

## ETTU Executive Board Meeting Minutes

SC Jane Sandanski, Blvd. Asnom 1  
Skopje, MKD

- (1) Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- (2) Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- (3) Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- (4) Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Present:

Pedro Moura (POR), (Acting President)  
Heike Ahlert (GER), (Acting Deputy-President)  
Sandra Deaton (ENG), (Vice-President for Finances)  
Sonja Grefberg (FIN), (Vice-President)  
Ina Jozepsone (LAT), (Vice-President)  
Miguel Vicens (FRA), (Vice-President)  
Chiara Colantoni (ITA), (Athletes Commission Chair)  
Pierre Kass (Secretary General)  
Galia Dvorak (Deputy Secretary General)  
Alen Ivancin (Competition Manager) present items presentations  
Beatrice Romanescu (Marketing and Events Presentations Manager) present items presentations  
Andrea Bjurström (Club Competitions Manager) present 25.1.2024 item 13  
Igor Heller (Ranking Committee Chair) present 25.1.2024 item 14  
All Committee Chairs – present 27.1.2024  
All staff – present 28.1.2024

### (1) Thursday 25.1.2024

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| <b>10:00</b> | <b>1. Welcome of the Acting President</b><br>The Acting President welcomed the Executive Board members.  |
| <b>10:05</b> | <b>2. Adoption of the Agenda</b><br>The agenda has been adopted.   |
| <b>10:06</b> | <b>3. Minutes of the previous Executive Board Meeting (18.12.2023)</b><br>The minutes of the previous Executive Board Meeting have been agreed.  |
| <b>10:07</b> | <b>4. Update by the Acting President</b><br>The Acting President updated the board on the progress with ETTU's stakeholders since the last EB meeting.   |
| <b>10:30</b> | <b>5. Presentation Europe Youth Top 10 – France</b><br>A delegation from the French Table Tennis Federation made a presentation for the 2025 Europe Youth Top 10 to be held in Tours, France.                        |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>6. Presentation European Under 13 Championships – Sweden</b><br>A delegation from the Swedish Table Tennis Association made a presentation for the 2025 European Youth Championships to be held in Kosta, Sweden. |
| <b>12:30</b> | <b>Break</b>   |

- 14:30**      **7. Minutes of the 2023 Congress**  
Item postponed.
- 14:35**      **8. Finance update**  
The board was updated on the 2023 draft financial result including financial details.
- 15:00**      **9. Implementation of Strategic Plan update**  
The Deputy Secretary General presented the Impact Report of the Implementation Plan focusing on the few actions and goals that have not been completely fulfilled. The EB agreed that a comprehensive update on the Implementation Plan should be presented at the 2024 ETTU Congress in Linz, Austria.
- 15:30**      **10. EDSO European Championships**  
The Deputy Secretary General informed that ETTU had contacted the European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO) regarding their plans to organise a European Championships for the hearing impaired in 2024.
- 15:40**      **11. Update by General Secretariat**  
- **Development**  
The Deputy Secretary General informed the EB that 14 Member Associations had sent their applications to organise NAAP activities in 2024 and that 12 players, 6 girls and 6 boys have been selected to receive an ETTU scholarship in 2024.  
Ms Dvorak also informed on the positive feedback received by the European coaches from the ITTF Global Training Camp organised in December 2023 in Chengdu, China and the advanced stage of discussions for a host for the U-23 European Para Challenge in 2024.  
- **Competitions**
  - **Open applications for all 2026 and 2027 events**  
The EB decided to open the 2026 and 2027 ETTU competitions so that inspection visits and presentations can be planned in due time.
  - **Competitions update**  
Ms Grefberg reported about her attendance at the Virtual TT Challenge in Düsseldorf, Germany.
  - **New competitions**  
The EB discussed and brainstormed on implementing new competitions in future.- **Governance**
  - **Congress update**  
The EB was updated on the timelines for the 2024 ETTU Congress preparation.
  - **Staff**  
The EB was informed on the staff self-evaluations where each staff member individually met with the Vice-President Finances and with the Secretary General, including action plans.
- 16:10**      **Break**

- 16:20 12. Presentation 2024 European Olympic Singles Qualification – Türkiye**  
A delegation from the Turkish Table Tennis Federation made a presentation for the 2024 European Olympic Singles Qualification to be held in Cappadocia, Türkiye.
- 17:00 13. Europe Trophy Grand Finals host decision**  
The Club Competitions manager presented the applications received for hosting the 2024 Europe Trophy Grand Finals.  
The Executive Board confirmed the men and women Europe Trophy Grand Finals to be held in Novi Sad, Serbia from 31.05 - 02.06.2024.
- 17:15 14. European Ranking – inclusion of 2024 competitions**  
The Ranking Committee Chair presented the applications from Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway as received for inclusion of results of international events into the ETTU European Rankings.  
The EB confirmed the following events to be included into the ETTU European Rankings:
- Finland: Finlandia Open  
France: Mini Champs  
Latvia: Riga City Council Cup  
Latvia: NETU Championships  
Lithuania: Lithuania Cadet Open  
Norway: NETU Youth Championships
- 17:30 15. Closure**  
In closing, the Acting President thanked all members for their contribution.

