



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 09 of the period 2016 – 2020)

Meeting and Accommodation at Hotel Hilton Garden Inn in Vienna / AUT

Meeting Friday, 22 February 2019
(general EHF Info to CC/MC/BC from 09.00 -09.30 hrs.)

09:30 – 18:30 hrs.

Participants:

Bozidar Djurkovic	Chairman CC
Jan Kampman	Men's Competitions
Carmen Manchado Lopez	Women's Competitions
Dragan Nachevski	Refereeing Matters
Emeric Paillason	Men's Club Competitions
Thomas Hylle	Women's Club Competitions

Markus Glaser	Office
Peter Sichelschmidt	Office
Monika Flixeder	Office

Further office staff according to agenda

1. Welcome

Chairman Djurkovic welcomes the Members of the CC to the first meeting of 2019. After his absence in the last meeting Thomas Hylle representing the Women's Clubs participates in a CC meeting for the first time. He holds the position as Chief of Sports at the Danish Women's Team Esbjerg.

Glaser informed about organizational issues and asked to move the agenda points of the Club Competitions to the afternoon session, which is granted.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

Different understandings occurred to a part of the August 2018 CC Meeting notes (possible enlargement of the Women's Euro 2024 from 16 to 24 teams), which was therefore discussed again and clarified.

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3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic reported about the TD meeting and highlighted some of the important issues such as the Technology Service Guidelines that need to be updated after the EURO in FRA as well as EHF Events coming up in 2019 (Secretary General Conference, Scientific Conference, European Week of Sport and more). A very positive report was provided about the Rinck Convention Seminar that took place right prior to the Commission Meetings in Vienna.

The TD underlined its earlier point of view that the EHF should become active in the issue of the New Rules in the Future. A respective letter will be coordinated in the EHF Office and is to be sent out as soon as possible.

Further topics from the TD were part of the discussions later on in the agenda.

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2018/19

The competition is running smoothly without too many issues. There are also no negative headlines anymore around the playing dates of the German teams compared to last season as the EHF approach to these issues paid off (two German teams instead of three and all home matches in GER always on Wednesday).

There were many close matches and the sports part of the competition especially in Groups A/B was really exciting. The qualification for the Last 16 was decided in Round 13 in one group and will even only be decided in the very last round in the other group. Same holds true for Groups C/D where the qualification for the KO-Round was decided only in the last round in both groups. Unfortunately the performance difference towards the bottom of the group became evident in Groups C/D with Wacker Thun earning only one point out of ten games and Metalurg getting two points only.

There was an issue on the Marketing side with the presence of Northstream2 as a partner of the competition as there were overlapping interests in POL, which could not be solved completely and resulted in legal cases against both POL clubs.

4.2. Women's Champions League 2018/19

The competition is running well, half of the Main Round is completed. No major incidents were reported, the qualifying teams for the Quarter finals are decided in one group while the other group is still open.

4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2018/19

There were no major issues in the competition so far and all matches were played according to schedule. Starting with the Group Phase all matches are being TV-produced, which will result in a much wider audience on TV and also on streaming platforms.

The EHF Cup Finals were awarded to THW Kiel and will take place on Friday/Saturday, 17/18 May 2019. A first coordination visit in Kiel already took place and all issues are running well.

Paillason referred to the topic of the exclusivity in the Group Phase, where the clubs were forced to remove the display of their equipment partners. An intense information exchange with the EHF took place in December and January about this issue, which is not primarily a CC topic, but still part of the competition. The issue will be checked in the EHF Office and an updated information on the current status will be delivered.

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4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2018/19

Qualification Rounds 1 to 3 as well as the Group Phase is concluded and the competition basically did not produce any major incident. The TV- and streaming platform presence of the matches of the Women's EHF Cup is again improving and will support the interest in the competition.

4.5. Men's and Women's Challenge Cup 2018/19

Things are running well and especially the later rounds produce a large interest among those clubs that are still part of the competition. The new regulation of self-organization of the teams on their away match did not produce any negative issues and was obviously a useful step.

4.6. Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2019/20

There are no changes of the playing systems and also no major new issues for the competition due to the major changes coming up later on for the 2020/2021 season.

Only two motions are proposed by the CC for approval to the EXEC Meeting in April:

In theory it is possible to have more than four teams from one Federation in the Women's EHF Cup Group Phase. This can happen if a Federation gets three places in the EHF Cup and all three teams qualify for the Group Phase and, at the same time, the same Federation had two places in the Champions League and both teams finish on 4th rank in the Group Phase and continue in the Group Phase of the EHF Cup. The regulations of the Women's EHF Cup therefore need to be adapted that, in this particular case, it is possible to have a Women's EHF Cup Group with more than one team from one country.

