



Minutes to the 13th Ordinary Congress of the European Handball Federation (EHF)
in
St. Wolfgang / AUT, 17-18 November 2016

Session I & II: Thursday, 17 November 2016 09:00 – 12:30
14:00 – 17:00
Session III & IV: Friday, 18 November 2016 09:00 – 12:30
Venue: Scalaria, St. Wolfgang / AUT
Participants: 229 participants

Delegates from 49 Federations, 2 Associated Federations, Guests of honour, Executive Committee, Competitions Commission, Methods Commission, Beach Handball Commission, Comptrollers, Court of Handball, Court of Appeal, Court of Arbitration, Nations Board, Women's Handball Board, candidates for the elections, and office staff (see enclosure).

Minutes: M. Wiederer
M. Brown

Date: 11 December 2016



PART I (1.-6.) General part

1. Welcome and keynote speeches

Jean Brihault, President of the European Handball Federation (EHF)

EHF President Brihault opened the Congress by stating that an election Congress was a privileged moment in the democratic life of an association like the European Handball Federation; a moment to reflect on the past through the reports and motions to take care of the future. On the occasion of electoral congress, it is a time where the people who are going to be in charge of conducting the policy determined by the Congress are designated. Brihault underlined that the Congress was also a moment of celebration and of friendship as it was combined with the 25th anniversary celebrations, where special guests who are partners would be welcomed.

A very special welcome was extended to the honorary members, three of whom were present at the foundation Congress (Karl Güntzel, Claude Rinck, and Jan Tuik). Other guests who were present in Berlin on 17 November 1991 were also named: former IHF President Lanc, Jesus Guerrero, Jean Kaiser, Per Otto Furusest, Janusz Czerwinski, Rui Coelho, Christer Thelin, Frantisek Taborsky, Sandor Andorka and Michael Wiederer. Analysing the list President Brihault stated that when attending a congress, there was a present guaranteed only for a short time, a past, and in some cases, there is a future. He also extended a special welcome to Alexandru Dedu, the President of the Romanian Handball Federation, who was present at the Congress for the first time since an accident led to a long period of ongoing convalescence.

The electoral Congress meant that some people would stop their EHF activity; Brihault thanked all those involved over the past four years for their dedication, hard work, and their friendship. He wished all the candidates good luck for the elections, noting that there must be winners and losers, but the spirit of the Congress must be team building and following the outcome of the election, there must be a team again.

Dr. Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation (IHF)

Addressing the handball family, with special reference to EHF President Brihault and EHF Secretary General Wiederer, for extending the invitation to be part of the event, IHF Honorary President Lanc, and ÖHB President Hofbauer, President Moustafa expressed his pleasure at being present at the Congress, to be together and to be part of the dialogue on the future strategy of handball in Europe. Dr. Moustafa also congratulated the European Handball Federation and its National Federations on its anniversary – for 25 years of many top and progressive events on the continent. He restated his belief that if the Federations in Europe are healthy, then handball on the global level will also be healthy. Through its activities, Europe is the leader in handball worldwide, because it is understood that the main experts, be it players, coaches, referees, lecturers, etc. are coming from Europe; and these are the people that are used to promote and develop the sport.

President Moustafa also expressed his gratitude to the three EHF Presidents that had governed the European Handball Federation in the 25 year period – Staffan Holmqvist, Tor Lian, and Jean Brihault. At this time, at the request of President Moustafa, a moment of silence was held for Tor Lian who passed away in 2016.

Continuing, he commented on the good relationship between the IHF and the EHF stating that the organisations were in constant contact and met regularly holding several joint meetings per year



where information is exchanged and issues are discussed with the aim of finding a common solution, always with respect for the opinion of others and the democratic process. He underlined the main duty of the international and European organisations, which was to bring the handball community together in order to lead in the same direction for the promotion and the development of the sport; this is done to avoid conflicts and damage to the sport. He spoke of many projects being undertaken to move handball forward on a global level working together with the National Federations, specifically working with the three performers – the top nations, the developing countries, and the emerging countries. Moustafa mentioned the success of the first IHF Emerging Nations Men's Championship that took place in Kosovo and noting that the second event would be held in Bulgaria in 2017.

Moustafa stated that the International Handball Federation currently governs 204 members on the global level with nearly all of the Federations currently being active in handball; he pointed to the fact that some have financial and structural difficulties and they are supported by the various IHF projects. With reference to recent changes (amendments to the rules), Moustafa spoke of the long process that included evaluation (OG, WC), meetings on the level of internal commissions and expert forums (marketing, TV, National Federations, lecturers, etc.), the submission to the IHF Council for finalisation, before finally being presented to the IHF Congress. Following the Olympic Games in Rio, the IHF called for feedback to the recent amendments and found 85-90% of the experts in favour of the change. Moustafa also congratulated the EHF and the participating National Federations on their success in Rio, and highlighted that handball had secured the second highest ticket sales, ranking only behind football and ahead of volleyball, basketball and gymnastics. For the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, with these results, handball has never been so popular ranking ahead of 26 other sport disciplines. Thus, the global handball community needs to work together, moving in the same direction, to make the diamond that is handball the number one sport. Though there were problems within the Olympic movement, Moustafa spoke of his happiness that these problems were not in handball and not affecting the sport. However, he underlined the importance of transparency and democracy on the issues that concern sport in general and that the organisation would continue to work with the relevant authorities.

Closing his address, IHF President Hassan Moustafa wished the candidates good luck for the elections to come, and hoped that good teams would be created thereof. He thanked EHF President Jean Brihault and Vice President Arne Elofsson for their good work as the European representatives in the IHF Council. Finally, he extended his best wishes to the new team under the leadership of Michael Wiederer, and hoped that together with the IHF they would continue the good work.

Stephan Herth, Executive Director of Summer Sports at Infront Sports & Media AG / Wanda Holdings

On behalf of the entire Infront and Wanda Group, Stephan Herth extended a warm welcome in the Salzkammergut to the EHF President, Executive Committee, Secretary General and the friends and distinguished guests of handball. Stating that CEO Philippe Blatter would give an extended speech upon his arrival, he kept his words brief. Herth spoke of the long-standing partnership between Infront Sports & Media and EHF since its inception and noted that in this business of federations and sports marketing, he did not know of any other example of such a relationship. But it showed the congress and the whole Infront team that this was not only about figures and processes, it was much more; it felt like being a part of the EHF, like family. Looking back at the development of the flagship event over the past decade, Herth deemed it a highly professional platform to promote the sport with the EHF and Infront inspiring each other and placing lot of energy into the event in which they



shared the success and the results. Herth described the EHF/Infront relationship as the perfect partnership based on trust and mutual respect. He then took the opportunity to thank the entire team under the leadership of Jean Brihault for the great times and the success; looking back to Poland (EHF EURO 2016) Herth stated that it was an incredible event, which is the way it should be. He said that working hard was one part of it, but EHF/Infront also shared the fun and enjoyed each other and this is the way it should be. At a time when the EHF is paving the way for the future, Herth hoped that the relationship would stay the same. Sharing a personal anecdote, Herth recalled the time when in 2006, he was asked by Secretary General Wiederer to give his first speech on the occasion of the 15th anniversary; he told the attendees that at 15, the EHF did not have a 'driver's license', but at 25, not only has the EHF passed the test, but more importantly, the EHF has kept its license. He considered other federations that have not been so successful from an organisational standpoint; he put this down to the leadership team that made it happen; Herth also commented on the integral, open and transparent leadership and he hoped that upcoming elections would pave the way so that the EHF/Infront relationship would progress forward. He also took note of the only candidate for the position of president and viewed it as a good sign because the Congress picked an experienced man that has been working his entire life for handball and it showed that the federation is united, which is not a given situation in other federations. It was deemed a good sign that would allow the Congress to focus its energies on the sport, whilst Infront would do what was needed to push forward on the commercial side. Closing his address, Herth thanked the Congress.

Adam Roczek, President of the European Universities Sports Association (EUSA)

Addressing the Congress, Roczek expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to attend the Congress, which in itself was remarkable due to the 25th anniversary of the European Handball Federation. Over the past 25 years, the EHF proved to be a prosperous, modern and dynamic organisation that is extremely successful at developing handball and attracting large crowds to all its events. Both personally and on behalf of the EUSA Secretary General Matjaz Pecovnik, he expressed his appreciation to President Brihault and Secretary General Wiederer for the chance given to EUSA to cooperate with the EHF. He also thanked Frantisek Taborsky, Carmen Manchado, and Vladimir Rancik. Roczek informed the Congress that in April 2016 EUSA presented the EHF with the "Best Cooperating European Sports Federation" award; he stated that the experience and proactive attitude of the EHF towards EUSA was much valued, important and appreciated by the European University sports family. He also announced his confidence that the EHF would stay on the positive course, maintain its high standards, and continue to have many successes in the future. Reiterating the wish of Dr. Moustafa, Roczek also hoped to see handball become the number one sport in the future. Using the opportunity, he presented President Brihault with a commemorative ornament recognising the EHF 25th Anniversary. Furthermore, Roczek also invited Frantisek Taborsky, the person to introduce handball to the university sports programme and served as the link between EUSA and the EHF, to the podium to collect a personal gift from EUSA.

President Brihault thanked the keynote speakers for their words, their support and their friendship; he also thanked the other guests who did not have the opportunity to address the Congress for their permanent support.

2. Formal questions

2.1. Roll call

Secretary General Michael Wiederer confirmed that following the usual registration process, 49 Member Federations and the Associated Federations of ENG and SCO were represented and



accredited. With the exception of Bosnia Herzegovina, all Member Federations were present and 49 Federations were entitled to vote.

2.2. Election of tellers

In the case of intermediate voting, the YES/NO voting paddles issued upon accreditation were to be used. Thus, Päivi Mitrunen (Secretary General/FIN) and Ivan Sabovik (Secretary General/SVK) were elected as tellers with no opposition.

2.3. Steps of procedure for Congress elections and awarding of events

In accordance with the statutes in principle and if not decided otherwise, all votes (elections, motions, awarding) will take place via electronic voting system, provided by an external company known to the Congress participants. Christoph Gamper, EHF Head of IT, presented the basic information and the voting machines were distributed to those nations eligible to vote, and a test vote carried out. The Congress agenda complied with the EHF statutes.

3. Declaration of the lawful convocation of the 13th Ordinary Congress

The Secretary General reiterated the timeline observed in accordance with the statutes and the period leading up to the Congress. This timeline was reproduced in the Congress documentation for the benefit of the participants. The 13th Ordinary Congress was lawfully convoked and was confirmed by 44 votes in favour.

