

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING,
Noordwijk (NED)
Saturday 11th March 2017
Sunday 12th March 2017**

Present:

Ronald Kramer (NED), (President)
Ivo-Goran Munivrana (CRO), (Deputy President)
Dorte Darfelt (DEN), (Vice-President for Finances)
Heike Ahlert (GER), (Vice-President)
Nikolas Endal (CZE), (Vice-President)
Sonja Grefberg (FIN), (Vice-President)
Pedro Moura (POR), (Vice-President)
Cristinel Romanescu (ROU), (Vice-President)
Richard Scruton (Secretary General)
Pierre Kass (Deputy Secretary General)

Excused:

Petr Korbel (CZE), (co-opted EB member)

Welcome of the President

The President welcomed the Executive Board members.

Greetings were received from the mayor of Noordwijk. The President informed that Noordwijk is European city of sport 2017 and an extra budget for sports and meetings such as the ETTU EB meeting were made available so ETTU will not have to cover the full cost. The dinner on Saturday will be paid by the city of Noordwijk.

The President pointed out the 4 main issues on the agenda:

- ITTF elections
- follow up of discussion on the president's remuneration, renamed to the EB remuneration
- the ITTF World Ranking list
- the report of the events group

The Deputy President stated that on item 3, U21 in Sochi and the Top 16 Cup in Antibes are missing and that on item 5 it should be called President's remuneration and not EB remuneration. The President accepted to call it the President's and EB allowances.

1. Adoption of the agenda:

Mrs Darfelt wanted to start with Para TT. The agenda was agreed.

2. Minutes of the meeting in Luxembourg (16.12.2016., 17.12.2016.):

The minutes of the meetings in Luxembourg were discussed and adopted after some amendments.

3. Report of President, Deputy President and Vice-Presidents:

- *Announcement of candidacy of JM Saive, Brussels BEL (RK)*

The President said that both candidates from Europe will be supported by ETTU.

- *Visit to ECQ ROU v NED, Bucharest ROU (RK)*

The President was invited for the European Qualifiers in Romania and complimented Romania for the nice event which was held and recorded live in a TV studio.

- *Visit to Future TT in Europe meeting, Köln GER (PK)*

The Deputy Secretary General reported about the meeting held on the 20th January 2017. The group came to the conclusion to start with a coaches' platform / association. The next meeting will take place in Luxembourg (invited by LUNEX University).

The Deputy President recommended not to invest further time into it.

- *Europe Top 16 Cup Antibes*

The President reported about a well organised event. Local officials were happy to have TT events in future.

- *U21 European Championships Sochi*

The President reported about a well organised event.

It was noted that a number of persons present in Sochi were thinking it was a pity that the French TTF did not take part. The Deputy President added that coaches are wishing ETTU to continue with the U21 Championships. The President thanked the Secretary General as he was the first to mention the need of such an event.

- *Visit to EU Sports Forum, St Julian's MLT (RK)*

The President reported about the EU Sports Forum in Malta. He had time to speak with the EOC acting President and lobbied to get TT to the European Games Minsk sports program.

- *Visit to England National Championships, Nottingham ENG (RK)*

The President was invited and attended the national Championships in England. He congratulated the English Association for a professional organised event.

Mrs. Ahlert wants ETTU to fix the date for the national Championships. The item will be added for discussion to the ETTU Extraordinary Congress meeting in Düsseldorf.

- *Security situation in Turkey*

The EB had decided that matches need to go on in Turkey. Mr. Endal informed about a situation where a Czech national coach was held for an hour at the airport and was forced to sign a document in Turkish language.

- *Correspondence sent to Michael Maze*

Michael Maze had not reacted to the reminder. He will not receive further accreditation to ETTU events.

- *Correspondence from Eberhard Schöler, SCI President*

The President informed about the SCI President's correspondence about free hospitality for SCI members at the European Championships.

4. ITTF:

- Promotions and Planning (World Championships) working group

The President informed about an extra meeting planned on April 11th in Shanghai and a visit to the Shanghai sports museum on the 12th.

- Elections 2017

The President spoke about this discussion in December in Luxembourg and asked the mandate from the EB on how to continue. After the EB informed to support Mr. Weikert, Mr. Saive then proposed his candidacy. The President said the EB will support both European candidates.

Both candidates will be invited to the ETTU Extraordinary Congress.