The issue of different advertisement logos for different players of the same team requires a proactive approach of the EHF in order to have a position before too many cases become evident. After an interesting exchange of views the CC decides to opt for a solution, which allows different logos as long as they are of the same colour and do not change the basic layout of the shirts. A respective motion will be presented to the EXEC including all player shirts of all EHF competitions.

4.7. Current Status regarding season 2020/2021

Glaser summarizes the topics that were already decided at the EXEC Meeting in Paris in December and where stakeholders were informed about it right afterwards, which mainly included the calendar and the playing systems. The next package of topics include seedings, direct qualification for the group phase in Men's and Women's European Handball League as well as the number of places for the Federations in the different competitions. These items are planned to be decided at the June 2019 EXEC Meeting the latest. An update will be on the agenda of the CC April meeting.

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5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2019 WWCh JPN (Qualification Phase 2)

The final tournament will be played in Kumamoto/JPN between 29 November and 15 December 2019. Apart from FRA as defending champion from the 2017 WCh in GER there is a total of 12 places available for Europe. Already qualified are FRA, JPN as organizer as well as RUS, NED and ROU as the 3 best ranked not yet qualified nations of the EURO 2018 in FRA.

The qualification Europe phase 1 was played in a tournament format in 4 groups of 4 teams each in SVK, SUI, MKD and in GRE at the end of November 2018. The winners SVK, SUI, BLR, MKD as well as ISL as the best 2nd ranked team qualified for phase 2 (play-off matches) in June 2019. The play-off matches for the remaining 9 places were drawn on the final weekend of the Women's EURO in FRA and will be played on 31 May to 2 June (1st leg) and on 4 to 6 June 2019 (2nd leg).

5.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Qualifiers, 1-2 and 3-6)

ESP as champion of the EURO in CRO is directly qualified for the final tournament together with the organisers SWE, AUT and NOR. They are playing the EHF EURO CUP with home and away matches parallel to the qualification rounds 1 to 6. The first two rounds were already played on 24 and 28 October.

In group 8 (with DEN, MNE, UKR and FAR) FAR had to play the first "home" match in Skjern/DEN against DEN without any problems.

Concerning the aspect of a unified throw-off time in round 6 three problematic situations occurred with DEN, RUS and CZE. All requests for an exception were denied and up to now no further requests were sent in. Consequently the throw off time of all last matches of the 2020 EHF EURO Qualifiers of each home team in round 6 will be Sunday, 16 June 2019, 18:00 hrs. Vienna time.

Administrative Sanctions / Opening of Legal Proceedings:

After the clear information during the workshop in Trondheim/NOR the first administrative sanctions had to be awarded to KOS, MNE, POL, UKR. In qualifiers round 1 and 2 there was 1 administrative sanction for ROU and the opening of legal proceedings against BEL, BIH, CRO, DEN, FAR, GER, ITA, NED, SLO and SUI. A decision by the legal bodies is not yet taken.

5.3. 2020 OG Tokio/JPN (Details, Qualification pathway)

After the Men's WCh in GER/DEN the first but definitively not the final step is done in direction of the qualification for the OG 2020 and the composition especially the place distribution of the OG-QT is getting more clear. Nevertheless at this stage there is no more information available.

5.4. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR-DEN (Regulations, Registration, Qualification)

The registration documents were sent out on 13 February 2019 (deadline 13 March 2019). The Qualifiers Phase 1 will be played (if necessary) in a tournament format at one venue between 7 and 9 June 2019. The rounds of the Qualifiers will be played between 25 and 29 September 2019 (round 1 and 2), between 25 and 29 March 2020 (round 3 and 4) and between 27 and 31 May 2020 (round 5 and 6). All matches of Round 6 will have to be played on Sunday 31 May 2020 at 16.00 hrs. Vienna time!

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5.5. 2021 MWCh EGY (Registration, Qualification)

The registration phase will start at the end of March 2019 and the matches of the Qualification Phase will start in autumn 2019. The draw for the play-off matches is foreseen to take place during the final weekend of the Men's EURO in SWE/AUT/NOR (25/26 January 2020). The matches of the Qualification Phase 2 (play-off matches) will be played from 5 to 7 June (1st leg) and 9 to 11 June 2020 (2nd leg).

Apart from the already qualified teams of EGY as organiser and the reigning World Champion from 2019 GER/DEN Denmark, 13 places for Europe will be available for the final tournament (10 to 27 January 2021).

