

28 April 2013

Official Statement from Adham Sharara, ITTF President

Regarding the Allegations and Accusations made by Mr. Stefano Bosi

The ITTF will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 15 May 2013 in Paris, France. At that time, the ITTF will conduct its quadrennial elections, including the election for President.

Mr. Stefano Bosi, the president of the European Table Tennis Union for 17 years, is a candidate for the presidency of the ITTF, so it is natural for him to aspire to a higher office. The ITTF is an open and democratic Federation. Anyone in the ITTF has the right to run for any position and be nominated by his/her national association. This has always been the case. The delegates representing the member national associations then decide democratically, by vote at the AGM, who they wish to lead the ITTF.

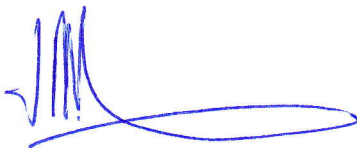
It is very regrettable that Mr. Bosi has chosen to use public allegations, accusations and false information as an election platform, contrary to the high standards by which we have governed ourselves as a Federation.

I totally dispute, deny and refute any and all accusations of any illegal or improper conduct in my actions over the entire period as ITTF president (1999-2013) and deputy-president (1995-1999). As has been done by Mr. Bosi, circulating an unsigned document, while containing information provided by me and my staff, and manipulating the same to reach unsubstantiated conclusions, is totally unacceptable and unethical. Especially that the accusatory unsigned document itself, on which the allegations are based, appears to be a compilation of comments put together from Internet forums and chats by anonymous writers.

Currently we are seeking a legal opinion regarding the accusatory document, its content, context of submission and circulation, as a form of slander and defamation. I will let the legal system through the courts decide on these allegations. Regarding being accused of conflict of interest, this is also a false claim, but I will let the ITTF membership decide for itself.

Of course I reserve my legal right to take court action against the accusers for libel and defamation of character, and especially for damaging the image of the ITTF and its president.

I resolutely remain a candidate for the ITTF president's position for 2013-2017. This will be my last term of office. I hope to win with the great support of the member national associations of the ITTF who know me and my character well.



Adham Sharara
ITTF President
28.04.2013