

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



Minutes of the

Extraordinary ETTU CONGRESS 2016

Wednesday, 02nd March 2016 at 1400h

Kuala Lumpur (MAS)

MINUTES OF THE ETTU EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS 2016 (Kuala Lumpur, MAS)

Minutes of the Extraordinary ETTU Congress organised during the Perfect 2016 WTTC in Kuala Lumpur (MAS) on the 2nd March, 2016.

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 (ETTU Media Official), Igor Heller (ETTU RC), Oivind Eriksen (ETTU TC),
Georgios Seliniotakis (ETTU PTT), Zita Pidl (ETTU Project Coordinator)

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

Walter Rönmark, Claude Bergeret, Radivoj Hudetz, Eberhard Schöler, Diane Schöler, Goran Munivrana (guests)

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

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

The President congratulated Hungary for being awarded the organisation of the 2019 World Table Tennis Championships, Sandra Deaton and Andreas Georgiou for their appointments to the ITTF Nominations Committee, the Associations of France, Germany, Portugal and Russia for the ITTF awards and Mr. Zdenko Kriz and Dr. Jean-François Kahn for their ITTF merit awards.

The Executive Board will meet after the Congress to make a decision on the 2017 Top 16 Cup organiser. The President thanked Luxembourg and France for their hard work and good presentations.

The President handed over the pin and certificate to Mr. Radivoj Hudetz who has been appointed ETTU Honorary Member at the previous ETTU Congress.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. President's Report

State of the European Table Tennis Union: Achievements since 2013

The President reflected on the past period and pointed out that relations with ITTF, IOC, national Associations and other Continents, sponsors and suppliers have been restored since 2013 when the new Executive Board started to work.

He stated ETTU having excellent relations with its members, referees, umpires and players, also ETTU's financial situation became much better and the overall atmosphere is very good. ETTU being possibly one of the most transparent organisation in sports, improved the professional staff and became an active and professional organisation.

4. Executive Board updates

a 2015 Budget – Vice President for Finances Dorte Darfelt

The Vice-President for Finances reported about the financial result for 2015, and after 5 years of deficit results a surplus of 139.000 Euros was achieved. She thanked the President, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General for all their efforts. Mrs. Darfelt explained the different positions.

She informed the Congress that the EB decided to save a part of that surplus and that a part, 20.000 Euros, goes to the development area, an administrative help will be hired for the Development Manager and with the growing ETTU activities, the Secretariat will need a further employee for part time (20.000 Euros per year), for the ETTU 60th anniversary and for representation (10.000 – 15.000 Euros). The Budget for 2016 is as for 2015 a break even budget but is too early for providing with an update. The Vice-President for Finances reminded that 14 national Associations have unpaid invoices of a total of 38.000 Euros.

The Delegate from Germany thanked the EB for the financial result and asked about the amount for the anniversary celebration.

The President replied that it is not a big amount that ETTU will spend and explained the need to invest in order to promote ETTU.

The Vice-President for Finances said that 15.000 Euros are foreseen for the anniversary.

b 2016 Development Program – Deputy President Ivo-Goran Munivrana

The Deputy President presented the report of the ETTU Development program. Mr. Munivrana informed that the main focus is the development of players and coaches but also support of the national Associations.

In 2014, players from 25 countries participated in Eurotalents; 11 players at age 11-12 were selected. In 2015 the number of participating countries increased to 32 and 427 players have been evaluated, 9 selected to the Eurotalents program. In 2015, 54 coaches attended the camps and received additional education. The Europe team had a very successful appearance at the ITTF World Cadet Challenge in Sharm el Sheikh, winning 9 medals, 2 gold. He thanked Csilla Batorfi and Mark Closset for their diligent work. A successful womens' coaching conference in Schwechat was organised with 22 female coaches from 17 countries and a Chinese lecturer.

The University Education program for coaches and players started in Split University with 12 students enrolled. The 'under 21 program' was aborted as it proved to be not efficient and will be replaced by a new under 18 program.

In 2016, a Europe Hopes camp will be organised in Luxembourg - selection of players for 2016 ITTF Hopes Week & Challenge.