4. Minutes

4.1. Minutes of the 12th Ordinary Congress 2014 in Dublin/IRL (for information)

For information purposes only, the Congress was briefly reminded that the minutes that were adopted in Bucharest, Romania in 2015.

4.2. Minutes of the 12th Conference of Presidents 2015 in Bucharest/ROU

With no comments raised, the minutes of the 12th Conference of Presidents 2015 in Bucharest, Romania were adopted.

4.3. Minutes of the 12th Extraordinary Congress 2015 in Bucharest/ROU

With no comments raised, the minutes of the 12th Extraordinary Congress 2015 in Bucharest, Romania were adopted.

5. Reports

5.1. Report from the President

As is tradition at this stage in the Congress, President Brihault paid tribute to those who, since the last Congress, have passed away; to those in the National and European Federations who have served the sport so well and who left; and through three names President Brihault paid his respects to all those who had departed: former EHF Vice President Hans-Jürgen Hinrichs, former EHF President Tor Lian, and former Chairman of the Competitions Commission Josef 'Bubu' Ambrus. The three were at the Congress in Berlin, the founding fathers of the EHF, the visible part of the beautiful iceberg that is European handball. Upon request, the Congress stood and observed a moment of silence.

Formally opening his report, Brihault stated that the first point would not just pay lip service to education, as it is education where it all starts; the quality of handball in Europe is due to the fact that for a long time, even prior to the existence of the EHF and more so since its inception, the



educational preoccupation has been very extreme in the National Federations and, for the past 25 years, on the level of the EHF. The EHF has preserved the traditional approaches concerning the public, coaches, referees, officials, but the EHF has also introduced more original approaches concerning administration, political leadership, and economics. The EHF also entered specific fields such as in the fight against doping; the EHF is working more intensively with the players from the Younger Age Category events by using and taking advantage of the relationship between the EHF and the European Handball Players Union (EHPU) to educate the young players and to show them that the anti-doping controls are not hostile to them, exactly the opposite. The controls are contributing to the healthy development and the career of the players.

The EHF also contributed via the support programmes, all of which contained an educational facet (i.e. SMART, ISP, and Foster programmes). The EHF has reached the stage where it has a dedicated department headed by Helmut Hörtsch. Brihault indicated that the two leaflets that were distributed to each participant as part of the Congress package were produced by the Education department at the request of the Executive Committee. Brihault encouraged the National Federations to use the educational possibilities that are on a high level and, in some cases, in partnership with top educational institutions. Brihault underlined that the EHF has a complete offer in terms of education.

Turning to the point of competitions, Brihault mentioned that the EHF competitions have developed in a spectacular way whether it be club or national team competitions. The EHF cares equally for the national teams and the clubs, for the women's and the men's competitions, for indoor handball and for beach handball; and the EHF is moving in new directions for instance having already started on wheelchair handball, which the EHF hopes to continue to develop further. There have been major evolutions in the format of the EHF competitions; it was stressed that the evolution is the result of a clear and transparent democratic process. The EHF cup was founded for men and women and this was the result of political decisions, but also of clear and constructive dialogue with Forum Club Handball (FCH), the club association for both men and women. The Champions League for men has become a model for all indoor sports in Europe; here again, the new format for men has been the object of a very exciting and constructive negotiation with FCH, where both partners jointly designed the new format, which inevitably would change again in the future, because such is the dynamism of European handball.

The EHF introduced the 24-nation EURO to be played in 2020 for the first time. The Congress was reminded of the democratic and the working processes where the 24-team system was created followed by the major alterations in the presentation of the competition. The Younger Age Category competitions were also altered based upon the feedback of the National Federations; this was changed in 2016 and the first edition was positively received.

Noting sometimes that the non-decision was also a decision, Brihault spoke of the first edition of the European Games (EOC event) that took place for the first time in 2015 in Baku, Azerbaijan. After an intensive internal dialogue, the EHF decided not to participate, not because the organisation disapproved of European Games, but because the international handball calendar was already full of activities; the health of the players, the competence of the top players, as well as the players' workload were considered prior to the decision being taken. Still in the field of competitions, the EHF introduced new technological approaches and Cologne especially was a test subject with instant replay, a flashing light for the team time-out, cameras built-in to the referee shirts for the first time



in 2016, plus many other evolutions, and the EHF must continue in this perspective; the Congress could be satisfied with the development of the competitions.

Moving on to the essential aspect of democratic life, Brihault reported on the regular meetings of all the EHF bodies as well as various conferences, and other groups including the clubs on the occasion of the draw, which underlined the open dialogue. Brihault noted his regret that over the past four years there was a deficit in the representation coming from central and Eastern Europe. The elections of 2012, though respected, did not have enough persons from these nations. Brihault noted that he tried to compensate with a number of visits to these nations and said that this was something that the Congress must be careful about. Another deficit was seen in the area of the smaller handball nations and this should be corrected. Brihault noted that when speaking about weaknesses, one must also speak about the strengths, and one great success and source of pride, is the Professional Handball Board. It took some time in the Congress to bring the concept to existence, it was the perfect place where democratic and expert representations met and where the discussions contributed to the construction of a good future, not only for the competitions, but for a global system. Brihault sincerely thanked the stakeholders who were essential in this process, especially the clubs that took a leadership role originally, and who were now totally able to accept the fact that they shared this forum with the other stakeholders. The Women's Handball Board is also something relatively new in the EHF structure. There are still many steps to be made concerning gender equality; the outcome of the last Congress showed 23% of the elected were women, it must be ensured that this figure only rises in the future. Referring to the Congress in Bucharest, where a motion in favour of Gender equality got more than 50% percent of the vote, Brihault – with the approval of the Executive Committee – signed the Brighton Declaration which commits the EHF to promoting gender equality within all fields of activity. The final topic to the point of democratic life centred on the EHF staff: Brihault underlined that democratic life is not possible if everybody is not sharing the same information in the same form. He noted that being informed decisions can be taken and that there can be agreements and disagreements when everybody is basing their opinion on shared documentation; this is what the EHF staff do, and they provide all the bodies in the EHF with perfect documentation. And because of this work, a legend has appeared that the decisions have been taken on the office level, Brihault guaranteed that after 16 years in the EHF Executive Committee that had not observed a single case where the staff were doing anything but documenting the decision-making process; for this and many other things, he thanked the staff.

Reporting on partnerships, Brihault reiterated the sentiment of Dr. Hassan Moustafa stating that the EHF has an excellent working relationship with the International Handball Federation. Though at times the organisations are confronted with objective difficulties because of the size of the continental federation and because the IHF has to deal with all continental federations; Oceania is not the same as Europe, and the rules established by the IHF have to apply to everybody and the EHF totally agrees with that. Only the density and quality of our handball creates a specific situation in the IHF. The EHF managed through numerous bilateral meetings to really solve the problems before they became major problems, for that, Brihault extended his gratitude to the IHF and President Moustafa and underlined that it should continue. The EHF also worked with the IHF on anti-doping; he stated the EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU) was useful and working with the approval of the IHF. Thanks to the global system, prior to the Olympic Games, the EHF was able to say that members of a team that was threatened due to global anti-doping approach were tested on an EHF competition level and found to be clean, this is a situation that has not been neglected. The nations and the players must understand that anti-doping controls can be of extreme value to them. The EHF is working with European Olympic Committee, though the EHF refused to participate in the European



Games, the relations are excellent, and on the level of EYOF, the EHF has a splendid cooperation concerning the Young Referee Programme (YRP). The EHF also cooperates with the European Union and the traditional partners present at the Congress with whom the cooperation is excellent.

The economic philosophy of the EHF is that money earned should equate to money spent; there must be a redistribution. The EHF have events that produce money, and this money must be invested in favour of European handball, Brihault stated that the EHF is very careful and reasonable with the funds, but the organisation does not hoard the funds underlining that 80% of it goes back to the clubs, the rest goes to the EHF Budget under income club competitions and is used for the normal business including education and other programmes. The EHF keeps only what is necessary to guarantee a future without major incident. In the field of economy, EHF Marketing is an essential element in the structure. EHF Marketing has acquired new strength; the former Managing Director informed Brihault resp. EXEC in December 2015 that he was not going to renew his employment contract. Immediately, the Assistant Managing Director took over as the provisional MD; David Szlezak was recruited in June 2016 as Managing Director. Brihault expressed his gratitude to the EHF staff for the way that they enabled the EHF to transcend this potentially dangerous moment in a very smooth way. Prior to the Congress the EHF General Assembly took place and Brihault confirmed that the situation is extremely sound, and the EHF has a stable position that will improve because that is how any organisation should operate. Closing his report, he stated that it was always a pleasure to address the Congress and remained at its disposal for any questions. No questions were raised and the Congress took note of the report.

5.2. Report from the Secretary General

Opening his report, Secretary General Wiederer directly addressed President Brihault and thanked him for the kind remarks attributed to the EHF and EHF professional staff; those present heard the message, and those not present would be informed of the message. Wiederer noted that it provided a good start for the report of the Secretary General.

In Dublin at the 2014 Congress, a full report was given on all the activities in the EHF office. The Congress was aware that the Secretaries General and the professional staff of the National Federations have several functions in a federation; they are the link between the different activities and sometimes they are the glue; serving as the glue, this is holding true for the national federations as well as the EHF. Wiederer informed the Congress that it is a special situation to reminisce and to recognise that many people have contributed to the work and success. The cooperation on a professional and elected level is essential for the result of what the EHF is doing. The structure of the EHF and its office is well known to the Congress, and it always follows the sport-political decisions, the requirements that are imposed on the professional staff. Regarding the activities, the reports would be given by the chairpersons of the commissions, though the Congress was also informed via the business and sport report publications and other documentation.

Turning to the point of economy, he mentioned that the EHF President had covered most points; however, he underlined that ultimately, the EHF is measured by its results. The activities and the events are closely observed, but the economic situation of a federation, be it the EHF or a National Federation, is evaluated by external sources, but also internally. The EHF has to follow and implement the programmes, whilst ensuring that it stays within its budget. On a positive note, the conduct of the business has been correct, due to the fact that over the past 25 years the EHF has stayed close to its budget process. The financial years were completed in accordance with the tasks and prerequisites (i.e. budget) given.



Reporting on the EHF Office, Wiederer noted the increase in staff, due to the given tasks; the Congress and Executive Committee decided to enlarge the fields of activities over the years, and consequently the number of staff increased. Within the last two years, and also following the restructuring processes, there was actually a reduction in the number of staff. Closing his report, the Secretary General reiterated that the professional staff of the EHF have conducted their work and have continued to do so, in close cooperation with the Commissions, in the period 1991 – 2016.

