

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



Minutes of the

Extraordinary ETTU CONGRESS 2015

Wednesday, 29th April 2015 at 1000h

Suzhou (CHN)

MINUTES OF THE ETTU EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS 2015 (Suzhou, China)

Minutes of the Extraordinary ETTU Congress organised during the WTTC in Suzhou (China) on the 29th April, 2015.

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),
Roman Markov (RUS), (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 (Media Official),
Igor Heller (ETTU RC), Oivind Eriksen (ETTU TC),

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

Walter Rönmark, Claude Bergeret (guests)

Excused: Veli Ozan Cakir (TUR), (ETTU Vice-President)

Delegates of the following member Associations (43) attended the Congress: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic (proxy to Slovakia), Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland (proxy to Isle of Man), Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Wales. The Associations of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Finland, Georgia, Greenland, Guernsey, Jersey, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro 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 and ITTF Vice-President Finances Petra SOERLING.

The President handed over the pins that belong to the Badge of Honour to Mr. Igor HELLER (NED),
Dr. Zdenko KRIZ (SVK), Mr. Francesco SCIANNIMANICO (ITA) and Mr. Rudolf SPORRER (AUT).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda has been adopted.

3. President's Report

The President congratulated the Chinese TTA for a well organised WTTC. He reported about the Top 16 Cup in Baku, congratulated and thanked the Azerbaijan TTF for having organised that event at a very high level. The Congress then applauded.

The President informed about the ETTU Hall of Fame and its Chair Radivoj Hudetz. A postal ballot with new proposed regulations for the next season of the European Club Competitions men and women will be sent to the member Associations.

4. Remarks of the Vice President for Finances

The Vice-President for Finances reported about the financial result for 2014, repeated what was already pointed out in Lisbon, that the deficit for 2014 would become bigger.

ETTU had managed to get Title Sponsors for the Top 16 Cup, the European Championships including live TV coverage on Eurosport. She thanked TMS, tsmg and Tibhar for their support and the Associations for having paid their membership fees more in time.

Administration costs were reduced and the ETTU office in Luxembourg is rented free of charge for the next 10 years. The daily allowance for the EB members has been reduced by 40%. ETTU's reserves at the bank are again back on +400.000 euros.

Mrs. Darfelt notified the delegates that due to an important family obligation, she cannot come to Ekaterinburg to present the financial accounts but that instead, it will be presented on her behalf by the Secretary General.

5. Development Program 2015 update

The Deputy President Ivo-Goran MUNIVRANA updated the Congress on ETTU's Development Program.

Main focus was the development of players and ETTU divided it into 2 branches; Talent Identification and Selection (TIS) with young players aged 11 – 13 years and the under 21 to improve their qualities. The Development Manager organised TIS camps and finally a group of 40 best youth players were invited to attend the final selection camp in Saarbrücken (GER) where the best 11 were selected to the Program. In total 25 associations participated in the Program.

The same Program will continue in 2015 with new players.

Mr. Munivrana took the opportunity to thank the Portuguese TTF for their hospitality given to this group of players in April 2015.

ITTF started in 2015 its new cycle of Hopes selection and 6 out of the 11 selected players were invited to participate in the ITTF Hopes camp in Shanghai (3 boys and 3 girls) and ETTU received a further chance to nominate 1 more boy and girl for that camp. Therefore one more camp was organised in Luxembourg to select the additional boy and girl. The same Program will continue in 2015 with new players. The Under 21 Program (U21) could not be delivered in full as most Associations have had already their own Program and due to ETTU's financial restrictions. However a certain amount to cover expenses for certain actions was provided to some 15 players.

Mr. Munivrana pointed out that the U21 Program is not cancelled but postponed and that ETTU will try to organise one camp for juniors before the World Junior Championships.

He informed that the education of coaches has not been forgotten and that a special education course for female coaches will be organised.

ETTU started with higher education of coaches organised in the University of Split (CRO) with some help from ITTF.