5.6. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN-SVK (Registration, Qualification phase 1, ENCh)

The registration documents were already sent out on 24 August to all not yet for the qualifiers qualified federations (ALB, AND, ARM, AZE, BUL, CYP, GBR, GEO, IRL, LIE, LUX, MDA, MLT and MON). After the decision of the EXEC, that all of these teams who will register, have the obligation to participate in phase 1 to be played in tournament format in January 2019 a single participation in the ENCh is not any longer possible. Only the losers of phase 1 will then be allowed to participate in the ENCh (8 to 16 June 2019).

It was also decided, that there will be a relegation/promotion round to be played in a tournament format in January 2020 between the 3 lowest 4th ranked teams of the 2020 EURO qualifiers against the winners of the 2022 qualification phase 1 (LUX and CYP) together with the winner of the ENCh tournament.

Phase 1 was already played in tournament format with 4 teams each between 11 and 13 January 2019 in LUX and in MLT. The teams of LUX and CYP will go to the relegation round and the teams of AZE, BUL, GBR, GEO, IRL and MLT were nominated for the IHF-/EHF-ENCh. On 8 February the IHF sent out the registration documents and application papers as organizer. The tournament will be played with the 6 European teams and 6 teams coming from the other continental federations.

5.7. 2024 EHF EURO Women (TBD)

The Executive Committee installed a working group, which should deal with the possibility to increase the number of participants from 16 to 24 teams in the Women's EURO starting from 2024. Under the leadership of Gabriella Horvath the first meeting will be in the EHF-Office on 4 March. Carmen Manchado will represent the CC in this Working Group.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

The Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France was organized in a good way and gave a fantastic picture to the outside world including excellent TV figures and total number of 200.000 spectators visiting the matches in the arenas. The complete event report was provided to the EHF CC members in due time prior to the CC meeting. The following selected issues of the event report were discussed in the CC meeting:

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Team Time Out Buzzer System by Swiss Timing:

In order to avoid potential mistakes concerning the “Team Time –out Buzzer System”, the CC members are in favor of improving the technical implementation of the buzzer system. The EHF together with Swiss Timing shall improve the system in a way in which it is only possible to use the buzzer for the “Team Time-Out” maximum 3 times for each match (max. 2 times in each half time and only once within the last 5 min of each match).

The buzzer will be technically disconnected after the last “Team Time–out” was taken by the respective team. This way it won’t be possible to interrupt the match by pressing the buzzer by mistake or on purpose after the last “Team Time-Out” of a team. Furthermore, the buzzer system will be adopted in a way which ensures an automatic half time change in order to avoid mistakes by the supervisor.

In addition the EHF together with Swiss timing will work on an improvement concerning the graphical display regarding the number of “Team Time-Outs”. It shall be better visible for the audience, players, team delegation members, etc. how many “Team Time-Outs” are remaining for each team.

Video Replay by Vision Sport :

During the Women’s EHF EURO 2018 In France, only the world feed signals were available for the referees for video replay decisions. The EHF has to ensure, in cooperation with Infront and Vision Sports, that all camera angles are immediately available for the referees for video replay decisions in order to give the referees the best possible assistance for their decisions.

Injury Handling:

The procedures for the injury handling needs to be checked EHF internally for upcoming EHF EURO events. The responsibilities for all parties involved must be clear from the beginning.

All-Star Team/Player of the Match:

A more scientific way for the “Player of the Match” and the “All-Star Team” selection shall be found. Carmen Manchado will come up with a proposal which will be discussed during the upcoming CC meeting.

I-ball:

The data which were collected via I-ball during the Final Weekend in France were requested and will be made available to the EHF as soon as possible by Kinexon.

Working Conditions:

The CC members raised the issue of correct working conditions concerning meeting rooms, officials conference room, internet supply, food and beverages, etc. as there were significant shortcomings to be recognized in FRA in certain venues.

6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE/AUT/NOR

The intensive preparation period for the Men’s EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR has already started, which includes several site visits and EHF activities:

Infront Site Visit concerning the Venue Dressing will take place in May 2019.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 28 June 2019 at the ERSTE Bank Campus in Vienna. In this framework of the draw event there will also be held the Heads of Delegations Conference.

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In addition a meeting of the EHF EXEC, a media workshop as well as a partner workshop will take place in course of the Draw event in June 2019 in the period 27/28 June 2019.

The Referee and Delegates Seminar is planned at the end of August/beginning of September 2019 in Vienna; the date overlaps with the Men's Super Globe dates announced by the IHF and the issue of the referee nomination therefore needs to be clarified with the IHF.

