



INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE
FOR DISABLED

TETRA OPEN COLOGNE 2007
TECHNICAL DELEGATE INSPECTION REPORT

From: Leandro Olvech – IPTTC Technical Delegate

On: 24th of February 2007

To: Mr. Jiri Danek – IPTTC Tournament Officer

Ms. Alison Burchell – IPTTC Secretary General

Mr. Holger Nikelis - TOC 2007 Organizing Committee Chairperson

C/C: to be published on IPTTC Website for Table Tennis Community

Inspection Date: 14th of February 2007

Tournament Date: 11th to 16th of December 2007

Place: Cologne, Germany

Factor: 20

Agenda of the Inspection:

09:20 - Arrival Köln-Bonn airport

09:30 - Inspection airport facilities

10:30 - Inspection Koelnmesse Halle 8

12:30-14:00 - Lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe

14:30 - Inspection Kosmos Hotel

16:00-18:00 - Summary and possibility to speak about some details of the organization of TOC 2007

Introduction:

I had the opportunity last year to be present in the TOC 2006 edition without any IPTTC function, but it helps to have an idea of the organizational level of the event and also how do they work internally. I can say that I am quite impressed about the level of 2006 edition, and as I have been present last year it made my work regarding the inspection easier.

Airport

I have been received by Holger Nikelis, the OC Chairperson, and Frank Erschbaumer from the Events agency Outrun. (<http://www.outrun-agentur.de/>)

There are two Halls in the Cologne Airport. They are planning to establish a welcome desk on the main one and some volunteers in the other one.

Accessibility

The OC plans to have some people inside the Airport to help teams when they pick up the luggage. All areas are accessible in the airport.

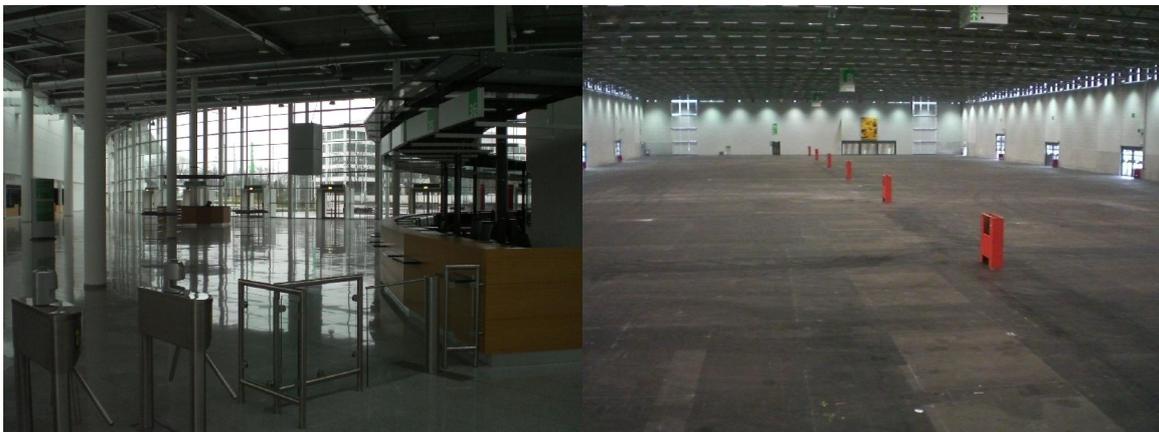
Venue

It will be the Koelnmesse (<http://www.koelnmesse.de/>) that is the Congress and Exposition Centre of the city. It is divided in halls and the number 8 will be assigned for the tournament.

We had a meeting in the venue with the Project Manager of the Koelnmesse, Klaus Schmidt; the Manager of the eps GmbH (tribunes rent) Martin Steffen; Hard Rock Café representatives, Erschbaumer from Outrun and Nikelis from TOC OC. Where Nikelis explained the project and everybody told their roles on the tournament.

The space of the hall 8 is 16800 m² (187m x 90), it means enormous, much more than enough. There will be located there the Competition and Training areas, spectators seats, sponsors stands and dining room.

The areas will be divided with wooden barriers. There are windows in the highest part of the venue; it is possible to cover them with an automatic system.



Entry to the Venue

Hall 8 – View from one office on the 1st floor

Accessibility

A place for wheelchair user spectators is foreseen. All areas used for the tournament are friendly for wheelchair users.

There are restrooms on both of the shorter sides of the Venue accompanied by one accessible one each. It is possible to find 2 accessible toilets in the same hall but in a longer distance. The doors of the non-accessible toilets are 55cm wider.



One of the accessible restrooms

View from inside

There are parking places just in a side of the venue for those players going by car.

Catering

We had a lunch and meeting with Roland Piechoczek and Annabell Ramirez, General Manager and Marketing Manager respectively from Hard Rock Café Köln in their local in the downtown of the city, and the plan is to offer the lunch in the Venue, with the Hard Rock Café services. Same company should take care of the farewell dinner and party. They will also offer some special discounts for the participants if they meet the restaurant. The food had very good quality and they offer American style food. Like a fast food but more delicate.

<http://www.hardrock.com/locations/cafes3/cafes.aspx?LocationID=182&MenuID=15&MIBEnumID=24>

Accessibility

There is an accessible toilet at the restaurant.



Accommodation

Kosmos Hotel **** (<http://www.kosmos-hotel-koeln.de>)

It is the same used for last TOC edition, friendly services by a familiar company.

161 Rooms divided in two towers with W-LAN, minibar and TV.

Dinning Room for 120 + 120 people.