5.3. Report from the Competitions Commission

Chairman Leopold Kalin addressed the Congress and began his report by introducing the members of the Competitions Commission. He mentioned that the position “Member Club Competitions” would be nominated by the stakeholder group, Forum Club Handball in the future. Continuing, he mentioned that the commission had recently implemented a new structure for the Younger Age Category (YAC) competitions; the first European Championship for Women’s 17 took place in Hungary in 1992 and the Men’s 18 took place in Switzerland. Between 1994 and 2003, the events had 12 participants and with the introduction of the Men’s 18 and Women’s 19 World Championships, the number of participants in the YAC events increased to 16. The initiative to change the system to phase out the qualification tournaments by playing a two-tiered format, the EURO with 16 teams and the European Championships with 8 to 12 teams depending on the number of registrations started in 2012 at the Conference for Secretaries General in Copenhagen and was finalised in 2014, with a positive vote of more than 93% at the EHF Congress in Dublin.

The first edition of the new system took place in 2016 with the M18 EURO taking place in Croatia, and three M18 European Championships taking place in Georgia, Bulgaria, and Lithuania. The feedback of the 43 registered teams was very positive; anticipating the Men’s EHF EURO 2020 with 24 teams in Sweden/Austria/Norway, it can be assumed that a lot of participants can be expected to come from the 2016 Men’s 18 YAC events. The evaluation processes of the 2016 events are ongoing and the first adaptations were made for the first edition of the Women’s 17 EURO (SVK), Women’s 19 EURO (SLO) and the Women’s 17 European Championship (LTU and MKD) events in 2017.

The first editions of the EHF EURO took place in 1994 in Germany (women) and Portugal (men) with twelve teams each. The number of the participants remained unchanged until 2000. From 2002 and for the next edition of the men’s EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia, the events have seen the number of teams capped at 16. The positive vote of 100% at the Congress in Dublin, the number of teams in the men’s event was increased to 24 teams.

Over the past two years, the qualification system has been continuously improved, and this was due in part to the EHF ensuring that the National Federations were part of the discussions and the decision-making process. With the exception of Liechtenstein and Monaco, 48 National Federations have registered for phase 1 of the qualification, which commenced in November and will conclude in January 2017. The three winners of the three groups will qualify for phase 2 of the EHF EURO 2020 Qualification; the teams ranked 2nd and 3rd will join the 9 teams already registered for the 2nd edition of the IHF Emerging Nations Men’s Championship in July 2017. The 20 teams that will participate in this event have the opportunity to win the last three spots in the EHF EURO 2020 qualification.

Moving on to the area of club competitions, the Competitions Commission were involved in the restructuring of the playing format for men (28 teams in 4 groups) in the 15/16 season. The current VELUX EHF Champions League season is progressing and continues to enjoy large audiences in the



venues around Europe. The Women's EHF Champions League still plays a group matches/main round system, and since the introduction of the Women's EHF Final4, the Women's Champions League continues to gain more attention. Kalin also informed the Congress on the success of the Women's EHF Cup since the playing system was adapted to mirror the Men's EHF Cup system. The objective to have a three-tiered club competition system (Champions League, EHF Cup, and Challenge Cup) for both genders was fully realised by 2016.

Reporting on the activities of the referees, Kalin reported that there are over 1000 matches per season across the entire EHF competition repertoire. Kalin underlined that the referees are part of many other activities and introduced the important works and the members of the Technical Refereeing Committee – who undertake all the physical activities (e.g. training) throughout the season, the TRC were also present at EHF events and available to the National Federation for special education activities with the referees. Special attention was also given to female referees and the issues that they face; the TRC assist in the development of the referees on both the domestic and international levels. In the field of refereeing, the Young Referee Programme (YRP) has been a highlight for many years, where the EHF takes special care of those who are young, but show great future potential in order to support their development and their careers to bring them closer to the international standard. The YRP is considered by many experts to be successful programme that secures a solid basis for international referees. The young referees take part in many events throughout the year, such as the EYOF, EUSA, ISF, the European Open and many more. Referee Candidate Courses, led by EHF lecturers who specialise in officiating, are sometimes held within the framework of these events. In the area of courses, CC Chairman Kalin reminded the Congress that the courses are organised in cooperation with the Methods Commission who are responsible for nominating the expert lecturers.

To the EHF delegates, who are present at all matches and are responsible for the correct execution of the matches on all levels, Kalin informed the Congress that Competitions Commission actively supports this area of work by ensuring that all new delegates are supplied with educational opportunities via the tailored courses and seminars such as preparatory courses for those nominated to an EHF EURO; these courses promote the unified handling of EHF EURO matches and team spirit among the delegates at the events.

Concerning further activities, the Competitions Commission was represented at the 2015 EHF expert group that dealt with the dialogue and evaluation of the proposed rule change resulting from the forum in Copenhagen. Once the rules became valid as of 1 July 2016, the CC together with the TRC led the implementation of the new rules in Europe that were a main issue at the 2016 YAC events. All these activities in the area of the rules, transfer of knowledge and expertise were undertaken in close and successful cooperation with the EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN) led by Helmut Hörtsch.

Playing venues remain a key issue in the work of the Competitions Commission. Kalin informed the Congress that many steps had been taken by the clubs and the National Federations in the last years. The CC supported this movement by providing digital manuals which encompassed the details regarding the requirements and set-up of a venue for the various competitions. Detailed and tailored guidelines have been developed by the CC and are offered where necessary in order to create the best possible situation for handball matches at the appropriate level of the particular competition. Though progress had been made, Kalin stressed that there was still a long way to go. The efforts of the EHF, together with the stakeholders, would have to be strengthened in order to create a playing



hall set-up that presents the best picture not only to the audience in the arenas, but also for TV and internet coverage. The development of the technology support goes together with the improved venue set-up; Goal line technology was introduced at the EHF Cup final in Nantes in 2013, and it has been consistently used at the Champions League Final4s; and will be utilised at the EHF EURO 2016 in December in Sweden. Furthermore, and after the positive experience in Cologne in 2016, the instant replay technologies will be implemented to support the decision-making finding process on the court. Another development in the electoral period in the area of technology was the digital score sheet, which gives a play-by-play of the match cut into video clips via predefined parameters; the technology is supplied by the University of Las Palmas Gran Canaria (ULPGC) and it is available shortly after the end of each match.

Finally, Kalin spoke of the EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU) led, on behalf of the EHF by external expert, Hans Holdhaus. The EAU coordinates all activities in the area of anti-doping and Kalin reiterated the importance of a correct and flawless handling of anti-doping activities during competitions. The EAU guaranteed a secure process in the fight against doping; these activities do not only consist of tests, but also comprise of education for the players and officials in the area of YAC events.

Using the opportunity, Kalin extended his thanks to the members of the Competitions Commission for the work, of which he is proud, and the cooperation over the past four years; he also extended his gratitude to the colleagues within the office, Markus Glaser, Peter Sichelschmidt and Helmut Hörtsch for their support on this level. Closing his reports, Kalin said that there were many challenges to be faced in the area of competitions and he wished the new chairman and members of the Competitions Commission good work and success in the future.

5.4. Report from the Methods Commission

MC Chairman Eliaz opened his report by introducing the team that has served the Methods Commission past four years, and made special reference to the team inside the office in Vienna (N. Rabenseifner, B. Kozłowska, and H. Hörtsch), who worked in the shadow of the technical commissions but produced important work. Moving on to the activities, he informed the Congress that the MC had secured 28 signatory nations, currently had three applicants nearly ready to sign the agreement and ten countries remaining, in the RINCK Convention. He said that there was still a lot of work to do in the upcoming period, but the Methods Commission was satisfied with the number of countries involved.

The Methods Commission was also satisfied with the Coaches Licensing System, not only because the EHF is the second sports federation in the world after football to have such a system, but because the system is strictly connected to the education system. Chairman Eliaz gave a brief reiteration of the system. In the area of education, Eliaz spoke first of the EHF Master Coach system and the corresponding courses that had been implemented in 2012 with each course consisting of three modules over the course of one year. National Federations were also provided with the opportunity to organise Master Coach Courses with the support of the MC, following the approval of the course content by the EHF, the MC nominated the respective EHF lecturers to the courses. Until now, ten member federations have organised National Master Coach courses, and the MC has recorded a growing interest in this area and it is expected to grow. In the functions period, two RINCK Convention seminars were also organised in 2013 and 2015 in Vienna and Young Coaches Workshops within the framework of YAC events, it is underlined that these activities will continue in the future.



In the area of Youth, School, and Non-competitive Sports, Chairman Eliasz provided the congress with a brief review of the activities, which included the publication of various teaching materials (mini-handball, handball at school, and basic handball movements in cooperation with the ULPGC). Eliasz reported on the successful cooperation with Goalcha, an organisation that works with the 6-9 age group by providing them with attractive programmes. In 2015, the MC returned to the topic of Wheelchair Handball and held the first tournament in St. Pölten in Austria, and with the second tournament scheduled to take place in Sweden in December, the MC has continued in their efforts to promote and increase the popularity of the sport. In 2016, the MC also took part in a wheelchair handball working group that focused on the cohesion of the rules, as it was found that the teams around Europe played with different rules.

Looking back to the MC activities in the area of development, Eliasz gave the Congress an overview of the four programmes (SMART; Foster, ISP, and short term) currently in place. 19 National Federations were involved with the SMART programme. The Foster Programme continued to promote cooperation between two National Federations, there are currently 5 ISP programmes running, and the short-term projects have resulted in over 90 support actions (balls, goals, bibs, etc.), which meant on average that both developed and developing Federations involved received a minimum of 2 support actions from the EHF.

Moving on to the EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN), MC Chairman Eliasz underlined the popularity of the Scientific Conference that was organised in 2013 (AUT) and 2015 (ROU), where both events saw participation figures exceed 100 on each occasion. The EHF CAN also coordinated the EHF Expert Group on the Rules of the Game. Moreover, in 2016, the EHF CAN took the first steps towards introducing a health science network with the objective being a much more comprehensive attempt to look at the players, not only concerning their health, but also to make handball more safe and find the way to reduce the number of injuries. On the other hand, the health science network is aimed at finding much more inclusive solutions for players in the areas of psychology, physiology, social environment, as well as the topic of the dual career (on and off the court). The Methods Commission was also heavily involved in the women's ball size project, the MC sent the findings in a formal report to the IHF. The congress was also informed on the MC involvement in the European Week of Sport. All the activities of the Methods Commission are visible on the EHF activities website (teaching material, analyses, etc.), and the dedicated YouTube channel has increased the number of subscribers and that boasted nearly 3 million page views in 2016.