- Nomination for Junior Continental Commissioner and Nomination for Technical Continental Commissioner

Mrs. Grefberg is currently Europe's Technical Commissioner and Mrs. Ahlert Junior Commissioner. Mrs. Ahlert wanted to continue and the EB agreed. Mrs. Grefberg said there has been no communication in the Technical Commission. She however wanted to continue and the EB agreed.

The EB decided to put forward Mrs. Heike Ahlert as Junior Commissioner and Mrs. Sonja Grefberg as Technical Commissioner.

- Board of Directors

The Secretary General informed about the meeting scheduled for European representatives on Monday 29th May at 1600 in Düsseldorf. ETTU elects the European representatives during the ETTU Congress but the national Associations may nominate other BoD candidates to ITTF.

The President said the current and new candidates shall be invited. The President pointed out that this nomination procedure must change in future.

- Extraordinary Congress

Nil

- Düsseldorf travel, accreditation and hospitality

ETTU EB members will arrive Sunday 28th May and leave Sunday 4th June.

Accommodation registration shall be done through their national Association.

BoD members will not need to enter via their NA. ETTU EB members not being BoD members will be reimbursed by ETTU.

- Dinner with ATTU

The dinner with ATTU guests will be held on Wednesday 31st May.

5. ETTU Extraordinary Congress (30.5.2017.):

The proposed agenda was agreed.

Mr. Munivrana said that the constitutional changes item is not included in the agenda.

Mr. Kramer proposed not to have the discussion at the extraordinary Congress.

Mrs. Ahlert proposed to include it in the next info but not to discuss at the extraordinary Congress. Mr. Munivrana agreed but the EB needs to be given a timeline. Mr. Kramer will say that there is a working group starting on the constitutional changes. The Secretary General suggested to get the working group together for a 2 days' meeting rather than starting communication by email. The group will further include Matthias Vatheuer and Richard Scruton.

- Presentations

Mrs. Ahlert will make a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Moura asked to include the national Championships date in the presentation. He also wanted to have in written that minimum 10 days before ETTC and WTTC there shall be no competition held.

- Executive Board remuneration/allowance

The President apologised for a possible mistake and said that this discussion should have taken place a year ago. He also discovered that he had left the December meeting too early: he should have informed the EB members (in particular the newly elected) of the history and his view first. The EB had decided on how the President shall make his invoices (25 days at €200 p.d.). The President explained that is a matter of professionalising ETTU and that all EB members should receive a higher allowance for the valuable time they are spending for ETTU. The President proposed to increase the daily allowance to 150 euros for the DP and VPs.

Mrs. Darfelt said that she is ok with it due to ETTU's financial situation. The President said he can and will not claim a further daily allowance because of the new basis for his invoices.

Mr. Munivrana was against this raise stating it is a matter of principle.

Mr. Endal said that 150 euros daily allowance is high and proposed 100 euros.
Mr. Moura wished to have this as clean as possible and want that people know about it.

Mr. Munivrana stated as ETTU is not a private company the staff remunerations should be clearly shown to all EB members.

The EB decided to set the daily allowance to 100 euros for the Deputy President and Vice Presidents with effect from March 1st, 2017 and confirmed € 200 for the President.

The whole EB allowance issue will be discussed in the newly formed constitutional review working group.

6. Financial Matters:

- Accounts 2016

The Vice President for Finances informed about the 2016 financial result.

The President informed about negotiations with the Asian company Seamaster and about professional marketing support by Jonny Cowan from ITTF.

- Member Association Invoices 2016

The Vice President for Finances informed that 41 national Associations paid in full their annual invoice for 2016.

She mentioned that Portugal owing 10.000 euros will get the money deduced from their invoice of the next EYC in Guimarães (POR).

- Budget 2017

Nil

- Outstanding payments

Nil

7. Development:

- Programme 2017

Mr. Munivrana informed that everything has been announced on the ETTU website.

The Development calendar is available on the website.

- Eurotalents

22 names are on the Eurotalents list from previous years, this number may decrease.

- 18 and under

ETTU received notice from Japan that they will come to Europe shortly before the WJC in Riva del Garda. Mr. Cegnar looked for an alternative and received confirmation from Singapore with good facilities. Mr. Cegnar is still in negotiations with the Chinese TTA.

- Coach Education

A Coaching Conference has been arranged to be held in Warsaw (POL) from 8-10 October with Alan Cooke (tbc) as lecturer.

- Coach Network, Development Coordinators

No new entries were received. Mrs. Ahlert asked to make a reminder in the next info including mentioning those who have already replied.

