree to limit the time of speeches.

Dr. Kahn asked why there is no report from the Medical Official. The President apologised as this report has not been received.

All reports presented to the Congress were accepted.

The President gave the word to the ITTF President who welcomed the Congress delegates to the Championships in Alicante, thanked the hosts and also thanked the organisers of the EYC in Cluj for the organisation of the Championships and the ITTF Forum. Mr. Weikert focused on the ETTU situation and reminded on the core values of table tennis; clean, fair, open and transparent which is also important for the sponsors and reason for their support. He asked to stop the non-fruitful discussions as otherwise ITTF has to consider a new Continental governing structure.

g) Consideration of the Financial Statement 2017

The Secretary General presented the audited Financial Statements for the year 2017 as well as the Balance Sheet on 31st December 2017.

The delegate from Macedonia asked why the report has been only reviewed from the Audit and not audited.

The delegate from Luxembourg said that the accounts have been reviewed and not audited and that figures presented were different from the figures on the table, the 60.000 euros for President's salary have been only showed on the screen and not on the balance sheet and under these conditions he shall not accept these financial statements.

The President postponed the item until the Vice-President for Finances has returned.

The delegate from Slovenia asked the ITTF President to mediate in this affair. He cannot understand that 10% of the budget could not be explained. As confidence has been lost, a proposal for new elections is needed.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina said that he received no answer on his previous request and said that the financial statement was not well prepared. In the past, the former Vice-President for Finances had spent many hours to well prepare it.

The President pointed out that it is not correct to attack the Vice-President for Finances not being present.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina replied that he did not intend to attack the Vice-President for Finances.

The delegate from Jersey said that the Vice-President for Finances should have the chance to answer these questions if she can come in later and if not, to give the EB time to discuss this and provide the Congress with answers. He recommended to adjourn this matter for the time being and come back to it later.

The President agreed to the recommendation to adjourn and come back to it later.

After the break the Secretary General answered on the question regarding the review of the financial statement and the President's allowance.

The delegate from Luxembourg suggested to show in future the financial figures, the same amounts and lines than in the documents provided.

The Congress approved the financial accounts for the year 2017.

h) Consideration of the report from the Auditor

The auditor's report is included in the annex 1.

i) Release (Discharge) to the Executive Board

The delegate from Luxembourg asked the President to revoke from his statement in the INFO.

The President withdrew his INFO statement.

The Congress granted release to the Executive Board for the work done by them since the Congress in 2017 in Luxembourg (LUX).

j) Appointment of Audit Commission

The nominated candidates Mr. Keith Thomas (ENG), Mr. Camille Gonderinger (LUX) and Mr. Goran Tilovski (MKD) have been adopted by the Congress to the ETTU Audit Commission.

k) Consideration of propositions

Proposition 1: B.10.3 International Eligibility

The delegate from Luxembourg proposed to accept the proposition 1 but to keep the exception for Youth events.

The request from Luxembourg was accepted and the regulation proposal retained its original text for the youth events.

Proposition 1 was unanimously adopted.

Proposition 2: Regulation CI: European Championships (Individual events) CI.7 Entries

Proposition 2 was unanimously adopted.

Proposition 3: Regulation CI: European Championships (Individual Events) CI.4 Date and Duration (valid from 1.1.2020)

Proposition 3 was adopted by majority (2 votes against)

Proposition 4: Regulation CT: European Championships (Team Events) CT.5.3 Date and Duration (valid from 1.1.2020)

Proposition 4 was adopted by majority (2 votes against)

Proposition 5: Regulation H: Europe Top 16 Cup H.4 Qualification

Proposition 5 was adopted by majority (1 vote against, 1 abstention)

Proposition 6: Regulation U: European Under 21 Championships U.3 Qualification

Proposition 6 was unanimously adopted.

Mrs Ahlert asked the Congress to give permission for the 2019 Under 21 Championships to invite the highest ranked 48 men and 48 women players derived from the December 2018 European Under 21 ranking lists with a maximum of 3 men and 3 women players from a member Association and to grant to the EB in cooperation with the ETTU Youth and Ranking Committees up to 8 men and 8 women a wildcard, in order to ensure the best players will participate. The Congress accepted the proposal.

Propositions from member Associations

The President informed that the order of the propositions in the Congress booklet is Association alphabetical but that the German proposition will be taken first.

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina did not agree on the order of the propositions.

The President replied that it is for the Chair to decide the order of the propositions.

The delegate from Germany proposed as the figures from 2017 were confirmed by the Congress, the accounts from 2013 to 2017 have been all confirmed and confirmation for 2018 may be given at the next Ordinary Congress.

The delegate from England addressed to the Congress asking to accept the detailed explanation as given by the Secretary General at the last Congress. She added that the financial situation is good and asked for confidence in the EB and to vote in favour.