Concluding his report, Chairman Eliasz thanked the Member Federations for their understanding, support and their efforts and for the good cooperation over the past four years. He expressed his wish that the cooperation within the Methods Commission would continue and that it would be raised to an even higher level in the next function period.

5.5. Report from the Beach Handball Commission

Opening his report, Chairman Ole Jørstad introduced the four other members of the Beach Handball Commission (BC) and thanked them for their good work and years of service during the 2012 -2016 period; he also thanked the office members who continued to support the BC from Vienna and also on location at the various events (C. Gamper, A. Krywulf, N. Rabenseifner, and P. Fröschl).

Jørstad confirmed the growing participation of the National Federations in beach handball activities, at the last two championship events in 2013 and 2015, 26 (13 men/13 women) teams were represented on both occasions. He called for the Federation to send their players to the next event in



the Zagreb region. On the level of the YAC beach events, the participation numbers continued to rise and he underlined the importance of working with the younger beach handball teams, and praised the rising level of standards and spectators. However, noting that nearly 50% of the EHF Member Federations were not involved in beach handball on any level, Chairman Jørstad stated that the BC would intensify their efforts to change this.

Jørstad continued by giving an overview of the competitions available to beach handball teams on both the national and club team levels - senior and YAC EUROS, European Beach Tour (ebt), and the Champions Cup (ChC). The ebt boasts over 50 events each summer; the third edition of the ChC again organised in cooperation with the ULPGC was again successful and it is hoped that the event would continue in the future. On an administrative level, the BC made efforts to become more professional by implementing a corporate identity, with an umbrella logo and two event logos (ebt & ChC).

In the area of developing beach handball, the YAC 16 event in Portugal started the campaign towards making beach handball part of the Olympic movement. The top four teams in the men's and women's events qualified to the U17 Beach handball World Championship in Mauritius in summer 2017; from there, three of the best European nations will earn their place at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018 – this could be a historical moment for beach handball.

Moving on to education and technical innovation, the BC held 19 courses in 8 different countries over the past years. There are 73 certified beach handball coaches, with 56 new referees, and 34 new delegates. At the last count, 25 top referee couples of today, started their careers with beach handball; Jørstad encouraged the National Federations to send their young referees to beach handball first, where the BC would prepare them to be good referees and delegates in the future. Jørstad also informed on the online testing system and three sessions per year and the technical game administration which supports the live streaming of the matches. Through the events, the BC was able to publish e-books of the events and web tools to assist in the event set-up, marketing guides to enable the beach responsible within the National Federations to build up their own tournaments. The National Federations were encouraged to contact the BC for any information on getting started with beach handball. He mentioned the cooperation with the Methods Commission and EHF CAN in the area of video clip production for promotion, education, and support; and the BC also helped with material support as it has in the past supplied over 3000 beach handballs, 71 court line systems, 128 goals, and supplied 9 lecturers in several education missions. Concluding his report, he welcomed the Congress to the world of beach handball.

5.6. Report from the EHF Court of Handball

Addressing the Congress, Rui Coelho opened by stating that in a sports organisation as complex as the EHF, a legal system is essential for credibility and fairness. All the bodies in the EHF organisation have the obligation to ensure equal treatment and fairness. The legal bodies must be on the first line, and the legal bodies of the EHF are a good example of success in its missions, working discretely with independence and defending the handball image as a clean and fair sport without any limitation. The Court of Handball is now at the end of its first mandate following the important changes made to the legal system in 2011, thus the Congress was a good moment for a brief review of what has been done.

Since the EHF foundation in 1991, the legal decisions have been made only by a court that was the first and final instance. The system continues to work despite the increasing complexity of the competitions, and the ambition to be prepared for a future of successful conduct, led to profound



reflections on the legal regulations. This task was undertaken between 2000 and 2007, and was also approved over time in the years 2008 to 2011 with modifications on the statutes, regulations and penalties and also a Code of Conduct for all officials and members. In 2011, with two EHF internal legal bodies (the Court of Handball and the Court of Appeal), and the external body ECA (EHF Court of Arbitration) the actual system was implemented.

Coelho highlighted a visual graphic of the current system with disciplinary, organisation, and marketing matter under the jurisdiction of the Court of Handball as the first instance; only smaller instances and transfer cases are decided in the office. The system is different during final tournaments of European Championships where the decisions are taken by Ad Hoc bodies specially nominated for the task, normally with the participation of Court of Handball members. All first instance decisions can be petitioned to the Court of Appeal and the ECA, and by that, interventions are in compliance with European and Olympic laws.

The transition between the former system and the current system was a challenge, but it did lead to an increased success. During this mandate, the Legal Delegation was composed (and chaired by the three Presidents of the legal bodies); here proposals and amendments were discussed and the platform proved very useful.

It was important to remind the Congress that the Court of Handball works in a methodical manner following six steps which guarantee the independence and neutrality of the members and the possibility of a defence; sometimes it is necessary to make decisions within a week to guarantee the fairness of a competition. When the reports from the different sources arrive, they are sent to the President of the Court of Handball who analyses all the elements of the reports and decides whether or not to open a case; if a case is opened, the three CoH member that will adjudicate the case will not have any relation to the case. The panel requests statements and analyses all facets of the case before taking a decision, which is then communicated to all parties before implementation. All of this means a lot of work, availability and experience.

The low number of appeals is the best measure of success over the course of this mandate. With the new responsibilities of the Court of Appeal, the number of cases has increased. A total of 138 cases have been decided over the course of the mandate giving an average of 38 cases per year. Coelho also gave an overview of the cases that have become more complex. To limit such cases, much more work is needed in educating handball stakeholders on the regulations.

Looking to the future, Coelho stated that it was imperative to preserve the independence, neutrality, competence and fairness of the legal bodies; only in this way equal treatment and prestige of handball could be guaranteed. This was the responsibility of the Congress to elect the best people to these functions; and the members must maintain a good contact to handball reality. More competent referees, officials and delegates were needed, and the National Federations and clubs must be stronger in implementing regulations in compliance with all obligations. A continued improvement of the organisation, communication, education and transparency was required. Continual reflection is also needed in the area of the regulations. This is the only way to protect the integrity of the sport.

Closing, Coelho stated that none of the success would have been possible without the complete independence and responsibility of those working for and with the Court of Handball from 2012 to 2016. Naming the CoH members, he thanked them for their work; he also thanked the team in the



office (L. Alves, M. Flixeder, and M. Glaser). He gave a special mention to those CoH members who would not candidate in the upcoming election and thanked specially for their contribution. He expressed his deep gratitude and respect for the support of the National Federations during the course of Coelho's 25 year service to the EHF; and he remained very proud of the achievements of the European Handball Federation. He mentioned that he felt very honoured to have had the friendship that has resulted in friends all over Europe despite the difficult mission, and he confirmed that he felt very confident for the future of handball that remained the passion of himself and all those present at the Congress. He wished the EHF and the National Federations all the best for the future.

Brihault underlined that Court of Handball had a large volume of work to do, and it was mostly done in the homes of the members and via electronic communications, which meant that the CoH do not even get a daily allowance for the work undertaken – they work for the lowest level of financial compensation and for that Brihault sincerely thanked all of them for their dedication over the years.

5.7. Report from the EHF Court of Appeal

Giving the report on behalf of the Court of Appeal, CoA President Markus Plazer informed the Congress that the body of 2nd legal instance. Over the electoral period from 2012 – 2016, the EHF Court of Appeal dealt with 22 cases, an average of 5.5 cases per season. Of the 22, 19 appeals were dismissed (formal inadmissibility), 1 appeal upheld in part, 1 appeal completely upheld, and 1 appeal is currently pending. Approximately 15% of all 1st instance cases were appealed to the second instance, this low number validates the good work of the Court of Handball. The Court of Appeal proceedings are often very elaborate and therefore, bringing a case of appeal to a conclusion can take time; this is necessary in order to ensure fair proceedings. The cases adjudicated by the Court of Appeal were categorised as follows: seven disciplinary, six competition cases, five marketing cases and four transfer cases.

CoA President Plazer thanked the members of the Court of Appeal for their engagement, cooperation, and availability over the past four years; he also thanked M. Flixeder and L. Alves of the EHF Office for their support. Plazer mentioned that Marek Szajna (POL) and Lucio Correia (POR) were not standing for re-election for the next functions period, he noted that they were an asset to the Court. Closing his report, Plazer also bade farewell to his colleagues in the legal delegation, Rui Coelho and Jörgen Holmqvist, stating that it was an honour and a pleasure to have worked with the 'legal masterminds' of the EHF from whom he learned a lot.

5.8. Report from the EHF Court of Arbitration Council

Giving a brief introduction to the works of the ECA Council, President Holmqvist reminded the Congress that ECA began its tasks in 2008 and at that time, there was only one level of internal legal instance and that was the Court of Handball. In the beginning, the ECA dealt with many cases. Introducing his team, J. Stasova and J. Bettenfeld, Holmqvist underlined the good cooperation and the great work over the past eight years, he extended his thanks to M. Flixeder and L. Alves of the EHF Office.

Moving on to the tasks of the ECA Council, Holmqvist informed the Congress that one of the tasks is to confirm the new arbitrators and to ensure that they fulfil the conditions in the statutes. ECA Council also appoints arbitrators in case one of the parties fails to do so in the time allocated; the ECA also deals with formal questions. However, it does not intervene in individual legal cases that are undertaken by the panel of three arbitrators appointed to the case at hand. Currently, the ECA is



comprised from a list of 60 arbitrators that the parties can select from. Holmqvist, supported by a visual aid, gave a season comparison to the Congress noting the decrease (since the introduction of CoA) in the number of cases.

Holmqvist underlined that the ECA is an external body, which meant that the arbitrators are nominated directly by the National Federations or the EHF and not elected by the Congress which is the case for the internal EHF legal entities. The ECA looks for transparency and, to this end, has published the ECA Journal in which the cases are published, bringing more visibility to the external body. This is an essential tool in modern sport; legal questions are more frequent in handball and ECA is a good tool to settle legal disputes by engaging very qualified arbitrators. There are two sides concerning the cases submitted to the ECA, after exhausting recourse via the EHF internal bodies, the ECA provides a third level of resolution following the Court of Appeal. The ECA also provides an alternative dispute resolution chamber i.e. players vs. clubs, federation vs. federation, federation vs. EHF. Continuing, Holmqvist underlined that arbitration and sport were two fast-moving areas and needed constant changes (see motion 2a and 2b); moreover, the ECA in the quest to be more visible, has reduced the fees to submit cases for adjudication by 50% ensuring that access to the ECA justice channel is open to all. On that note, President Holmqvist closed his report thanking the Congress for its support over the past eight years.