- Member Association 2017 support

11 applications have been received and 7 were accepted. Israel was denied a camp due high travel costs but they received support for 2 of their players to attend ETTU camps.

- World Cadet Challenge (Suva, FIJ)

High expenses and no daily flights to Fiji.

- University Degree Study Program in Sports Coaching

Mr. Munivrana informed about the program which is running well and 15-20 people will pass the exams.

The Deputy President informed about a new women's coaching seminar arranged to be held in Zagreb under good and cheap conditions on 7-9 May. Lecturers will be Timina Elena with the subject "defensive concept of players" and Li Jiao with the subject "returning service - tactics".

1 female coach from each national Association will be supported by ETTU.

Mr. Munivrana remembered Anders Johannsson who passed away. He was the main lecturer at the 2016 coaching conference in Prague.

8. Executive Board evaluation:

- Expert Panels/Working Groups

The Secretary General proposed having a meeting in Düsseldorf at the end of the WTTC.

9. Board of Justice and Board of Appeal vacancies

Mrs. Ahlert informed that DTTB might have a candidate for the ETTU BoJ.

10. Report of Secretary General: written report

The Secretary General confirmed that the Athletes Commission' election will be held during the 2017 ETTC. The candidates' names must be received before the July EB.

The Secretary General explained and informed the various staff salaries.

11. Club Competitions: written report

The EB approved the proposed directives for the TTCL.

The EB will decide on prize money allocation for the TTCL during its EB meeting in Düsseldorf.

12. Events:

- Events Working Group meeting, Frankfurt GER, 24th-25th February

Mrs. Ahlert reported about the events working group meeting in Frankfurt.

The EWG wants to have an open discussion at the extraordinary Congress in Düsseldorf. Mrs. Ahlert will do a presentation containing 3 main topics:

- 1 future of Team ETTC
- 2 future of Olympic Qualification
- 3 European Games

1 future of Team ETTC. The EWG does not want to keep the present system with 3 divisions but wishes to only have 1 division (Championships Division) with 16 or 24 teams. Ranking points are no more given for the Championships in the new ITTF ranking system. The qualification for the final stage shall no more be called qualification but European Championships. Different options: either the same qualification system as currently but not recommended as the EWG wants to give all the theoretical chance to be qualified for the ETTC final stage. Or a qualification in 2 levels. The EWG wants every team to go through the qualification except for the host teams. Mrs. Ahlert pointed out how the players Galia Dvorak and Adrian Crisan plus Vladimir Grigoriev gave added value to the meeting. She asked the EB's agreement to continue in the above mentioned' format direction to finally have it proposed to the Congress.

Mr. Endal wished to have 24 teams qualifying for the ETTC. Mrs. Ahlert replied that with 24 teams, the Championships would last 1 day longer and that the qualification than would become more difficult.

Mr. Munivrana said that 16 teams would be the best for quality, media etc but agrees with Mr. Endal about 24 teams qualifying and that the qualification cannot be considered as the European Championships.

Mr. Romanescu said that home matches are very important and wishes to have more than the 3 home matches. Mr. Munivrana said the reason to only have 3 teams per group being the full calendar. He was not satisfied that no ranking points shall be counted for the Team Championships. Mr. Moura said this proposition (RP) comes from the top players.

The EB further discussed on the ranking system and a Continental qualification for the World Championships.

2 future of Olympic Qualification. The EWG was of the opinion that the last qualification system was not very good. The majority of the EWG wished to have no qualification through the World ranking but every player to qualify through an event. Minimum 2 events are needed. The European Games and a special qualification tournament for the Olympics. Maximum 2 players per NA should play the qualification. This will be only possible if ITTF agrees to the proposal not to qualify through ranking. The EB agreed to recommend to ITTF that qualification shall be through play and not ranking.

3 European Games. The EWG discussed the inclusion of the Continental Championships (ETTC) into the European Games. This would also be difficult to realise as participation would be possible only for European National Olympic Committees and not all ETTU member Associations could participate. The EWG further wished to include the mixed doubles event. Both singles finalists shall be directly qualified for the Olympic Games.

- 2016-2017 European Championships Qualification

The Secretary General informed about the UK visa issue of the Kosovan delegation for the WAL – KOS match in Cardiff WAL.

- 2017 European Under 21 Championships – Sochi, RUS

Item discussed before

- 2017 European Top 16 Cup – Antibes, FRA

Item discussed before

- 2017 European Veterans Championships – Helsingborg, SWE

The Competition Manager Dimosthenis Messinis made a second inspection visit 2 weeks ago.

