

ETTU Executive Board Meeting

Saarlandhalle (Conference room)

An der Saarlandhalle 1

66123 Saarbrücken, Germany

(1) Sunday 31st March 2024, 10.30-12.30

(2) Monday 1st April 2024, 10.00-12.30

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 item 4 (day 1) and items 4 and 6 (day 2)

(1) Sunday 31.3.2024

10:30

1. Welcome of the Acting President and update

The Acting President welcomed the Executive Board members and updated the board on the progress with ETTU's stakeholders since the last EB meeting.

Mr Moura reported about the meeting with the Champions League clubs which was held the day before this meeting and highlighted the EHF presentation which was made to explain their route to a successful CLF4. German top clubs wish to reduce the number of matches but a number of other clubs prefer to keep a certain amount of matches. He highlighted on the importance to involve all teams in the communication.

Mr Moura reported about a meeting with the European Championships Management (ECM) and the participating Federations. Negotiations are at a serious stage with Austria and Slovenia as combined host. Table Tennis would be held in Ljubljana. Slovenia has committed but Austria is still pending where a government meeting for decision is set at 24th April 2024. Norway is also still in the race but the most probable being AUT-SLO. 7 Federations signed to take part in the 2026 ECM. For the 2030 edition, Switzerland is in discussion with ECM as potential host.

Mr Moura informed that the agreement with Sportradar is at the final stage discussion and that last concerns regarding artificial intelligence system use are to be clarified.

TT Cup had approached ETTU to resign agreement and the EB agreed to sign for a further year.

11:00 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda has been adopted.

11:01 3. Minutes of the previous Executive Board Meeting (Skopje 25-28.1.2024)

The minutes of the previous Executive Board Meeting have been agreed.

11:02 4. Events

- 2025 EVC relocation request

Following the request of the Serbia Table Tennis Federation to relocate the 2025 EVC to Novi Sad, the competition manager was sent for inspection visit. The competition manager reported about his inspection and the board was shown a video presentation.

The EB decided to accept the request to relocate the 2025 European Veterans Championships to Novi Sad under the condition that the standards for the championships are guaranteed.

Therefore the air conditioning which is currently not available must be installed and fully functioning in both halls.

A financial penalty clause of 100.000€ for non-provision of the required air condition will be added to the agreement.

- Europe Top 16 Cup

Playing system and eligibility proposal

The EB was submitted with a proposal on a new playing system and eligibility for the Europe Top 16 Cup. The EB discussed the proposal and decided the following: a 3 days-competition with 22 players per gender with a first round of qualification, no limitation by national Association, to keep the 1 guaranteed place per host per gender (to start at qualification if not seeded among Top 14) and all matches played best of 5 games.

The EB awarded the Swiss Table Tennis with the organisation of the 2026 and 2027 Europe Top 16 Cup to be played in Montreux.

- Future of European Para Championships

Ms Grefberg informed that following recent email communication received, the ITTF in principle would agree to transfer the hosting rights of the European Para Championships to ETTU. The 2025 edition should be still under ITTF and seen as a "transfer of knowledge" and ETTU could take over starting 2027. The classification function should stay with the ITTF across all continents, to ensure homogeneity in the classification, however, organisation, including future bids, applications, and decisions, is something that could be transferred gradually, according to the written information by the ITTF Secretary General. Furthermore this would "alleviate the ITTF reduced staff force".

The EB accepted to take over the European Para TT Championships starting 2027.

- Events decisions

Opting out from ITTF regulation 3.2.5.5 and 3.2.5.6.6

3.2.5.5 There may be up to 6 advertisements on the floor of the playing area

The EB decided that ETTU opts out from this regulation regarding the limited number of advertisements but there should be no more than 8 commercial floor advertisements per field of play.

3.2.5.6.6 There shall be no advertisement, name of table, name or logo of the manufacturer or supplier of the table on the undercarriage, except if the table manufacturer or supplier is the title sponsor of the tournament.

The EB decided that ETTU opts out from this regulation.

- New standards

EB agreed with the principle to work and proceed with the implementation of comprehensive safeguarding procedures and the appointment of trained official(s) specifically tasked to manage these matters effectively.

Additionally, the EB was informed that a designated "safe space" will be in place at the upcoming European Championships in Linz. This safe space is established to provide attendees with a secure environment where they can report concerns about any form of harassment or abuse and receive support and refuge.

- Various updates

The 2025 European U21 Championships was initially scheduled for 14-18 May 2025. As these dates are now clashing with the World Championships, the U21 LOC has approached ETTU with possible alternative dates: The EB agreed with the proposed date of 7-11 May 2025.

ETTU is set to host a World Table Tennis Day Celebration in Saarbrücken on 20th April 2024, featuring four tables in a prominent location in the shopping mall EUROPA GALERIE for activities and games themed around this year's motto "diversity and inclusivity."

The European Olympic Games Qualification LOC requested either waiving or reducing the levy down to 5.000€. The EB agreed on a reduction and the Secretary General was tasked to request the event's budget and to negotiate with the LOC on the payable amount.

12:00

5. Break

12:00

6. Congress Preparation:

- *Procedure including access*

Registration including nomination for Congress will be at the ETTU online entry system.

The EB decided that attendance at the Congress will be in-person only as the MAs not being able to attend with their delegate(s) in Linz can be represented by another MA via proxy.

On **17.4.2024** ETTU will send out the notice to MAs informing on the deadline (**25.6.2024**) to receive propositions.