EHF Vice President Arne Elovsson commented that the work of the legal bodies do not constitute 'daily business' for some; he extended the thanks of the EHF to the three presidents of the legal bodies for presenting the information on the legal system. No questions were raised to the reports according to the agenda 5.2. – 5.7.; the Congress took note.

6. 2014/2015 Finances

6.1. Report from the Treasurer

EHF Treasurer Ralf Dejaco opened his report by stating that there would be a lot of information, which was necessary for the aspect of transparency. CFO Moser would assist by explaining the specific items in detail. Before looking at the annual accounts for the years 2014 and 2015, Dejaco briefly reviewed the EHF's financial development during his third term of office from 2012 to 2016. After the global financial crisis and a debt crisis in a number of countries in Europe, the years since 2012 have only seen a slow recovery rather than a strong upswing of economic activity.

Against this backdrop, it was the long-standing successful collaboration of the Executive Committee, the Finance Delegation and the EHF General Management that was a key pillar of the EHF's financial stability. In the course of these years, the EHF greatly benefited from having major portions of its revenues secured under long-term agreements with reliable partners. In addition prudent budgeting and rising cost discipline have likewise been essential in maintaining a stable foundation for European handball.

The development of the Federation's net assets underlined the long-standing solid development of the EHF's finances. A look at the development of revenues and expenses also showed a steady uptrend. Treasurer Dejaco reminded the Congress that the process of twin-budgeting (for two years) was introduced in 2010 and that was reflected in the visual aids that supported the report. It is therefore with deep satisfaction that, at the end of the term of office, the Executive Committee is able to pass on an EHF organization that is financially secure and that has the financial resources to support the future development of handball to the next executive team. He continued with the report on the EHF's finances for the years since the previous Congress, namely 2014 and 2015.



Financial result 2014

The budget for the 2013-2014 twin period was adopted at the 2012 Congress. The result of the year 2013 was already approved at the 2014 Congress. Regarding the year 2014, the Congress was informed about some necessary updates. The report compared the actual results against this revised budget. Total revenues were originally projected at EUR 9,138,000 and finally came in at EUR 9,407,000. Expenses had been budgeted at EUR 11,344,000. Actual expenses amounted to EUR 11,150,000. The year hence ended with a surplus of EUR 204,000 after deferrals and accruals. The revised forecast still had projected a deficit of EUR 259,000. A final look at the result for 2013-2014, showed a surplus of EUR 385,000 across the two-year period.

Financial result 2015

Before presenting the report on the year 2015, by way of introduction, Dejaco briefly returned to the 2014 Congress, which had adopted the budget for the two-year period 2015 and 2016. At the Congress in Ireland, a baseline budget was presented. At the same time, however, votes were taken on two motions with a potential impact on the budget, namely on entry fees and referees' and delegates' compensation. The Executive Committee was mandated to draw a balanced budget for 2015-16 after the Congress, with due regard to the resolutions passed and taking into account all information available at the time. After the budget had been drawn up by the Finance Delegation, the Executive Committee approved it their December 2015 meeting. On the revenues side, the adjustments made by the Executive Committee resulted in only a minor change concerning revenues from partnership agreements. On the expenses side, the line items "Congresses, Meetings", "Personnel Expenses", "Office", "Beach Handball Commission", "Development" and "Club Teams" were revised. The result of this revision for the two-year period, was the projection of a small surplus of EUR 43,000.

Dejaco referenced the two-year budget, which for 2015 forecast revenues of approx.: EUR 9 million and expenses of approximately EUR 8.3 million. The year 2015 ended on revenues of roughly EUR 9.7 million and expenses of EUR 8.1 million. After accruals and deferrals, the surplus actually achieved amounted to about EUR 675,000.

The financial report also gave an overview of the accounts of the subsidiary EHF Marketing GmbH and its financial relationship with EHF. Chief Finance Officer Andrea Moser presented an overview that supplemented the comments made by Dejaco, but focused on the variances in a number of line items.

CFO Moser informed the Congress about the financial relationships between the EHF and its fully owned subsidiary, EHF Marketing GmbH that was founded in 2005 in order to take charge of centralized marketing of TV and advertising rights in the Champions League, based on resolutions passed by the EHF Congress in the year 2000. Today, EHF activities cover the following segments: a part where income is shared with the clubs at a ratio of 80:20, separately for men and women, because of the difference in the situation regarding rights. These include TV rights relating to the Men's and Women's Champions Leagues and the advertising rights of the Men's Champions League; and a segment the revenues which do not need to be shared with any third parties. These include the advertising rights of the Women's Champions League. Due to the fact that 80% of the advertising rights of the Women's Champions League are held by the clubs for their own marketing, which means that the relevant revenues go to the clubs straight away. The EHF's share of 20% of the rights is marketed by EHF. Consequently, these revenues are not shared with the clubs once again.



The transfer of rights between EHF and EHF Marketing and the corresponding compensation are laid down by contract. In addition, other services between EHF and EHF Marketing, like the office rental for example, are also invoiced. With the exception of the first financial year, all profits made by EHF Marketing have always been fully distributed to the EHF, its sole owner, and have been regularly reported in the EHF's annual accounts. Out of the business year 2013/14 the total amount of 2.4 million EUR accrued to the EHF, in the business year 2014/15 the total amount was around 2.2 million EUR. The annual accounts are audited by an independent external auditor, but also by the club representatives with a focus on the financial data concerning them, and by the EHF Comptrollers.

Coming back to the actual financial report, Moser looked at the revenues posted for the year 2014. Revenues came in higher than forecast, in particular the line item EURO Partnerships and, specifically, from marketing of the qualifications for the Women's 2014 EURO. Income from EHF Marketing GmbH, which is included in the line item Other Partnerships, exceeded the amounts announced at the 2014 Congress. The number of player transfers rose towards the year-end, resulting in extra revenues of EUR 150,000. The extraordinarily high income from fines was due to the host's withdrawal from organization of the Women's 2012 EHF EURO. The final decision on this matter was passed in 2014; total revenues rose by EUR 269,000.

Discussing expenses, CFO Moser informed the Congress that the resources freed up under line item 2 "Congress, meetings" due to strict cost discipline were used to create provisions for the EHF's 25th anniversary, which is now being celebrated. Another striking development was savings of EUR 185,000 under Personnel. Vacancies due to employees leaving the organization were not filled again as duties were reassigned by the Secretary General. The substantial increase in line item 6, "Development/Projects" in the revised budget enabled the EHF to make a first allocation of funds to a provision for the "Home of Handball" website project. The budget included revenues from the VELUX EHF Final4 which were to be passed on to EHF Marketing under the line item "Competitions/Clubs Teams" and to be reported in their accounts. As payments were made direct to EHF Marketing, there was nothing to report under the item.

Finally, EHF memberships & EHF Social Fund endowments were reported under the line item 83 "Other Expenses"; provisions were allocated for maintenance work on the EHF building or new construction, if applicable. The net balance of accruals and deferrals posted in 2013 in respect of the 2014 EUROS in the item Accruals / Deferrals was fully recognized in the 2014 accounts.

To the 2015 revenues, CFO Moser described the plan-actual comparison of revenue items shows budget overshoots across all sub-items, albeit by varying magnitudes. Under "Entry Fees", new competition structures and a larger number of entrants resulted in higher revenues than forecast. Under "Partnership Contracts", which covers revenues from both EUROS and EHF Marketing GmbH, total revenues were approximately EUR 350,000 higher than budgeted. The high number of player transfers resulted in significant extra revenues of more than EUR 200,000. Actual total revenues came in at EUR 9,659,000 and were hence EUR 635,000 higher than budgeted. Expense items, on the other hand, were kept in line with the budget and it was only due to allocations to reserves that overshoots occurred in two line items.

Special mention must be made of personnel expenses, which were approximately EUR 240,000 lower than budgeted. In contrast to previous trends, the average headcount has remained steady since



2014 and is now, for example, three heads lower than in 2013. The overshoot under “Development” is due to an allocation to another provision for the EHF's new website to provide a secure basis for this long-term project. Another figure standing out is the large amount under Item 83 “Other Expenses”. Here again, additional allocations were made to the provision for the EHF building.

The line item “Accruals/Deferrals” was one of the core areas of the audit conducted by the external auditor. In the final accounts, the lump-sum amounts used at the time of budgeting were replaced by actual data resulting from recalculations. Total expenses were hence lower than budgeted, resulting, overall in a surplus for the EHF of EUR 809,000 versus the forecast surplus of EUR 135,000.

Summarizing the information presented, Treasurer Dejaco, stated that it might seem excessive to present so much detailed information, but he stressed that the EHF set great store in transparency by presenting not only the final result, but also explaining how it arrived at the figures. He reminded the Congress, that the EHF is, by design, a non-profit organization, it goes without saying that any surplus generated would be dedicated exclusively to the future development of handball and the protagonists of the sport. It is likewise important, however, to build adequate safeguards as budgets keep rising. As it has been seen repeatedly over the years, there were profits and losses, but also reinvesting and building provisions that are not excessively high; Austrian law required the EHF to build provisions and the EHF is currently at the required limit. President Brihault said earlier that the EHF has to spend the money, but the organization also has to be prudent in order to be able to face and/or avoid challenging situations. It is also important that we will continue not to levy any membership fees.

The 2014 forecast expected a loss of EUR 259,000. The actual result was a surplus of EUR 204,000. In 2015, the actual result reached a surplus of EUR 385,000. In 2015, the overshoot was due to additional revenues as well as to the disciplined implementation of the expenses budgeted and substantial savings under Personnel. CFO Moser and Treasurer Dejaco made themselves available to the Congress for questions and Treasurer Dejaco used the opportunity to deliver a personal message.

As the outgoing treasurer, having being elected at the EHF Congress in Tel Aviv in 2000, Dejaco had spent the past 16 years in the handball family and the past 12 years on the Executive Committee; he attributed this to the confidence and trust placed in him by the Congress and hoped that he had validated the trust placed in him and he had done what was expected of him. He underlined the great time he had, also having learned a lot about how to experience genuine democracy –the EHF President had been a model in this respect, negotiating at the highest level. He reminisced on the period when the clubs were integrated into the EHF and how this was for him a time of great pride and learned how to see the world beyond South Tyrol, and Italy, having learned English and how to think globally. It was a very important period in his life and thanked all Congress participants for their trust, once again. Closing his remarks, he thanked the people with whom he had worked so closely with over the years, CFO Andrea Moser, who will continue her excellent work with the next treasurer, to whom he wished all the best; he expressed his thanks to the members of the Executive Committee particularly for the last years of cooperation; finally he expressed his gratitude to the three men who he deemed the most important people with whom he worked with in the Finance Delegation: Michael Wiederer, Arne Elovsson, and Jean Brihault. As he bade farewell to his time at the EHF, Dejaco underlined that with an equal measure of sadness and joy, he has had his time.