An EHF Site Visit for the venues in Sweden and Austria is planned to take place in the period between 16 and 18 September 2019;

The TV Tour in SWE and AUT is planned to take place in September 2019 after the site visit. The site visit in Trondheim will take place between 8 and 10 October 2019 after completion of the arena (only finalization of stands will take place during this period). In course of this site visit, the EHF will also inspect the venues for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN (Stavanger, Oslo and Herning).

As the final tournament will take place between the 9 and 26 January 2020, the Officials Conference will take place between 6 and 7 January 2020 in Vienna/AUT. Therefore Vienna will be the arrival venue for all EHF officials, who are planned to arrive on 5 January 2020 in Vienna. The travel day to the respective venues will be the 8 January 2020 for the EHF officials. As the travel to Trondheim is rather long, the EHF Officials nominated for Trondheim will fly to Oslo on 7 January 2020 and will stay overnight in Oslo and continue their travel to Trondheim on 8 January 2020. The transport to Graz will also take place on 7 January in the evening.

The basic match timings are currently being coordinated between the OC's, Infront and the EHF.

As the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR will be the first EHF EURO with 24 teams, the nominations will be carried out in a different way. The exact procedure for the nominations needs to be defined by the EHF internally. It might be the case, that the nominations will be carried out in 3 different phases according to the 3 different phases of the tournament. Furthermore, specific aspects concerning the travel to the venues need to be taken into consideration (e.g. later travel to Malmö due to the first matches on 11 January, etc.);

Exact tasks and procedures for the mental coach of the EHF referees needs to be defined by the EHF, taking the new nomination procedure into consideration.

The issue of an Opening Ceremony is still in discussion between the EHF and the organizing countries. Taking into consideration, that none of the three host teams is playing on the first match day, a new concept needs to be defined.

The Final Weekend will be played according to a new concept with the two Semi Finals taking place on Friday 24 January, the Bronze Medal Match as well as the Placement Match 5/6 will be played on Saturday 25 January and the Final will take place on Sunday 26 January 2020.

Prior to the final exclusive show acts of international artists are planned, in order to widen the range of spectator attractions and to create additional interest groups for the tickets.

Due to the new Final Weekend playing schedule, a new concept concerning the Medal Ceremony and the All-Star Team Awarding needs to be clarified EHF internally (bronze medal match awarding on Saturday, Gold and Silver awarding on Sunday).

In addition a basic schedule for the Final Weekend including all activities needs to be created in due time prior to the tournament by the EHF.

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As 24 teams are participating in the EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR, only the flags of the national teams, the event flag and the EHF flag will be displayed on the opposite side of the main camera in each playing hall. Due to space reasons, the flags of EHF officials won't be taken into consideration in the flag set-up in events with 24 participating teams.

6.3. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

The Qualifiers Draw will take place in Copenhagen/DEN on 4th April 2019 on the occasion of the Secretaries General Conference. In addition a Qualifiers Workshop for the participating teams will take place in the morning on 5 April 2019 in Copenhagen/DEN.

A workshop between the EHF and the NOR/DEN OC will take place on 3 April 2019 in Copenhagen/DEN.

The first site visit for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN will take place in course of the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR site visit regarding the venue Trondheim between 8 and 10 October 2019.

The official website for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN will be launched prior to the qualifiers draw. In the opinion of the CC the website including general information as venues host cities, etc. shall be available at an earlier stage for upcoming EHF EURO events, as our product is currently visible 18 to 20 month prior to the start of the event.

Venues for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN:

<u>Preliminary Round:</u>	Trondheim/NOR Herning/DEN
<u>Main Round:</u>	Stavanger/NOR Herning/DEN
<u>Final Weekend:</u>	Oslo/NOR

6.4. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The Men's EHF EURO 2022 HUN/SVK has big political support in the organizing countries.

A first workshop between the EHF and the HUN/SVK OC will take place on 20th March 2019 at the EHF Office in Vienna.

A detailed playing schedule needs to be discussed and defined with all parties involved;



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Venues of the Men's EHF EURO HUN/SVK 2022:

<u>Preliminary Round:</u>	Veszprem/HUN Szeged/HUN Bratislava/SVK (2 groups) Debrecen/HUN Kosice/SVK
<u>Main Round:</u>	Bratislava/SVK Budapest/HUN
<u>Final Weekend:</u>	Budapest/HUN

6.5. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

A date for a first workshop needs to be defined between the organizing countries and the EHF; a visit on political level will take place within the next weeks in MNE, regarding the new arena project in Podgorica.

Confirmations concerning the new arena, which is planned to be built in Podgorica, shall be forwarded to the EHF by the OC's.

