

ETTU Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Online

Monday 13th April 2026, 1538-1710 CET

Present:

Pedro Moura (POR), President
Heike Ahlert (GER), Deputy President
Sandra Deaton (ENG), Vice-President for Finances
Sonja Grefberg (FIN), Vice-President
Ina Jozepsone (LAT), Vice-President
Jarosław Kołodziejczyk (AUT), Vice-President
Didier Leroy (BEL), Vice-President
Zoran Primorac (CRO), Vice-President
Frane Kojic (CRO), Athletes' Commission Chair
Pierre Kass, Secretary General
Galia Dvorak, Deputy Secretary General
Arne Madsen, Club Competition Official
Alen Ivancin, Competition Director

15.38 1. Welcome of the President

The President welcomed the members of the Executive Board, as well as the Club Competition Official and the Competition Director.

15.39 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

15.40 3. Clubs exclusion from future season(s) after withdrawal

The President informed that the clubs had been involved in the process from the beginning, although not all clubs were aligned with the proposed concepts. He highlighted the need to protect the league from withdrawals mainly at the Final 4 stage. The objective of a successful Final 4 event is to generate commercial value, including for the participating clubs. For the Men's Champions League, it took three years to secure a Title Sponsor, while for the Women's competition a deal is already close to being concluded as of the second edition.

Board members raised the question of whether such a decision would have a retroactive effect and queried its legality.

The Club Competition Official confirmed that the proposed directive would not be considered as retroactive and even more safe if implemented before the Final 4 event this year.

The ETTU Executive Board further brainstormed and came to conclusion not to act in a manner that could be interpreted as disproportionate or legally questionable and decided to implement the below article in the 2026-2027 ECLW directives after the 2026 ECLW Final 4. The same directive (only amended wording from "women" to "men") is to be added at the men's directives.

6.5. Clubs which, in the previous season of the ETTU Club Competitions Women, have withdrawn or failed to compete in one or more scheduled matches shall not be accepted for registration in the following season. In addition, any club which withdraws or fails to compete in the final stage (Final 4 event) shall be banned from participation in the ETTU Club Competitions Women for the following three (3) seasons. Furthermore, such clubs shall not receive any European Club Competition Ranking points from that season, nor any bonus support or prize money related to their participation in that season. In cases of force majeure or other situations beyond the club's control, the ETTU Executive Board may, at its sole discretion, grant an exception and allow the club's participation and/or entitlement to the above.

16.18 4. Final 4 teams replacement in case of withdrawal

The ETTU Executive Board decided to implement the below article in the 2026-2027 ECLW directives after the 2026 ECLW Final 4. The same directive is to be added at the men's directives.

8.1.3.3. In the event that a qualified team withdraws or fails to attend the Final 4 event, ETTU may replace such team with its opponent from the Quarter-Final stage of the same season, subject to ETTU's confirmation.

16.20 5. Increase in the number of “non-European” players from three (3) to four (4)

The President informed that, as there is no longer flexibility for clubs regarding competition dates and fixtures, the request to allow the registration of additional “non-European” players appeared reasonable; however, the outcome of the survey submitted to the clubs showed a majority against the proposal, with only two clubs in favour.

The ETTU Executive Board decided to not increase the number of “non-European” players from three (3) to four (4) at the ECCW for the season 2026-2027. This decision was based on the outcome of the survey and on the fact that such an amendment should come into force with more time ahead of the clubs' planning in order to ensure equal opportunities for all clubs.

The ETTU Executive Board will rediscuss the subject during its next meeting on 1st May 2026 for eventual implementation in the 2027-2028 season.

16.27 6. Europe Cup system of play starting Round of 16

The survey submitted to the clubs with the different proposals did not produce a clear outcome. Furthermore, only a limited number of clubs provided feedback.

The various options were discussed, including the possibility of playing the Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals as home-and-away matches within an additional group stage, and/or organising the Semi-Finals and Finals as home-and-away matches or as a Final 4 event.

The ETTU Executive Board did not take a decision and will rediscuss the subject during its next meeting on 1st May 2026.

16.46 7. ITTF Summit

The Deputy Secretary General reported on the preparations and the structure of the ETTU presentation for the Continental Forum to be held during the ITTF Summit on 30th April 2026.

16.51 8. Any Other Business

The Executive Board discussed the ITTF Athletes Commission and the European candidates' nominations.

The President informed the Board on the upcoming change of status regarding Russian and Belarusian participation in ITTF sanctioned competitions (AIN Status). The Board agreed to reconvene on the matter following any official announcement by the ITTF.

Vice-President for Finances Sandra Deaton raised the need to discuss the ITTF constitutional review. The President confirmed that two meetings would be arranged in London — one for the Council and one for the Executive Board — prior to any discussions on the constitutional review.

The question was raised of whether withdrawal penalties should differ between the regular season and the Final 4, arguing that the current €10,000 financial penalty may be insufficient given the increasing investment in the competition; the Club Competitions Official Arne Madsen agreed and mentioned that the whole penalty catalogue should be deleted from the regulations as it is already included in the directives, which provide greater flexibility to the Executive Board for implementation. Such an amendment to the regulations must be submitted as a proposal to the Congress.

Vice-President Jarosław Kołodziejczyk informed the Board that the second edition of EuroSpins would be moved to September, partly in response to encouragement from the Korean association, eliminating any scheduling conflict with ITTF activities in December. The President further informed the Board that a letter of appreciation had been received from the Korean Table Tennis Association acknowledging the success of the event.

17.10 9. Closure

The President thanked all members and declared the meeting closed.