- 2017 European Youth Championships – Guimarães, POR

The Secretary General said the only open issue is the flooring. Mr. Munivrana asked when to arrive so the members can start booking to save costs. Arrival on the Thursday 13th or Friday 14th. Team finals will be played on the 18th.

- 2017 European Championships – Luxembourg, LUX

The President informed that the agreement has been signed during a press conference. Gerflor will be the floor supplier.

- 2017 Europe Youth Top 10 – Worcester, ENG

An inspection visit is planned for April 10th. The Competition Manager and Secretary General will attend.

- 2017 European Women's Super Cup/Team Top 6 – Berlin, GER

The dates were fixed to the 6-7th January 2018 in Berlin.

- 2017 Asia Europe All Stars Challenge

Nil

- 2018 Youth Olympic Games European Qualification – Split, CRO

Mr. Munivrana mentioned the financial problem to organise the event if no financial support will be received.

- 2018 ETTU Calendar

The EB will receive a first draft calendar.

- 2018 European Youth Championships – Cluj-Napoca, ROU

Mr. Romanescu informed about the Championships' preparations.

- 2018 Europe Youth Top 10 – Bergen, NOR

Nil

- 2018 Europe Top 16 Cup

The Swiss TTF will soon confirm that they will come to the WTTC to make a presentation.

- 2018 European Under 21 Championships

Nil

- 2018 European Championships

Spain TTF will most probably give a presentation at the WTTC in Düsseldorf.

- 2019 European Veterans Championships – presentations by the Croatia and Hungary Associations

Following presentations by the Croatia and Hungary Associations the EB decided to award the 2019 EVC to Hungary.

- 2019 European Games – Minsk, BLR

The President will speak with Vladimir Samsonov to promote TT to be in the programme of the Games.

- Bids for other 2019 events

Some NAs showed interest to stage an event.

2020 events will be opened soon plus the 2021 EVC.

13. Marketing: written report

14. Hall of Fame:

The President informed about the next panel meeting to be held in Frankfurt on April 25th. Mr. Hudetz sent some proposals. The President informed about the need of another member to replace Mr. Gäb. Mrs. Darfelt proposed Aksel Beckmann. Richard Scruton has also been proposed.

15. Athletes Commission:

The Secretary General reported that the Athletes Commission election will take place in September during the ITTF European Championships in Luxembourg (4 athletes) and during the ITTF Para TT European Championships in Laško SLO (1 athlete).

16. Para Table Tennis:

Mrs. Darfelt reported about the meeting in February in Copenhagen. The day before that meeting she has been informed that it was decided at the December meeting of the ITTF EC to propose at the ITTF AGM to form a Para Committee instead of a Para Division. The representatives from the Continents will then no more remain members of the Para Committee. The tournament director will be replaced by ITTF professional staff. Income is coming from players paying fees but there is no financial support from ITTF, which needs to change in case the tournament director becomes a member of the professional staff.

17. 60th Anniversary:

Mrs Grefberg reported about the meeting in Luxembourg and the good offer received where the Casino sponsors 4.740 euros. There will be a 4 course dinner. The Casino provisionally booked 20 rooms for ETTU (109 euros for a single room and 129 euros for a double room including breakfast).

The invitation list contains about 500 persons.

Jonny Cowan will be the presenter, doing some interviews. Video clips and photos to be displayed. A backdrop with sponsor names/logos will be displayed where pictures can be taken. The financing of the anniversary was discussed. A book will be made as a gift to the attendees. The dinner can be reduced to 3 courses. There will be a package proposal for the supplier pool members. There will be no selling of tickets. Deadline for sponsorship is 1st May. Invitations will be send out during the first week of May.

The EB decided not to spend more than the foreseen 25.000 euros for the anniversary.

Dress code: business casual.

18. Any other business:

- ETTU proposal to ITTF EC re selection criteria for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic umpires

Blue badge umpires shall umpire minimum 1 ETTC during 3 years to be able to be nominated for the Olympic Games.

The Secretary General will do a proposal before the next meeting.

Mr. Munivrana wished the minutes to be finalised earlier.

ETTU received a request from Dimitrij Ovtcharov. The Secretary General said that it is too early as nothing was confirmed yet from ITTF.

The EB did not agree with the ITTF Ranking system. ETTU will send ITTF a letter to inform its disagreement.

19. Closure:

The President thanked the attendees for their contributions and closed the meeting.