6.6. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

The communication with Germany is ongoing; a first workshop between the EHF and the GER OC will take place on 11 March 2019 in Vienna/AUT.

Issues such as basic match system, basic venue system, ticketing, etc. are to be clarified;

2024 EHF EURO Women

The Women's EHF EURO 2024 will be newly announced in April 2019. The announcement will be based on the outcome of the task force dealing with the issue of 24 participating teams. Pros and Cons concerning such a change were raised by the CC, especially the fact of a financeable event for the OC was emphasized; competition strength wise, Manchado sees enough time until 2024 to make sure that another 8 women's teams are ready for an EHF EURO participation. As a conclusion a tendency in favor of an enlargement has to be seen by the CC under the condition that the organizational and final requirements can be guaranteed.

A detailed schedule finishing with the awarding in December 2019 was presented to the EHF EXEC and provided to the CC as information.

6.7. W17 EURO 2019 SLO, W17 Championships 2019 GEO and ITA, W19 EURO 2019 HUN, W19 Championships 2019 BUL and LTU

16 Federations for each of the W17 and W19 EURO, 20 Federations for the W17 Championships, and 18 teams for the W19 Championships registered for participation. All 6 YAC events were awarded as follows:

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W17 EHF EURO:	SLO – Celje 1 to 11 August 2019 (16 teams, daily fee 120€)
W17 EHF Championships:	GEO – Tbilisi 3 to 11 August 2019 (10 teams, daily fee 95€) and ITA – Lignano Sabbiadoro 3 to 11 August 2019 (10 teams, daily fee 100€)
W19 EHF EURO:	HUN – Győr 11 to 21 July 2019 (16 teams, daily fee 130€)
W19 EHF Championships:	BUL – Varna 13 to 21 July 2019 (10 teams, daily fee 100€) and LTU – Klaipeda 15 to 21 July 2019 (8 teams, daily fee 95€)

All 6 competitions are well prepared and in all details according to the schedule (match schedule, contract, logos, etc.). All 4 championships were drawn during the organiser workshop in November in Vienna. The draw for the W19 EURO in HUN will be on 26 February in Győr and for the W17 EURO in SLO the draw will be on 28 February in Celje. The office nomination for the W19 Ch in LTU will be decided shortly.

6.8. IHF Competitions 2019: MWCh DEN/GER, MU19 WCh MKD, MU21 WCh ESP, IHF Super Globe Men and Women, WWCh JPN and IHF Competitions 2020: Women's OG-QT, Men's OG-QT, WU18 WCh CHN, WU20 WCh ROU

Men's WCh 2019 in DEN-GER (10 to 27 January 2019)

The 26th MWCh 2019 in GER and DEN were played with a lot of interesting new records (spectators, TV coverage, etc.). There will also be some consequences for the place distribution for 2021 (already mentioned in AP 5.5).

MU19 WCh MKD (Skopje, 5 to 18 August 2019)

From the M18 EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia the teams ranked 1 to 11 qualified for the final tournament apart from the organizer MKD: SWE, ISL, DEN, CRO, ESP, GER, FRA, SRB, SLO, HUN, NOR. Substitutes are: POR, RUS, ISR. No further information available.

MU21 WCh ESP (Vigo, 15 to 28 July 2019)

Apart from ESP as organizer ten further nations (teams ranked 1 to 11 with the exception of ESP) qualified from the M20 EHF EURO 2018 in Slovenia for the final tournament in ESP: SLO, FRA, GER, POR, CRO, ISL, SRB, NOR, SWE, HUN. Substitutes are: DEN, ISR, ROU. No further information available.

IHF Super Globe Men and Women

The IHF Super Globe for men will take place in Ammam/KSA from 28 to 31 August 2019. The EHF will deal with the overlap of the Delegates' and Referees' EURO Seminar at the same time.

Apart from the date and the organizer of the planned IHF Super Globe for women (1 to 4 August 2019 in China) no information is available.

WWCh JPN (29 November to 15 December 2019)

The final tournament will be played in Kumamoto/JPN between 29 November and 15 December 2019. The draw is foreseen to take place in Tokyo on Friday 21 June 2019. Already 14 participants are known (JPN, FRA, KOR, CHN, KAZ, ANG, SEN, COD, RUS, NED, ROU, AUS, BRA, ARG). 1 place for PANAM (to be decided in May) and 9 places from Europe will be decided in June.

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IHF Competitions 2020: Women's OG-QT, Men's OG-QT, WU18 WCh CHN, WU20 WCh ROU
Concerning the Women's Qualification to the OG the first clarifications are to be expected not before the WWCh 2019 in JPN is finalized.