2 pre-selection camps in Stockerau (AUT) and Kiskunfélegyháza (HUN) will be held together with monitoring at the Eurominichamps in Schiltigheim (FRA) to make a new selection of players 11-12 years.

ETTU will organise a Eurotalents selection camp in Otočec (SLO), 2 Development camps for the 23 selected players (11 + 9 + 3 Hopes), 1-2 Development camps for 23 selected players plus the new selected in 2016, an additional Development Program for top players in age of 15–16 who missed the ETTU Eurotalents program (new U18 starts January 2017).

ETTU will organise another Women's Coaches Seminar in May / June with Csilla Bátorfi (HUN) and Tamara Boros (CRO) - practical and theoretical lessons, a Coaching Conference in Prague (CZE) to be confirmed in October, Global University Education Program for coaches and players at Split University in English language starting October 2016.

In 2016, ETTU's assistance to national Associations will comprise a coaching seminar in February in Portugal, 2 coaching seminars in Greece, a coaching seminar in Cyprus plus a national cadet camp and a coaching seminar in Finland (to be confirmed).

For the 2017-2020 development program ETTU planned a full time ETTU Development Manager and a part time assistant, to start with a new under 18 Development Program and to enlarge the Program "Assistance to national Associations".

The Deputy President thanked Neven Cegnar for his great contribution.

The delegate from Hungary made a remark about the coaching seminar in Hungary which was a great success and pointed out the importance to have coaching seminars organised more frequently.

The Deputy President apologised and gave his congratulations to Hungary for the great organisation of the seminar.

The delegate from Luxembourg gave further information about the Chinese TT College in Luxembourg and informed about the training camps and coaching seminars held there and thanked all national Associations who had sent participants.

The Deputy President pointed out that many of ETTU camps are held in Luxembourg due to the excellent conditions provided by the Luxembourg TTF.

The delegate from Denmark thanked for the nice presentation. He wished not using all the Chinese in the ETTU Development Program but keep it more European and find Europe's own way. He spoke about the Hot Spot centre in Denmark.

The Deputy President agreed.

c European Championships Qualification – Vice President Heike Ahlert

ETTU Vice-President Heike Ahlert updated the delegates with the European Championships 2017 Team Qualification system details. As the host of the Championships could be one of the qualifiers and in that case the men and women teams of the host Association will not play the qualifications. In this special case a substitute will replace the host Association.

The hosts for the Challenge Qualification Division are Wales for Men's Group L with Ireland, Norway, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Iceland and Wales. Luxembourg will host two Groups: Men's Group K with Luxembourg, Scotland, Malta, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina; Women's Group L with Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Albania.

The delegate from Netherlands asked if every Association can use their own equipment (balls, tables etc).

Mrs. Ahlert replied that they can.

The delegate from Portugal added to the Netherlands request if the same is valid for the floor.

Mrs. Ahlert confirmed that ITTF approved floor has to be used at the Championships Division and for the Challenge Division it is recommended to have an ITTF approved floor.

The delegate from Hungary proposed to work together for increasing the marketing income.

The delegate from England asked about the live streaming of the matches.

Mr. Scruton replied that ETTU had talked to tsmg about it and that ETTU will come back to it at a later moment.

The delegate from Belgium asked if there is a global specification available on what is required for an organisation to apply.

Mrs. Ahlert replied that everything necessary to apply is laid down in the directives.

Mrs. Ahlert updated on the European Olympic Singles Qualification Tournament and informed EOSQ players list of participation will be published on the 9th March.

d Club Competitions – Secretary General Richard Scruton

The Secretary General updated the delegates about the ETTU club competitions. He mentioned the success of the Champions League Women having been increased to 12 teams participating and reported about the memorable match Linz v Metz which was won by Linz by 1 point. He thanked the Deputy Secretary General, being the administrator of the club competitions, for his work and encouraged all Associations speaking to their clubs to enter the club competitions. The Secretary General pointed out that his report will mainly concentrate on the Champions League Men, that a Management Board was established with 6 members; 2 representatives from ETTU (Nikolas Endal and Pierre Kass), 2 from tsmg (Philipp Möhring and Bianka Stak) and 2 representatives from the clubs (Loic Bréhu (Chartres – FRA) and Andreas Preuss (Düsseldorf – GER)). The 2 club representatives have been nominated by the 16 participating TTCL clubs.