No questions were raised by the Congress participants



6.2. Report from the Comptrollers

Chief Comptroller, Wolfgang Gremmel addressed the Congress and spoke of the responsibility of the EHF Comptrollers. Gremmel gave an overview of the business beginning with the fact that the Comptrollers had audited the balance sheets prepared by the EHF as per 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 and those of the EHF Marketing GmbH prepared as per 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016, as well as the related profit and loss accounts on an annual basis. These audits were conducted at the EHF Office in April and October 2015, and in April and October 2016. The Comptrollers found that the EHF Balance Sheets and profit and loss accounts were consistent with the books and the records kept and provided a true and fair representation of the activities and the financial position at the end of each financial year. Gremmel underlined that any question raised by the Comptrollers was answered in full and the proposals discussed have been implemented to the largest extent possible.

The same could be reported about the EHF Marketing balance sheets as per 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016. The positive earnings generated by the company were taken to the respective EHF balance sheets. The EHF and EHF Marketing audits covered all of the EHF operations and provided a full picture of the two organisations. Comprehensive and detailed reports were submitted to the EHF Executive Committee and to the stakeholders at the EHF Marketing General Assembly.

In accordance with the Austrian Associations Act, the EHF annual financial statements were certified by a registered independent accountant; the audit certificates for the years 2014 and 2015 were reproduced in the Congress documentation. The concordance of the audit findings of the independent auditor and the EHF Comptrollers was achieved in the spirit of trust and cooperation. The key findings of the audits were summarised: the accounting system is in full compliance with applicable regulations, EHF resources were utilised in accordance with the statutes and the continuing existence of the EHF is not at risk and any such risk can be ruled out at this stage.

Wolfgang Gremmel expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the EHF Treasurer, the other EHF Comptrollers, and the Executive Committee for their exemplary work.

6.3. Formal approval of the Executive Committee's conduct of business

The Comptrollers recommended that the Congress formally approve the conduct of business by the Executive Committee for the years 2014 and 2015. The matter went to vote and with 47 votes (97.9%) in favour; the EHF Executive Committee conduct of business was approved by the Congress.

PART II (7. - 17.) Elections and nominations

Opening the second session of the EHF Congress, President Brihault responded to a question concerning joint elections and referred to Article 3.1.6 of the EHF Statutes:

“Unless otherwise specified in the statutes, the majority of votes cast shall carry the vote. In event of a tie a second ballot shall be held. Any proposal failing to receive a majority after the runoff shall be rejected. In case a qualified majority is specified in the statutes, the basis shall be the number of delegates present at the Congress venue during the vote.

To be valid, elections require the absolute majority of votes cast. If no candidate obtains such a majority, a runoff election shall be held for the two candidates with the most votes. In the second round, the relative majority of votes cast shall decide. A runoff vote shall be held in the case of a tie.



In the case of another tie, the female candidate shall be regarded as elected. If the tie is between candidates of the same gender, a draw shall decide.”

Concerning a question regarding a candidate, Brihault confirmed that a candidate had been suspended for a period of four years. Under Austrian law once the period of suspension had been served, the person was permitted to candidate for election again.



7. Election of the Executive Committee

7.1. Election of the President

Candidacy Speech of Michael Wiederer

*Dear National Federations Delegates,
Dear Congress Guests, but mainly, dear handball enthusiasts!*

What does enthusiasm mean; what do we all share? We share the task to maintain and drive our sport forward in our countries. We share the task and the interest to improve handball in general in every aspect, we share the readiness to contribute to this process, and because of that, we are ready to create.

All of us who sit here today do this independent from their function as a politician, or as a professional, as a technician, as a volunteer; we are all ready to create, to do our work in order to improve our sport.

There is a saying: “you have to know the past to understand the present in order to shape the future”. Without a doubt, we can label our sport handball, and the EHF starting from zero, a success story; a story to which many have contributed on a national and international level.

Some of you here today have followed the development of the EHF since the beginning; most of you are part of the latest period. It is said in business that changes which in the past took 5 years, now come to completion immediately within one year. Now this takes place also in our sport, it holds true for us as well both on the court and for the organisation.

These changes, and especially in the media landscape, the requirements of partners and fans in regards to all kind of new media and internet activities mean also challenges to us, to our structure, and therefore, to our responsibilities. So, we are entering an interesting four-year period and the mentioned challenges are also defining our common programme.

We have to work out a combined sport-political and working structure, which gives us a sound basis for the tasks in European handball in the future. Due to the given decision-making processes, we will have to prepare ourselves for the 2017 Conference of Presidents in order to have an exchange of information and afterwards to prepare for the 2018 Congress.

What concerns our top level competitions on a national team and club level, they have to be constantly in our focus. They are not only functioning as the show cases of our sport, but also are delivering the basis for all kinds of marketing.

In order to keep and improve the position of handball in the media world and in the sports world, we will have to develop a strategy for the marketing of these activities, understanding that all of our contracts will expire in 2020 and that the negotiations for 2020 will start in 2017. In a first step, this needs a clarification of the direction to take, understanding that the success of the EHF activities is directly linked to the economic questions on a European level and on national and club team level as well.

None of these tasks can be successfully carried out, even more, completed without the work delivered on a technical level, internally, and with our partners. For this we must provide resources as well



understanding that the achievements will serve the global handball and the whole community as well.

Touching both the field of competitions directly and the area of the game environment, which includes the players' workload as well as preparation times and activities, the analysis on a scientific level that has already begun and will serve as a basis for the 2017 Scientific Conference to draw conclusions for the future.

All this has to be done in light of a targeted balance in European handball: the closer the sporting results on the court are, the more valuable our sport will be. In this respect, the initiative for the Men's EHF EURO 2020 with 24 teams and the accompanying measures have to be highlighted, and it will be important to continue in this direction. Moreover, it will need a careful consideration and evaluation process on the side of women's handball in order to establish a stronger competition there also.

To achieve a good result in all of this, somehow also finding a balance between the targets which are standing versus each other, we will need strong cooperation and communication.

I can assure you that I will do my utmost for following these two basic prerequisites for a successful management of our sport; cooperation and communication, internally and externally. For this, I will need your support and in a first step, I hope that I can have your support for this election. Thank you.

After giving a personal presentation to the Congress, Michael Wiederer (AUT) as the only candidate for the position of President was elected by acclamation.

Acceptance Speech of Michael Wiederer

In a gesture towards his native (handball) country, the seat of the EHF, towards the Austrian Handball Federation who nominated Michael Wiederer for the position of President, the President-elect delivered his acceptance speech in German.

Personally, I am very grateful for the trust and your support and it is a true honour to follow in the footsteps of three successful EHF Presidents. I had the privilege to work with them and learn from them. It is also a moment to express my thanks towards those from my own country who accompanied me, this is why I make this address in German, my first President (Erwin Lanc) who in 1988 took me to my first IHF Congress in Seoul when I was 32. Secondly, a long time handball colleague, Helmut Schebeczek who taught me how organisations function in the business, and how one could profit as a handball person if these things were implemented into our structure. Thirdly, Gerhard Hofbauer as the President of the Austrian Handball Federation (ÖHB), who in this special situation nominated me and gave me the support of the ÖHB. In particular, I would like to thank my staff for their good work over the years that has allowed me to stand here today. And naturally, I would like to thank the current President and the current leadership with whom I have the privilege to work with, I will return to this later. And I wish to thank my family and friends, because we all know how important it is that when you return home to find that the doors are not closed to you. Dear colleagues from the handball family, your trust obligates me - together with the Executive Committee and the commissions yet to be elected - to continue to work over the next four years for the continued development of handball and to drive our sport in a successful direction. Thank you.



7.2. Election of the Vice President

In accordance with the guidelines, nominations for two candidates were submitted for the position of Vice President. During the Congress, the Handball Federation of Latvia withdrew their candidate for the position of Vice President. Brencans congratulated President-elect Wiederer, and confirmed his withdrawal from the election for this position. He wished the remaining candidate, Predrag Bošković (MNE) the support of the entire Congress and every success for his tenure as Vice President.

Giving a personal presentation, Predrag Bošković firstly congratulated President-elect Wiederer on his election and expressed his own pleasure at being able to address the Congress prior to the election of EHF Vice President. He stated that he had spent more than a decade in service to handball in various positions, and stated that it was time to put himself forward. He mentioned that in his career that he had faced challenges, experienced wins and losses, but underlined that this was normal within the sporting life. To his candidacy, he expressed his conviction that together, it would be possible to bring the sport to a higher level. Reiterating the sentiment of Dr. Hassan Moustafa, Bošković said that the handball community must capitalise on the success of handball in Rio to drive handball forward to become the number one indoor sport in the future; this needs to be done for the National Federations and the clubs who expect more support from the EHF. To this end, though it will be a hard task, he professed his willingness to devote his efforts and energies working to make this objective a reality. Underling that his hands would work for handball, and the ideas of community would also be his ideas, closing his statement, he concluded that he looked forward to working together with the members of the European Handball Federation.

The election went ahead with one candidate Predrag Bošković (MNE) who was elected by acclamation to the position of EHF Vice President.

7.3. Election of the Treasurer

Using the opportunity to give a personal presentation, Henrik La Cour (DEN) congratulated the EHF President- and Vice-President-elect upon their election. Continuing he thanked all the members of the Executive Committee, who were standing down at this election, for their work, as well as the support and good cooperation extended over the many years. Returning to the election at hand, La Cour explained his reasons for to run for the position of Treasurer. During his professional career, La Cour has worked on an executive level for over 10 years and in the field of officiating, and during the last 6 years he has moved evermore into the political area. He deemed the EHF Congress in Austria as a good opportunity to take the final step into the sport-political realm. He promised the Congress and the Executive Committee loyalty and commitment in the objective of moving handball forward not only on the sporting level, but also on the financial level, so that the handball community can be proud to be one of the best sport federations on the market. La Cour thanked the Congress for their attention.

As the only candidate to the position of Treasurer, Henrik La Cour (DEN) was elected by acclamation.