The delegate from Slovenia thanked for his proposal support from the previous Congress. He asked why the order of the propositions was changed. He asked if retroactive voting has a legal basis and wished not to mix the Congress in this situation. He said being in favour of the words from the ITTF President in creating a new management for ETTU. He wished to also concentrate on table tennis. He recommended the Congress to vote against the German proposal for something which was not put in the budget.

The President replied that it is not correct that it was not in the budget.

The delegate from Germany asked the delegate from Slovenia if he has not just a few minutes before confirmed the 2017 budget which include also the President's allowance.

The delegate from Jersey said being supportive of the German proposition. He added being satisfied with the Secretary General's full report from Halmstad and being satisfied with the work carried out by the then ITTF President Adham Sharara helped by Hans-Wilhelm Gäb to find a new President in 2013 and that both were acting in the best interest of ETTU in finding a good way forward for future and with the appointment of Richard Scruton who all did a good job in ETTU. He asked the Congress to support the EB and the German proposal. However the question of having a paid President or not should be debated in a next Congress.

The delegate from Hungary pointed out that the Congress need to close the issue now and become unified again and that the Congress should not go against the elected ITTF and ETTU boards, nor Germany. In 2020 will be the next possibility when there are new elections. He is in favour of all Associations and want to make their voice heard. For this they all should get together and shake hands. He added that the Hungarian TTA strongly supports the present leadership and wants to develop table tennis.

Proposition proposed by the German Association (DTTB)

The proposition from the German Association was adopted by majority (34 votes in favour, 21 votes against)

Proposition proposed by the Proposition proposed by the Danish Association (DBTU)

The delegate from Denmark added that the proposition from Denmark is more on the trust on the EB where the German proposal was more focused on the finances and asked the Congress to support it.

The proposition from the Danish Association was adopted by majority (34 votes in favour, 21 votes against)

Proposition proposed by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Association (STSBiH)

The delegate representing Bosnia-Herzegovina withdrew their proposition but added that the court claims will continue and that he will personally go against the President for defamation against him if he receives no written apology on the statement the President wrote in his INFO.

The delegate from Jersey asked Bosnia-Herzegovina and their colleagues to drop this case and to develop table tennis.

Proposition proposed by the Slovenian Federation (NTZS)

The delegate from Slovenia withdrew their proposition and added that the remuneration has not been done transparent and not in the right way but the Congress decided to give confidence to the EB. He pointed out that the remuneration was not correct displayed in the accounts. He welcomed all to the World Para Championships in Slovenia.

The President thanked and informed on the intention to work on the trust of the 21 who voted against and to keep the trust of the 34 who voted in favour. In reply to the request from Mr Bosi to the words used in the INFO, the President said that he already withdrew them on the request from Mr Gonderinger.

Proposition proposed by the Malta Association (MTTA)

The delegate from Malta gave explanations on the proposition. The Congress delegates including Steve Dainton (ITTF CEO) discussed the proposition.

The proposition from the Malta Association was adopted by majority (34 votes in favour, 12 votes against and 3 abstentions)

The propositions are attached (Annex 2).

l) Annual membership subscription

The Congress accepted the EB proposal to maintain the annual membership fee at its present level, i.e. 350 euros.

m) Budget of income and expenditure 2019

The Secretary General presented the budget of income and expenditure for the year 2019.

The delegate from Germany had a question about the European Games income for 2019 which was answered.

The budget of income and expenditure for the year 2019 has been adopted by the Congress.

The budget of income and expenditure for the year 2019 is attached (Annex 3).

n) Appointment of Honorary Member: Mr Rudolf Sporrer (AUT)

The Congress agreed to award Mr. Rudolf Sporrer (AUT) with the ETTU Honorary Membership by standing ovation and acclamation.

The ETTU President handed over to Mr. Rudolf Sporrer (AUT) a certificate and pin for his ETTU Honorary Membership.

o) Presentation of Badges of Honour

The Executive Board had awarded three persons with a Badge of Honour:

Mr. André Hartmann (LUX), Mr. Ferenc Karsai (HUN) and Mrs. Rebecca Bergfeldt (SWE).

As the recipients could not be present during the Congress, the awards will be handed over at a later date.

p) 2019 European Championships update

The French delegation made a presentation on the 2019 European Championships to be held in Nantes.

q) Miscellaneous

The President informed the Congress on the appointed Committee Chairs:

Para TT Committee: Mr. Patrick Ringel (FRA)

Technical Committee: Mr. Øivind Eriksen (NOR)

Ranking Committee: Mr. Igor Heller (NED)

Umpires and Referees Committee: Mrs. Isabelle Beumier (BEL)

Youth Committee: Mrs. Sandra Deaton (ENG)

Veterans Committee: Dr. Zdenko Kriz (SVK)

The Secretary General informed and invited the Congress to a marketing update meeting the following day.

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