Depending on the results of the MWCh in GER/DEN the first steps concerning the place distribution and composition of the 3 qualification tournaments are done but are for sure not final.

Apart from the facts, that the WU18 WCh 2020 is planned to take place in CHN and the WU20 WCh shall be played in ROU, no further information is available.

6.9. YAC EHF events in 2020: M18 EURO, M18 Championships, M20 EURO, M20 Championships

The registration papers for the M18 and M20 events in 2020 were sent out at the end of October 2018 together with the application documents for the M18 and M20 events.

16 Federations for each of the M18 and M20 EURO, 24 Federations for the M18 Championships, and 21 teams for the M20 Championships registered for participation. Up to now the necessary minimum number of 7 organizers is fulfilled. With the last minute application of BIH for the organization of a M20 Championship all events are covered by at least 1 application.

The office received bidding documents by the following Federations:

M18 EURO:	SLO – Celje with 16 teams (daily fee 120€) CRO – Varazdin & Koprivnica (3 rd option Cakovec) with 16 teams (daily fee 115€)
M18 Championships:	BUL – Burgas with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€) GRE – Kilkis with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€) MKD – Skopje with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€) MNE – Podgorica with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
M20 EURO:	SLO – Celje with 16 teams (daily fee 120€) CRO – Varazdin & Koprivnica (3 rd option Cakovec) with 16 teams (daily fee 115€) AUT/ITA – Innsbruck/AUT and Brixen/ITA with 16 teams (daily fee 130€)
M20 Championships:	LAT – Riga with 11 teams (daily fee 95€) BIH – Bugojno with 10 teams (daily fee 100 €)

In order not to lose too much time the office is requested to submit the proposals of the CC together with all necessary documents to the EXEC to enable them to award the YAC events 2020 in their next meeting on 5 April 2019. The CC is asked to confirm which of the presented venues are well known and therefore site visits as pre-inspections are not necessary. The composition of the tournaments in the championships will be done via the updated Men's YAC ranking list (snake system) taking into account the results of the Men's YAC events in 2019.

The workshop for the 2020 YAC events will take place in Vienna in November 2019.

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After checking the relevant documents the proposal of the CC is as follows:

M18 EURO: SLO – Celje (daily fee 120€)
M18 Championships: BUL – Burgas with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
MKD – Skopje with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
MNE – Podgorica with probable 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
M20 EURO: AUT/ITA – Innsbruck/AUT and Brixen/ITA (daily fee 130€)
M20 Championships: LAT – Riga with 11 teams (daily fee 95€)
BIH – Bugojno with 10 teams (daily fee 100 €)

Site inspections should take place in BUL, ITA, LAT and BIH followed by a final information package to the EXEC for the decision.

6.10. Status and evaluation of YAC Competitions in the future

In order to avoid the repeating of former discussions also in the CC concerning the YAC Competitions in general, the main facts of the meeting of the Working Group: “YAC Competitions in the Future”, which took place in Vienna, Airport on 19 February 2019 are presented and discussed.

Implementation of a competition in between (as alternative for teams not being qualified for the upcoming MU19 and WU18 WCh in the year after the M18 and W17 EURO or Championships):

Current situation: Depending on the places available for Europe (for example “14” starting from 2021 on) teams ranked 1 to 11 qualify directly to the WCh as well as the 3 winners of the championships (according to the current valid EXEC decision in this regard). These 14 teams are at the same time also directly qualified for the next M20 and W19 EURO of the same age group and for the next M18 and W17 EURO. Teams ranked 14 to 16 are relegated to the M18 and M20 Championships.

Additional competition: In this alternative competition (parallel to the YAC-WCh in June/July with an optimum number of participating teams in general of 8) teams ranked 12 to 16 of the last EURO play together with the respective number of teams (for example 2nd ranked teams in the championships) for the remaining place(s) in the next M18 and W17 EURO as well as in the next M20 and W19 EURO. In this example the teams ranked 1 to 2 will qualify for the EUROS or will stay in the EUROS.

Depending on the number of places available in the next world championship as well as on the number of championships and taking also at the same time into account the increased number of participants in the world championships starting in 2021 with 32 teams, the designated teams, who could participate in this competition-in-between have to be adapted accordingly.

Concerning the possible qualification of teams coming from the M20 and W19 Championships the majority of the CC is of the opinion, that the 2 winners of the championships should not qualify directly to the MU 21 and to the WU20 WCh (same age group). Instead of this a special qualification between the last ranked teams of the EURO and the best ranked teams of the championships (altogether 8 teams should be the best format) shall be played in January as additional WCh qualification.

These two new competitions shall be presented to the SG Conference and be discussed in detail.