7.4. Election of the Chairman of the Competitions Commission

In accordance with the guidelines, nominations for two candidates were submitted for the position of Chairman of the Competitions Commission. During the Congress, the Handball Federation of Slovakia withdrew the candidacy of Ernő Kelecsenyi for the position of CC Chairman.

The remaining candidate, Božidar Djurković was invited to give a personal presentation. Having congratulated the recently elected, he stated that after finishing his playing career, he served as



Secretary General of the Serbian handball Federation before being recently elected to the position of President of Serbian Handball Federation. Djurković informed the congress that he has already spent 12 years on the boards of the European Handball Federation in various positions in the arbitration commission and serving 8 years as an EHF Comptroller. He stated that he believed that he had the experience, competence and knowledge to serve the Competitions Commission. He promised to serve the commission well. Closing his address to the Congress, he extended his thanks to Leopold Kalin who was stepping down as the Chairman of the Competitions Commission after four years, for the good work and good cooperation.

The election went ahead with one candidate, Bozidar Djurkovic (SRB) was elected by acclamation.

7.5. Election of the Chairman of the Methods Commission

Addressing the Congress, MC Chairman Eliaz, stated that nothing had changed from his report earlier in the Congress session. He underlined that he was still dedicated and committed to serving the Methods Commission and their special areas of interest. In the next period, he informed the Congress that it was the intention of the Methods Commission to focus their work in the area of coaches, continue in their support of the National Federations, promote all handball related activities especially Wheelchair Handball. On behalf of the Methods Commission, Chairman Eliaz asked for the continued support of the Congress and the EHF for their works.

As the only candidate, Jerzy Eliaz (POL) was re-elected accordingly by acclamation.

7.6. Election of the Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission

In accordance with the guidelines, nominations for two candidates were submitted for the position of Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission. The candidates were Ole R. Jørstad (NOR) and Sinisa Ostoic (CRO). Giving a very brief personal presentation, Sinisa Ostoic informed the Congress that handball was in his blood and he was ready to serve the Beach Handball Commission. The current BC Chairman, Ole R. Jørstad addressed the Congress and stated that his journey with the EHF began in 1994 first as a referee, then as a delegate, and he also lectured. His first stint in the Beach Handball Commission, from 2008 to 2012, he was the member responsible for Officiating; in 2012, he was elected Chairman of the technical commission. Jørstad stated that he was motivated to continue in his function as chairman and wanted to continue to work of the BC with the team. He spoke briefly of the BC objectives for the future, and reiterated his mission to increase the number of nations participating in beach handball events by 50% in a first step.

The Congress voted and Ole R. Jørstad was re-elected having reached the 50%+ majority required with 38 votes in favour with 9 votes in favour of S. Ostoic, and 1 abstention.

7.7. Election of three further Members

In accordance with the statutes, the election of the three members to the Executive Committee continued with a confirmation of candidates. CRO (Poljak), DEN (La Cour), GBR (Neilson), RUS (Shishkarev) withdrew their candidatures. The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows:

Gabriella Horvath HUN	34 votes	Knutur Hauksson ISL	17 votes
Eugen Saracini KOS	6 votes	Anrijs Brencans LAT	17 votes
Anneke van Zanen-Nieberg NED	4 votes	Alexandru Dedu ROU	5 votes
Marta Bon SLO	4 votes	Ernö Kelecsenyi SVK	8 votes



Stefan Lövgren SWE

44 votes

With a clear decision, Stefan Lövgren was elected with 44 votes, and Gabriella Horvath was elected with 34 votes; for the position of EHF Executive Committee Member 3, a second vote was called to break the tie between Knutur Hauksson (ISL) and Anrijs Brencans (LAT). The Congress voted in favour of Anrijs Brencans with 27 votes (55.1%). Thus, Stefan Lövgren (SWE), Gabriella Horvath (HUN) and Anrijs Brencans (LAT) were elected to the positions of Executive Committee Member.

8. Election of Members of the Competitions Commission

8.1. Election of one Member Men's Competitions

As the only candidate, Jan Kampman (DEN) was elected by acclamation.

8.2. Election of one Member Women's Competitions

In accordance with the guidelines, nominations for two candidates were submitted for the position of Member Women's Competitions. The candidates were Carmen Manchado (ESP) and Anton Revenko (RUS). The Congress voted and Carmen Manchado was re-elected having reached the 50%+ majority required with 42 votes in favour with 6 votes in favour of A. Revenko, and 1 abstention.

8.3. Election of one Member Refereeing

Following the withdrawal of Czech Republic (Konecny) and as the only candidate, Dragan Nachevski (MKD), was elected by acclamation.

EHF President Brihault reiterated that the position of Member Club Competitions would be nominated by the stakeholder group, Forum Club Handball.

9. Election of Members of the Methods Commission

9.1. Election of one Member Methods and Coaching

Three candidates registered their interest in this position; thus, the election proceeded with Sjors Röttger (NED); Marko Sibila (SLO), and Pavol Streicher (SVK). After attaining the 50%+ majority required with 34 votes, Röttger (NED) was re-elected and retained his seat for the next electoral period.

9.2. Election of one Member Education and Training

Two candidates registered their interest in this position; thus, the election proceeded with Peter Kovacs (HUN) and Pavol Streicher (SVK). Kovacs was re-elected after attaining the 50%+ majority needed with 42 votes.

9.3. Election of one Member Youth, School and Non-competitive Sports

In accordance with the statutes, prior to electing one Member for Youth, School and Non-competitive Sports, the late entry by Tamaz Tevzadze (GEO) needed a 2/3 majority to be accepted. The majority was not reached, thus the candidacy of Tevzadze was denied. The election continued with a confirmation of candidates; ESP (Permuy) withdrew its candidate. The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows: Klaus Feldmann (GER) – 39 Votes, Alexandru Acsinte (ROU) – 10 votes. Thus, Feldmann was elected to the position.

9.4. Election of one Member Development

Pedro Sequeira (POR) was the only candidate and was re-elected accordingly by acclamation.



9.5. Election of gender representative (in case one gender is not represented): due to the outcome of the elections, the EHF Executive Committee will make a nomination at a later date.

10. Election of Members of the Beach Handball Commission

10.1. Election of one Member Events and Competitions

In accordance with the guidelines, nominations for two candidates were submitted for the position of Member Events and Competitions. The election went ahead with two candidates Sinisa Ostoic (CRO) and Marco Trespidi (ITA). Having exceeded the 50%+ majority required, Trespidi was elected by 36 votes in favour, 12 votes in favour of S. Ostoic, and 1 abstention.

10.2. Election of one Member Officiating

The candidatures of George Bebetos and Gabriella Horvath were withdrawn accordingly. The election went ahead with two candidates, Ivan Sabovik (SVK) and Valentyn Vakula (UKR). Having exceeded the 50%+ majority required, Sabovik was elected by 34 votes in favour, 12 votes in favour of V. Vakula, and 3 abstentions.

10.3. Election of one Member Game Design and Coaching

Following the withdrawal of the candidacy of Alexander Gehrer (GER), Juan Carlos Zapardiel (ESP) was the only candidate and was elected accordingly by acclamation.

10.4. Election of one Member Development and Promotion

The candidatures of Klaudiusz Sevkovic (POL) and Ivan Sabovik (SVK) were withdrawn. The election went ahead with two candidates, George Bebetos (GRE) and Branislav Radisic (SRB). Having exceeded the 50%+ majority required, Bebetos was elected by 43 votes in favour and 6 votes in favour of B. Radisic.

10.5. Election of gender representative (in case one gender is not represented)

The responsibility was transferred to the Executive Committee.

11. Election of Comptrollers

11.1. Election of two Members

The candidature of Božidar Djurković was accordingly withdrawn; the election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows: R. Pretenthaler (AUT) – 20 votes. A. Koubi (FRA) – 34 votes, J. Ehrmann-Wolf (GER) – 29 votes, B. Soos (HUN) – 8 votes. Thus, Koubi and Ehrmann-Wolf were elected.

11.2. Election of one Substitute

Robert Pretenthaler (AUT) was the only candidate and was re-elected accordingly by acclamation.

12. Election of the EHF Court of Handball

12.1. Election of the President

Following the withdrawal of the candidacy of Henk Lenaerts (NED), Panos Antoniou (CYP) was the only candidate and was elected accordingly by acclamation.



12.2. Election of two Vice Presidents

Following the withdrawal of the candidacy of Panos Antoniou (CYP) and Yvonne Leuthold (SUI), the election was carried out, and based on the number of votes per candidate, it was decided as follows: H. Lenaerts (NED) – 36 votes, I. Karanasos (GRE) – 23 votes, K. Johansen (FAR) – 33 votes. Thus, H. Lenaerts and K. Johansen were elected to the positions of Vice President of the EHF Court of Handball.

12.3. Election of six further Members

The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows:

Filip Soetaert (BEL) - 11 votes	Libena Sramkova (CZE) – 33 votes
Elena Borrás Alcaraz (ESP) - 34 votes	Urmo Sitsi (EST) – 30 votes
Robert Dujardin (FRA) – 17 votes	John Karanasos (GRE) - 34 votes
Balazs Soos (HUN) - 12 votes	José Costa (POR) - 25 votes
Mazlam Dzemailoski (SRB) - 14 votes	Yvonne Leuthold (SUI) – 30 votes
Viktor Konopliastyi (UKR) - 25 votes	

John Karanasos was re-elected; E. Borrás Alcaraz, L. Sramkova, U. Sitsi, and Y. Leuthold became the newly elected members of the EHF Court of Appeal. To decide who would become Member 6, a secondary simple majority vote was taken between the two candidates with the same number of votes. The candidates were Costa and Konopliastyi. Of the 38 Federations that voted, Konopliastyi was re-elected to the EHF Court of Handball after attaining 23 votes.

13. Election of the EHF Court of Appeal

13.1. Election of the President

Markus Plazer (AUT) was the only candidate and was re-elected accordingly by acclamation.

13.2. Election of the Vice President

Jens Bertel Rasmussen (DEN) was the only candidate and was re-elected accordingly by acclamation.

13.3. Election of five further Members

The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows:

Philippe Gregoire (FRA) - 14 votes	Ketevan Koberidze (GEO) – 19 votes
Ernö Peter Szücs (HUN) - 8 votes	Izet Gjinovci (KOS) – 21 votes
N. Vizitiu (MDA) – 36 votes	Robert Czaplicki (POL) - 31 votes
José Costa (POR) - 19 votes	Maxim Gulevich (RUS) - 31 votes
Milan Petronijevic (SRB) - 23 votes	Roland Schneider (SUI) – 28 votes

Thus, R. Czaplicki and M. Gulevich became the newly elected members of the EHF Court of Appeal; N. Vizitiu, R. Schneider and M. Petronijevic were re-elected as the Members retaining their seats for the next electoral period.