**(2) Friday 26.1.2024**

- 16:00 Presentation European Team Championships Stage 1- Bosnia Herzegovina / Presentation 2024 European Olympic Singles Qualification - Bosnia Herzegovina**  
A delegation from the Bosnia Herzegovina Table Tennis Federation made a presentation for the 2024 European Olympic Singles Qualification and for the 2025 European Team Championships Stage 1 to be held (both) in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 17:00 Presentation 2025 Europe Top 16 Cup – Switzerland**  
A delegation from the Swiss Table Tennis Federation made a presentation for the 2025 Europe Top 16 Cup to be held in Montreux, Switzerland.
- 18:00 Presentation 2025 Europe Top 16 Cup – France**  
A delegation from the French Table Tennis Federation made a presentation for the 2025 Europe Top 16 Cup to be held in Antibes Juan-les-Pins, France.
- 19:15 Closure**  
In closing, the Acting President thanked all members for their contribution.

### **(3) Saturday 27.1.2024**

**09:45**

#### **Executive Board meeting with Committee Chairs**

The ETTU Committee Chairs had been invited to present their Committees, projects and proposal of terms of reference.

Each Committee Chair was allocated 30 minutes where they could make their presentation and have a discussion round with the EB.

The Technical Committee Chair presented the terms of reference and committee structure, including leadership roles and membership. Emphasizing the committee's duties in proposing changes for European table tennis event regulations and working closely with the ETTU Executive Board, Mr. Eriksen also highlighted the importance and the work done by the ETTU Events Working Group and as Jury Chair for senior competitions.

The Youth Committee Chair highlighted the need for a dedicated budget to support committee initiatives. Mr Buza addressed concerns about having few active members and proposed stricter criteria for future nominations, focusing on members' availability and contributions. ETTU Vice President Miguel Vicens, recommended the creation of a dedicated webpage on the ETTU site for committees to improve visibility and engagement.

The Gender Equality Committee Chair proposed creating a website section for gender equality and for all Member Associations to appoint a Gender Equality Officer for better focus and communication. Ms Louro also proposed establishing a fund to support female players during pregnancy. Furthermore, there was discussion on various subjects as searching for funding sources including potential support from the IOC, about encouraging equipment suppliers to include women in their promotional materials and for the future appointment of Committee members, in cases of equality among their qualifications, to give preference to underrepresented genders to fill vacancies.

The Coaches Committee Chair expressed strong appreciation from the Coaches community for the inclusion of the dedicated coaches' room at events. Mr Kolodziejczyk suggested organising a meeting among the chairs of all the committees to enhance collaboration and also proposed a project aimed at mentoring coaches, building on the "Stages For Coaches" initiative. This project would involve a coach/mentor visiting the mentee's work environment to provide direct guidance. Furthermore, while initially suggesting the European Championships in Linz as a venue for a coaches' meeting, it was agreed that the European Youth Championships in Malmö would be a more fitting location.

The Ranking Committee Chair shared an overview of the committee's recent work and exposed terms of reference and future initiatives. A significant focus was placed on the project of digitalising all existing paper records of match results. This endeavour aims to create a comprehensive digital archive of historical and future results and statistics. Mr Heller stressed that while this project is crucial for improving access to data and statistics, it would require a considerable investment of time and, to a lesser extent, financial resources.

The Veterans Committee Chair presented the committee's dedication to promoting table tennis emphasising the positive impact of the Veterans

Championships on the ETTU's finances and highlighted achievements such as introducing new age and disability categories to the championships. Mr Kriz praised the notable experience of the committee members but regretted that due to the challenges of using technology, their meetings are limited to in-person encounters at the European Veterans Championships, where despite facing obstacles like the pandemic they have effectively managed event organization and problem-solving with event organisers.

The Umpires and Referee Committee (URC) Chair, shared an overview of their 2023 activities and plans for 2024. In 2023, the URC focused on development programs for umpires at various levels, hosting webinars for female match officials, and launching mentorship programs to support young umpires achieving significant participation across 30 countries. Mr Thury shared the committee's plans for 2024, explaining that the aim is to continue these initiatives, including advanced training for Blue and Gold Badge Umpires and special projects to further support female and young match officials.

The Para Committee Chair shared the committee's recent efforts, with a special focus on the organisation of the Para U23 camp, held twice. Mr Arcigli presented the committee's ambitions for the future, organising the inaugural U23 Para Challenge in 2024 paving the way for the organisation of the European Para U23 Championships and the integration of European Para Championships under the ETTU's organisation.

In closing of this session, the Acting President thanked all members and Committee Chairs for their contribution.

**11.00 Presentation 2025 European Team Championships Final Stage – Croatia**

A delegation from the Croatian Table Tennis Federation made a presentation for the 2025 European Team Championships Final Stage to be held in Zadar, Croatia.

**12.00 Event hosting decisions**

The ETTU Executive Board awarded the:

- 2024 European Olympic Singles Qualification to the Bosnia Herzegovina Table Tennis Federation with the city of Sarajevo.
- 2025 Europe Youth Top 10 to the French Table Tennis Federation with the city of Tours.
- 2025 European Youth Championships to the Swedish Table Tennis Association with the city of Kosta.
- 2025 Europe Top 16 Cup to the Swiss Table Tennis Federation with the city of Montreux.
- 2025 European Team Championships Stage 1 to the Bosnia Herzegovina Table Tennis Federation with the city of Sarajevo.
- 2025 European Team Championships Final Stage to the Croatian Table Tennis Federation with the city of Zadar.

**12.30                    Break**

**13.30                    Executive Board meeting with Committee Chairs – Continuation**  
The meetings with the Committee Chairs continued until 16:30 and the reporting is laid down in the initial item.

**(4) Sunday 28.1.2024**

**10:00                    Executive Board and Staff meeting with staff presentations to the EB**  
The staff members made each a presentation to the Executive Board to present their work and projects.

**13:00                    Closure**  
In closing, the Acting Deputy President thanked all members and staff for their contribution.

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