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7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Issues of the current season 2018/19

The meeting of the TRC was postponed from February to April and will take place right prior to the CC meeting. The reason for this was to have a more advanced status of the reshaped structure in EHF Officiating valid as of 1 July 2019.

Five EHF referee pairs will be forced to retire after the end of this season, due to age reasons: Hajek/Macho CZE, Katsikis/Michailidis GRE, Baranowski/Lemanowicz POL, Buache/Meyer SUI and Rakytina/Tkachuk UKR.

A course for EHF referee candidates will be held in Drammen/NOR from 28 February to 3 March 2019 within the framework of the Norwegian youth play-offs with the participation of six EHF candidate pairs from DEN, EST, FIN, MDA, RUS and SVK. Three individuals are already in possession of an EHF badge but will be attending the course with a new referee partner (DEN, EST and MDA). Nachevski, Marreiros and Acsinte have been nominated by the EHF to lead the course and assess all six pairs.

It was pointed out that it would be important to hold another course for referee candidates during this season due to the needs for the large number of events taking place during the summer. Therefore it was recommended to look into the possibilities to organize the next course in Balatonboglár/HUN in May 2019 in cooperation with the HUN National Federation and their National Handball Academy (NEKA) during a tournament with senior-teams which has already served as a venue for the examination of referees back in May 2017. However, details regarding the financial conditions still need to be clarified before the course can be confirmed. In this respect, the idea was brought up to hold a parallel course for new EHF delegates on that same occasion, which will be further evaluated.

After losing a game, a team of the Men's Champions League sent a letter to the EHF to express their dissatisfaction with the referee performance. As usual in these cases, the game was reviewed by a neutral EHF referee expert and it was informed that the club's complaints were not substantiated and the information to the club will be accordingly.

The EHF referee lecturer Cirligeanu ROU was appointed to instruct referees in MDA in May 2019 as part of the EHF SMART-project.

7.2. Review Women's EURO in France

In general a positive atmosphere prevailed among the EURO officials as Nachevski reported, who also informed that the referees were able to achieve the level of performance required. Unfortunately the conference halls and rooms were located in different buildings/hotels which is something that needs to be avoided in the future. A written report containing all items related to refereeing was submitted by Nachevski and is part of the EURO reporting.

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The CC was satisfied with the way in which the EHF officials made use of the instant replay system, with exception of a few situations, where additional camera angles and/or better training would have been of benefit. Accordingly the need for clearer protocols as well as a closer cooperation between EHF's partner for video reviewing VisionSport was deemed necessary with the CC and an active involvement of VisionSport in the EURO Officials' Seminar will be clarified.

Moreover, it was recommended to look into further possibilities to redefine or/and improve the existing guidelines for the use of instant replay technologies and to look into the pros and cons of new ideas such as for example:

- extending the period of time in order to be able to take all of the information needed rather than rushing referees into mistakes;
- allowing each coach the ability to challenge a decision;
- using additional graphic icons to better explain certain referee decisions to the spectators in the arenas.

7.3. Young Referees Program

Almost 70 Young Referee pairs have been registered for the calendar year 2019. A total amount of 40-60 pairs will be needed to cover the various YR events taking place until the end of this summer:

- 18-22 April: Prague Handball Cup in CZE with approx. 10-12 pairs.
- 30 June – 7 July: Algarve Cup in Lagos/POR (no deal yet with POR with final details such as financial terms to be worked out)
- 1-5 July: Men's 17 European Open in Gothenburg/SWE with approx. 10-12 pairs.
- 4-10 July: EUSA Handball Championship in Bydgoszcz/POL with approx. 10 pairs.
- 20-28 July: W17 & M17 EYOF in Baku/AZE with 10 pairs.
- 19-21 August: High-level youth tournament in Düsseldorf/GER ahead of the German Super Cup (no deal yet with GER with final details such as financial terms to be worked out).

In addition to the EHF Young Referees, a wide number of EHF lecturers (2 referee specialists and 1 coaching expert per event) will be needed in order to guide and assist the EHF Young Referees through the various events.

7.4. Female Referees Program

Nachevski informed that 6 out of 12 referee pairs refereeing at the EURO in FRA were female, with two of them being in charge of the final and the bronze medal match respectively.

Currently, the EHF referee list includes a total of 23 female referee pairs. Unfortunately the pair Brehmer/Skowronek POL informed, that they will stop refereeing at the end of this season due to health issues, and thus the number of female EHF referees will be reduced to 21 – given the fact that Rakytina/Tkachuk UKR will stop too because of their age.