Acclimatized swimming pool and sauna. Parking for 110 cars.

Breakfast and Dinner will be served on the hotel. The OC will set up a welcome desk in the lobby.



Reception

Bar at the lobby



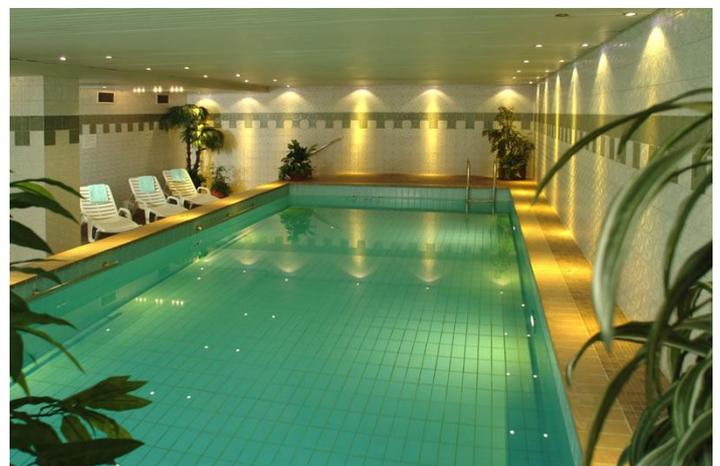
Dinning Room



Dinning Room



Room Sample



Swimming Pool

Accessibility

The hotel is wheelchair users friendly in most of its public spaces. The doors of the lifts are 80cm wide and 2 may be 3 wheelchairs can be inside together. Accessible restrooms are available in the first floor and there are also accessible showers



Accessible Public Restroom

Not all the rooms are fully accessible.

Rooms	All
Main door	78 cm
Bathroom	68

Normally a wheelchair could get through the doors but the rotation inside the bathroom could be difficult, the OC plans to provide special chairs for showers.



Bathroom in normal room



Bathtub behind the door with removable glass

But there are 4 singles rooms prepared for wheelchair users, this are single rooms but connected with an inside door to a double room. From my point of view and what we discussed with OC was to decide between two options.

- 1- Use the single rooms with players staying there but keeping the connecting door opened to have more people able to use the accessible bathroom. (Ideally 3 people from same team)
- 2- Keep the 4 accessible single rooms free and public for its use.

One way or another, there are accessible restrooms and showers in the first floor and in the swimming pool and sauna that can be used as well.



Bathroom of an accessible room



Swimming Pool Shower



Sauna with a shower



Sauna's Shower

Equipment

	Brand	Type	Color	Quantity
Warming up Table	Butterfly	Centrefold 25	Green	18
Competition Table	Butterfly	Centrefold 25	Green	18
Balls	Butterfly	3 stars	Orange	*

** As needed for competition and every player gets 3 for training and warming up*

Accessibility

All tables are wheelchair friendly (40 cm to the legs)

Medical Aid

Emergency service available all time in the venue.
Hospital located 5 minutes from the venue.

Technical Aspects

- Dr. Wu's program will be used for competition.
- Umpires according IPTTC handbook.
- There will be ball retriever services available.
- Open, Singles and Team events
- Production with marching at least for the final matches
- Minimum of 800 lux promised on lighting system

Educational Program

There is an intention to organize:

- Umpires Seminar
- Classification Seminar

Volunteers

Local volunteers will be invited from different organizations with a stress on those ones related to the table tennis

A group of volunteers from Jesolo, Italy is invited. They have experience as they cooperated with the organizers in the last edition and also on the European Championships 2005 in their city. OC offers them apartments in a side of the Kosmos Hotel. They gave to the TOC 2006 edition a nicer atmosphere.



Logistic

The transport will be organized with accessible mini buses for 4 to 6 people.

Distances

	Airport	Hotel	Venue
Airport		15 min / 11 km	
Hotel	15 min / 11 km		5 min / 3 km
Venue		5 min / 3 km	



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Kölner Dom, HBF | 2 Zoobrücke |
| 2 ICE-Bahnhof Köln-Deutz | 3 Hohenzollern Brücke |
| 3 Kölnarena | 4 Deutzer Brücke |
| 4 KoelnMesse | 5 Severinsbrücke |
| 1 Mülheimer Brücke | 6 Rodenkirchener Brücke |

Mit dem Auto: Ausfahrt Buchforst / Kalk

Mit der Bahn: S6/S11 Station Buchforst, KVB Linie 3, Station Waldecker Straße

Conclusions

I can tell that I finished my inspection with a very nice impression of this tournament. As I said before I have been there last year and I didn't find significant problems or mistakes. On the contrary I was surprised by the high level of the organization however no tournament is perfect and there are always things to be improved.

In the TD report from Mr. Jiri Danek from 2006 edition there are some comments to consider by the OC.

- To arrange the needed information on time during competition
- To have a copy machine in the hall
- More people in the OC

Regarding my experience last year, I agree on these comments and put a stress on the Organizing Committee issue.

Many tournaments are organized with a player as chairperson of the OC. Even if they have accessibility knowledge and experience, it is not the best scenario.

But maybe we should see it as a player organizing a tournament instead of an organizer playing, and then thank them. BUT they MUST have someone who can take important decisions without consulting the chairperson in case he/she is playing.

The lack of accessible rooms can be solved as explained before so, I don't think it will be a problem if they could organize a Tetra open without any significant complaint, and on the contrary nice comments from the teams.

From my point of view the TOC will continue increasing the quality every edition and I recommend it as one of the best options.

Sincerely,

Leandro Olvech
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