Mr. Munivrana asked the national Associations to communicate to ETTU their ideas on the development for national Associations.

The delegate from Netherlands said being satisfied with the Development Manager's work but wished to know the dates of these camps earlier in order to arrange their agenda.

6. The Future of European Championships and other ETTU Events from 2016

ETTU Vice Presidents Heike AHLERT and Sonja GREFBERG presented the preliminary proposals for the 2017 European Championships Team Qualifications, European Championships 2016, 2017 and Under 21.

The presentations came as an outcome of a one year study made by a Committee of experts: Richard SCRUTON, Heike AHLERT, Sonja GREFBERG, Mikael ANDERSON, Oivind ERIKSEN, Roman PLESE and Dirk SCHIMMELPFENNIG. President Ronald KRAMER and Deputy President Ivo-Goran MUNIVRANA also attended the meetings.

The EB encouraged the Associations to give their comments to the proposals with the different options. ETTU will send a questionnaire to its member Associations. The replies will be taken into consideration by the EB when preparing the draft regulations for the next Ordinary Congress in Ekaterinburg. A postal ballot for changes which needs to come into force for the 2015 European Championships will be sent to the member Associations.

The qualification format giving 30 Associations, according to final positions at EC 2015, the opportunity to qualify for the EC 2017 Championships Division. The host Association will be automatically seeded in the Championships Division. Remaining Associations will have the opportunity to qualify for the EC 2017 Challenge Division with 1 place available. The right to play in the Championships Division will have top 29 teams from 2015 final team rankings, plus the winner of the Standard Division. Matches will start on January 2016 and shall be completed by June 2017.

One of the options for the European Team Championships 2017 is to have the same system as 2014 Lisbon with 5 days event – Men's Teams and Women's Teams, 16 teams in the Championships Division, 16 teams in the Challenge Division and all remaining teams in the Standard Division. As a consequence, promotion and relegation have to be cancelled due to the team qualifications.

The Working Group presented the Proposal of the 2016 European Championships to be held in Budapest (HUN) from 18th to 23rd October (6 days). 2016 European Championships will consist of Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. In singles, Associations will be able to enter players according to the results of the 2015 EC team event with a maximum number of 167 players.

According to the proposal the Competition Format at the first U21 European Championships will have a "lighter" look. The inaugural Championships will be a 3 days event – with Men's singles, Women's singles with 56 male and 56 female players according to the ETTU U21 ranking list (or 55 + 1 host). It will consist of a maximum of 3 male and 3 female players per Association.

7. International Eligibility update

No decision on players' eligibility was taken as ETTU will await ITTF's decision before changes will be proposed. The IOC, ITTF and ETTU should preferably have one and the same rule.

8. European Table Tennis Hall of Fame

The President reported about the Hall of Fame progress and gave the word to the Chair. Mr. Hudetz informed that there will be a virtual Hall of Fame and all relevant information written on the leaflet which was distributed to the delegates.

Mr. Kramer added that a presentation will be done in Ekaterinburg.

9. Any other business

The delegate from Greece appreciated the efforts of the President for the new spirit inside ETTU but wanted ETTU and ITTF ruling on players' transfers from one country to another country and wished a working group to be created on that matter.

The delegate from Netherlands pointed out that players becoming injured during the European Games in Baku cannot be replaced and suggested ETTU to intervene so that such replacements can be allowed. The delegate from Germany supported the request.

The delegate from Portugal spoke about the necessity for ETTU and ITTF to implement dates for competitions so that the national leagues cannot decide to have matches during these periods.

The delegate from Switzerland congratulated the President for his and the ETTU EB's work done.

The delegate from Cyprus asked on how to qualify for the 2016 World Championships which is through participation of the 2015 European Championships.

The delegate from Latvia spoke about their proposal they made to ITTF.

10. Closure

In closing, the President concluded that ETTU is very much on the right track for the future and thanked the delegates for their constructive contribution which were all done in a well developing team spirit in ETTU.