There are currently 4 female pairs on the EHF candidates list from the following countries: BLR (currently pregnant), ESP, FRA and HUN.

The number of female Young Referees registered represents a record number with a total of 19 pairs available for EHF.

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7.5. Referee nomination friendly matches

A list with a summary of all nominations was distributed to the CC members by Rancik and it was explained that the focus was diverted to the development of the pairs rather than following the wishes of certain federations, when requesting for specific referees. Some of the nominations were coordinated with IHF to assist some of their WCh referees during the preparation phase ahead of the Men's World Championship that took place in DEN/GER.

7.6. Referees' Head Sets

During the Women's EURO in FRA two referee couples (DEN and FRA) were provided with a new AxiWi headset/earpiece each to test it and to see whether reported issues in connection with upsetting outside noise could be eliminated or not. Unfortunately, the testing did not go well and AxiWi's attempt to use modified units for a new test could not take place during the final weekend in FRA due to failure to notify the EHF on their intentions. Based on this and other unfortunate experiences, the current supplier for headsets notified the EHF office about its intention of terminating the cooperation with EHF earlier. The contract was due to be completed by the end of 2019 and it will be evaluated whether terminating the contract ahead of schedule will be in the interest of the EHF or not.

7.7. IHF Refereeing Matters (WCh GER/DEN, Working Group on Rules, etc.)

A feedback regarding various IHF referee matters was provided by Nachevski, who attended the 2019 Men's World Championship in DEN/GER as an IHF Official. Prior to the WCh all participants received a letter from the IHF PRC with new guidelines to be followed, but apparently these instructions were never passed on to the non-participating nations and referees nor published, and thus are not widely accessible; although affecting the rules of the game.

Nachevski expressed his surprise about the fact that the IHF only used a very limited pool of referees for the final stage of the WCh with restricted game assignments and lack of opportunities for some top level referees. To have the same referee couple doing a semifinal and also a final was considered as rather unusual.

It was reported that some of the President's Cup games during the WCh featured mixed referee couples, an idea that was already implemented by the IHF on other occasions.

The EHF has been invited by the IHF to take part in an expert panel to discuss the rules of the game, and Nachevski as well as Höritsch (EHF CAN) will be representing the EHF during this session taking place in Basle/SUI on 29-30 March 2019 in order to provide inputs. It is the intention of the EHF to send a letter to all Member Federations as well as to Europe's top clubs within the next days to receive their comments regarding the existing rules or ideas for amendments or proposals to be shared and discussed with the IHF.

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7.8. Officiating as of the 2019/20 season – status and information

With reference to the minutes of the EHF EXEC meeting in GER in January, Glaser informed the CC members about the increasing demand to the EHF to develop the area of EHF officiating in a more professional way and at the same time about the EHF EXEC's consent to re-define the existing structure and tasks related to officiating matters as of 1 July 2019. It is a topic that has been brought up by various stakeholders in the past, especially when it comes to the task to nominate referees to EHF competitions and the aim to have this part of the work switched to the level of the professionals as it is already existing for the Delegate nomination. Accordingly, a new structure re-defining the various roles and responsibilities shall be prepared, developed and presented to the EXEC for approval.

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Issues of the current season 2018/19

The current season did not produce any major issues related with the EHF-Delegates, even though the reporting in single cases is not always complete and needs to be improved.

8.2. Update on the list of EHF Delegates

The EXEC has approved in its January meeting to terminate the EHF status of those two delegates that were involved in the cases of BIH-SUI and St. Petersburg (RUS) vs. FH (ISL) about one year ago. Even though there is more than a sufficient number of active delegates available on the EHF list, a seminar for new delegates is envisaged to serve the request from newly interested persons to become an EHF-Delegate. It is therefore necessary to see that the current list consists only of delegates, that offer the needed availability and the requested efforts and performance.

8.3. Status e-learning and testing

The EHF tool for distance learning and e-learning is already in use for an activity on the National Team level with the Federations and will now be used in a similar way in the further education and testing area for EHF-Delegates.

9. Additional Matters

9.1. International Calendar 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022

The updated editions of the current EHF calendars 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 were distributed. The 2021/2022 is currently prepared and will be presented as soon as possible.

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9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

After Adrienn Öri left the EHF at the end of January Nadja Lacina took over the position of the EHF Anti-Doping Unit Officer.

The tests during the competitions are running well and have not produced new positive test results. The focus in the next months will be on the education and information activities for the YAC in the summer where further steps are planned after the starting initiative of last summer.

10. Miscellaneous

No issues were raised.

After Manchado had taken over the Chair from Djurkovic for the last points of the agenda, she thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 01 March 2019
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Flixeder