A first TTCL MB meeting is scheduled for April 2016 with the task to improve the TTCLM, in close co-operation with the national Associations, raising the level of the clubs, media and engage with fans. tsmg strongly advised ETTU to play mid week matches for media reasons which has been accepted by the ETTU EB.

As the ITTF calendar was not yet received, ETTU was unable to confirm the club competitions dates. Mr. Scruton could however inform that the TTCL season 2016-2017 will start in October and end in April / May, so to shorten the period.

In addition a club license will be established.

Mr. Scruton pointed out the need to change the existing regulations for the coming season by a postal ballot and asked the delegates to support the new regulations.

The delegate from Sweden asked about the costs starting with the semi final matches.

Mr. Scruton said that ETTU had already agreed to assist the clubs in the current season reaching the semi finals with A-boards and are thinking on how to assist clubs for the coming season, which will be one of the main tasks for the Management Board.

The delegate from France questioned about the club license.

Mr. Scruton explained the club license being a guarantee that clubs can comply with the regulations and directives.

5. State of the European Table Tennis Union: The Challenges Ahead 2016-2020 Where do we go after 2016 Congress (Budapest HUN)?

Germany: proposed a 10 days preparation time before a match date
Kramer: it is a calendar problem that is full

Hungary: the structure helps to understand what we are doing, and helps on national level as well. Two ideas: 1. to share the best national practices with other Associations, 2. marketing brochures, products to sell to potential sponsors. Examples, best practices what can be distributed. Maybe ideas, maybe tools, maybe examples.

Scruton: “Share best practices” – we should do very soon. ETTU needs to enter into a marketing agreement with ITTF. A marketing workshop to be held probably in Budapest, with the aim of assisting Associations how to market TT events.

Hungary: 1. national video distribution to the media, 2. to create a common image on ETTU that all Associations can use.

England: 2 years ago the Women’s Committee was established – it was important to increase female participation. ETTU having to learn from other nations having a good female participation.

Kramer: noted and promised to come back on the issue in Budapest.

Munivrana: possibility to make entry fees for women lower, but not to form a Committee. Better to act in that way, to find a practical way to help instead of keeping it theoretical.

Austria: it should be called “Gender Equality Committee”. The delegate expressed satisfaction about the approach of ETTU in general, many things have changed and improved. Both EB and staff are good but could be nice to enlarge the number of staff.

Having no calendar ready for the coming year is unacceptable. It should be available at least one year in advance, better two. A strong effort is needed to reach a better professional approach in this field.

Kramer: we are in the hands of ITTF and in spite of strong pushing, nothing happened and indeed it is very unprofessional.

Sweden: excitement is important, matches that count are important; we shall create stars like they do in other sports. We shall focus on some persons and sell our matches better. Athletics are trying to make stars.

Kramer: Correct, these are the issues. Good point.

Slovenia: There are some stars in Table Tennis; maybe we should use more the opinion of those who are not so much connected to our sport. They ask to make the game shorter, more exciting, not to have matches over 5 hours. The role of umpires being old fashioned and are influencing too much. They shall not act like stars; they shall just officiate in a fair way. Otherwise the players are afraid of umpires.

Germany: Surprised about Slovenia’s delegate picture of umpires. They are there to help the sport. If the rules are not right, we have to change the rules and not the umpires.

Romania: Media makes stars, so we need more media appearance. To have common dates in Europe for national championships.

Kramer: Good point, well taken.

France: agreed with Romania.

Conclusion by the President: ETTU will use the comments for future work.

6. Any other business

The delegate from Slovakia asked whether the Turkish organisers can secure the participants of the EOSQ.

Mr. Kramer said the ETTU has raised this issue in Turkey some weeks ago and the Turkish Ministry will ensure special security during the tournament. A security fence surrounds the venue and other measures are being taken. It is not possible to guarantee everything, but ETTU remains confident.

The delegate from Turkey replied that it is the most important issue and serious measures have been taken already.

7. Closure

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