Nominations period will open on **15.6.2024** and close on **15.8.2024**.

On **25.7.2024** ETTU will send out notice to all MAs with all Congress documentation.

- *Information Congress venue*

The Congress will be in Linz, Austria at the OÖ Nachrichten Forum (tbc)
<https://nachrichtenforum.at/index.php/location/grosser-saal/>

- *Presentations (2025 ETTU CRO, Stupa)*

Presentations, in addition to all the required ETTU presentations shall be requested to the next year's LOC of the European Championships and to ETTU's new Partner.

- *Awards*

The EB nominated Richard Scruton for ETTU Honorary Membership.
The General Secretariat informed that all MAs will have the opportunity to propose candidates for ETTU Badge of Honour to the EB.

- *Propositions*

Constitution

Change of seat address will be put forward as Congress proposition.

Eligibility

The Deputy Secretary General and the Ranking Committee Chair will submit a proposal of amended regulation B to the EB.

Event Regulations

Heike Ahlert, Sonja Grefberg and the General Secretariat will review the event regulations and will submit proposals to the EB.

Financial

A 2025 Budget will be prepared by the Vice-President Finances, Acting President and Secretary General.

It was agreed to plan for a finance webinar prior Congress.

12:30

7. Any other business

Nothing to report.

12:30

8. Closure

In closing, the Acting President thanked all members for their contribution and informed that the meeting on the next day will start at 10:00.

(2) Monday 1.4.2024

10:00 1. Welcoming the ITTF President

The Acting President welcomed the ITTF President.
The ITTF President thanked for the invitation and reflected on the needs in our sport including unity and digitalisation. Ms Sörling reported on the ITTF foundation, WTT day and the international calendar.

10:20 2. ITTF-ETTU co-operation

The Acting President pointed out being sustainable at ETTU events and that betting from not regulated TT competitions lowers the betting value of the ITTF and ETTU events.

Mr Moura informed that ETTU is having agreements with European TV stations to show and promote the ETTU competitions to continuously grow in autonomy and be more independent financially.

Mr Moura stated that the ETTU only recently received the MCA agreement for 2023, which, upon review, showed discrepancies in the financial figures compared to the letter attached to the email. He stressed the importance of receiving the 2024 agreement as well.

On the topic of Olympic Qualification Event, Mr Moura informed on the challenges that ETTU faced regarding the reallocation of the event to a country that would allow participation from RUS/BLR athletes, following ITTF's warning that failure to accommodate these nations could result in the qualification event being reassigned. It was also agreed to discuss with ITTF the possibility of receiving financial support for the organisation of the event under the MCA.

Mr Moura noted that ETTU had a very positive meeting in Busan with ITTF and WTT regarding the calendar, yet ETTU is still awaiting the confirmation of the dates for the 2025 Champions League Final 4. Ms Sörling remarked that, despite the challenges of the past years, the ITTF/WTT calendar is becoming more stable, which will facilitate the scheduling of competitions for the Continents. However, she acknowledged that due to the multitude of events globally, conflicts in scheduling are inevitable.

Ms Grefberg expressed ETTU's wish to initiate discussions promptly with EPC about incorporating Table Tennis into the EPC event in 2027. She emphasized the necessity for formal communication from ITTF to EPC, stating that ETTU will be the responsible entity for organizing European Para Events starting from 2027 onwards.

11:00 3. Legal matters

- CAS case

The EB was informed on the status-quo which is not included in the minutes due to the secrecy decision of CAS.

- 2022 EVC outstanding payment – agreements

A first agreement with FITET and partial payment being received.

- *Neutral participation at ETTU Events*

The EB had received the 2024 U13 Championships prospectus including the new wording defining neutral athletes eligibility and participation. This wording shall serve as basis for all future ETTU Events.

The EB unanimously approved the wording and the principle of following the IOC and ITTF principles in this matter.

The approved registration and participation conditions for Athletes of ETTU Members Associations with Belarusian or Russian passport as Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) reads as follows (here below specified for the European U13 Championships):

- may enter only in singles and mixed doubles events, maximum three boys and three girls.
- AIN may be entered if they submitted to the ITTF the ITTF Additional Terms of Participation document and be granted acceptance by ITTF.
- AIN may participate if the responsible authorities accept their entry into the hosting country.

11:15 **4. European Team Ranking**

ETTU is using the ETTU ranking for singles while continuing to rely on the ITTF ranking for team Competitions. This is inconsistent however ETTU does not have an ETTU team ranking at the moment.

The EB agreed and took a strategic decision on the potential creation of an ETTU Team Ranking.

11:25 **5. Break**

11:25 **6. Stupa presentation**

Megha Ghambir made a presentation to the EB on the progress of the Stupa platforms for ETTU.

11:55 **7. European Club Competitions**

- *Reflections on the Champions Leagues meeting from 30th March 2024*

The EB reflected on the Champions League clubs meeting and decided to work on a competition mode which also includes the men's Champions League quarter finals.

- *Executive Board representation at*

Champions League women final second leg in Tarnobrzeg (POL) Friday
26.4.2024 at 1920 - Ina Jozepsone
Europe Cup men final second leg Dzialdowo (POL) 27.4.2024 at 1700 - Ina Jozepsone
Europe Cup women final second leg in Budaörsi (HUN) Saturday,
27.4.2024 at 1800. - Sonja Grefberg

12:30 8. General Secretariat update

Postponed.

12:30 10. Any other business

Nothing to report.

12:30 11. Closure

In closing, the Acting President thanked all members for their contribution.