14. Election of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council

14.1. Election of the President

Francesco Purromuto (ITA) was the only candidate and was elected accordingly by acclamation.



14.2. Election of two Vice Presidents

The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows: J. Bettenfeld (FRA) – 33 votes; B. Sojkin (POL) – 26 votes; J. Stasova (SVK) – 25 votes, S. Obucina (SRB) – 10 votes. Thus, J. Bettenfeld was re-elected and B. Sojkin was elected to the position of Members of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council.

15. Election of the Nations Board (for Men's Handball)

15.1. Election of six Members

In accordance with the men's national team ranking, Member 1 FRA (P. Bana) and Member 2 DEN (M.S. Christensen) nominated its representatives directly. Therefore, elections were held for Members 3 to 6. Following the withdrawal of I. Romero (ESP), M. Schober (GER) was the only candidate for Member 3 and was elected by acclamation. M. Goralczyk (POL) was the only candidate for Member 4 and was elected by acclamation. The election continued with two candidates for Member 5, A. Blagojevic (SRB) and I. Meckes (SUI). Meckes was elected accordingly after attaining the 50%+ majority required with 33 votes. The election continued with two candidates for Member 6, S. Neilson and U. Kilic (TUR). Neilson was elected accordingly after attaining the 50%+ majority required with 29 votes; thus retaining his seat on the Board.

16. Election of the Women's Handball Board

16.1. Election of three Members

In accordance with the women's national rankings, elections were held for Member positions 1 to 3. Women's Forum Club handball (WFCH) already made the nomination to the position Member 4 (representing the clubs) at a later date. Due to the fact that there are no formal stakeholder groups representing the women's leagues and players; the nominations for Member 5 (representing the Leagues) and Member 6 (representing the players) will be done by the EHF Executive Committee at a later date.

Election of Member 1: The candidatures of Tina Fensdal (DEN) and Bente Aksnes (NOR) were withdrawn by the respective National Federations; the candidatures of Nodjialem Myaro (FRA), Narcisa Lecusanu (ROU), and Luidmila Bodnieva (RUS) were confirmed. In the first election, none of the candidates reached the 50%+ majority required: Myaro (FRA) 24 votes - 49%; Lecusanu (ROU) 7 votes – 14.3%; Bodnieva (RUS) 18 votes – 36.7%. A secondary simple majority vote was taken between the two candidates with the most votes. The candidates were Myaro and Bodnieva. With 27 votes, N. Myaro was elected to the Women's Handball Board as Member 1; thus retaining her seat on the Board.

Election of Member 2: The candidature of Begona Fernandez (ESP) was withdrawn by the Spanish National Federation. The candidatures of Andrea Pordan (HUN), Leonor Mallozzi (POR), and Marta Bon (SLO), Jelena Rakonjac (SRB), and Natalia Turchina (UKR) were confirmed. With 31 votes and the clear majority of 63.3%, L. Mallozzi was elected to the Women's Handball Board as Member 2.

Election of Member 3: The candidatures of Pirje Orasson (EST), Ketevan Koberidze (GEO), and Shqipe Bajcinca (KOS) were confirmed. With 32 votes and the majority of 66.7%, P. Orasson was elected to the Women's Handball Board as Member 3; thus retaining her seat on the Board.

17. Nominations to IHF Congress

17.1. EHF President as IHF Vice President from Europe:



In accordance with the Statutes, the EHF Congress nominated President-elect Michael Wiederer to serve as the IHF Vice President Europe.

17.2. IHF Council Member from Europe

In accordance with the Statutes, the Congress approved the mandate to the Executive Committee to nominate the representative to serve the IHF Council on behalf of Europe.

17.3. Further nominations

The Congress approved the mandate to the Executive Committee to nominate the persons to serve the IHF technical bodies (COC, PRC, etc.) on behalf of Europe.

Closing the second session of the EHF Congress, IHF President Moustafa extended his congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected and re-elected persons within the 11 EHF Bodies. He hoped that there would continue to be a good cooperation with the common objective of moving the sport forward in the next period. Dr. Moustafa, also on behalf of the IHF, extended his gratitude once again to EHF President Jean Brihault and Vice President Arne Elovsson for the good work and cooperation within the IHF Council and calling them to the podium, he presented both Brihault and Elovsson with personal gifts as a token of his appreciation. In response, and speaking also in the name of Vice President Elovsson (individually, collectively and from the EHF), Brihault thanked Dr. Moustafa and stated that the work within the IHF Council was exciting, at time a permanent learning process. He thanked President Moustafa for the gifts.

PART III (18. - 19.) Handling of Motions and Financial Questions

Keynote address

Opening the third session of the EHF Congress, President Brihault introduced CEO Phillippe Blatter who under the banner of 'Celebrating 25 Years of Friendship' gave a keynote address to the Congress.

Philippe Blatter, CEO at Infront Sports & Media AG / Wanda Holdings

Opening with an anecdote about the gift of the 'Lucky Bamboo', a Chinese symbol for long life, Philippe Blatter informed the Congress that the lucky bamboo has been presented as a gift for over 4000 years making it the most longstanding showcase of personal appreciation, and one of the oldest fortunes of mankind. Gifted as a symbol of happiness, success and health, Blatter used the lucky bamboo to convey his best wishes for the new era of the European Handball Federation, and also as a sign of true appreciation and gratitude for a longstanding and very successful partnership.

Reminiscing, Blatter spoke of the first commercial cooperation with the European Championship in Portugal, where both organisations that were still very small at the time embarked on a journey that has proven to be successful ever since. And though the organisations had different pre-requisites, they were both eager to develop handball to new heights.

Through a series of 'now & then' photographs, Blatter, highlighted the differences between the EHF EURO of today and yesteryear (e.g. press conferences, fan entertainment, (VIP) catering, fashion, etc.), but a common objective that had not changed was building and engaging a vibrant audience, and Blatter underlined that the organisations have come a long way since beginning their journey together. Highlighting a few key points, Blatter told the Congress that the partnership continues to move handball fans across generations and experience growth as a business and a team.



Emphasizing the impressive numbers, Blatter turned the attention of the Congress to the accumulated TV audience of 2.5 billion viewers worldwide, 200 days cumulative broadcasting in 2016. Blatter hailed the EHF and the 25th anniversary as a true success story that Infront/Wanda are proud to be able to contribute to the achievements and to the product that has evolved.

Blatter stressed that handball is all about personal relationship, not only on the court, but across all aspects contributing to the sport. Infront has been breathing handball for the past 20 years and Infront/Wanda remain committed to being the partner of choice for the years to come. Reminding the Congress of a promise made by Infront/Wanda to the EHF to assist where possible with a 24-team EHF EURO; though managing the increased tasks of the qualification will prove challenging, an enlarged EHF EURO is on the other hand, a chance to embrace more markets. And for this reason, Blatter continued, was the reason that Infront/Wanda have committed to contribute an immediate investment of EUR 600k to support various EHF projects aimed at broadening and qualifying additional nations to compete in future European Championships; also to improve the broadcasting of qualifier matches as well as to aid the development of marketing activities within smaller federations.

Turning to the EHF EURO 2020, the Congress were reminded that branding and CI efforts have already commenced. Blatter told the Congress that the future of handball is bright. Blatter directly addressed the outgoing President, Jean Brihault and President-elect, Michael Wiederer, as he conveyed his best wishes for the future of the EHF. Bringing his address to a close, CEO Blatter related a Swiss anecdote, having started with a Chinese anecdote; though he refrained from bringing a cow, an animal that embodies some of the more important values of Swiss Life...reliability, loyalty, and modesty. He did present the EHF leadership with a handmade, ornate Swiss Cow Bell as a token of the intention of Infront/Wanda to prolong what started more than 20 years ago. And swinging the bell to herald a new era of success, CEO Blatter concluded his report.

EHF President Jean Brihault thanked President & CEO Philippe Blatter for his words, which were music to the ears of those stepping down from their functions, but also food for thought for the incoming team. With reference to the fund gifted by Infront/Wanda to the EHF of EUR 600K has to be received with gratitude and also with ambition, since it is meant as a lever to contribute to the further involvement in EHF EUROs of the emerging/smaller federations. These Federations were already aware of the EHF intention to contribute in whatever way possible, but mainly financially, to their better involvement, as to obstacle to participation was often financial.

The contribution of Infront /Wanda is essential in the perspective of the 24-nation EUROs; the nations that will be participating in the qualification process for the first time will be, thanks to this fund, treated and also be visible in the same way. Brihault stated that he could imagine what the impact would be surrounding the development of handball in those nations, but also Europe wide. He also stated that if handball is developing in Europe, then handball is also progressing on a global level. Again, Brihault thanked Blatter for his kind words and for the fund.

18. Motions relating to Statutes

Motion 1: Gender Representative – Extension to Legal Bodies

EHF President Bihault gave a brief statement concerning the proposal to extend the 2012 Congress decision to the EHF Legal Bodies in case one gender is not represented. To be applied to the EHF Statutes



Result: Having attained the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 1 is accepted by the EHF Congress. **Vote:** 45 in favour; 2 against, 0 Abstention



Motion 2: List of Arbitrators

ECA President, Jörgen Holmqvist presented the motions 2A and 2B to the Congress participants, which have to be seen as one package, although targeting both the EHF Statutes (2B) and the ECA Statutes (2A). The motion overall means the involvement of the handball stakeholders in order to safeguard the neutral position of the ECA system.

Motion 2A: ECA Statutes – Composition of the List of Arbitrators

For motion 2A, the ECA recommended to adapt the nomination procedure, criteria and conditions to the list of arbitrators.

Result: Having attained the necessary majority needed to amend the ECA statutes, Motion 2A is accepted by the EHF Congress. **Vote:** 44 in favour; 5 against, 0 Abstention

Motion 2B: ECA Council – Stakeholder Representation

Motion 2B proposed the adaptation of the election mode for the EHF Court of Arbitration Council and by that the inclusion of the stakeholders; the success of this motion to the EHF Statutes would see the ECA Statutes being amended accordingly.

Result: Having attained the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 2B is accepted by the EHF Congress. **Vote:** 42 in favour; 5 against, 2 Abstention

Motion 3: Comprehensive Representation in Handball

Result: Michael Wiederer, on behalf of the EHF, informed on the withdrawal of the motion to be treated further in the future.

Motion 4: Age Limit for Elections

President Hofbauer gave a brief introduction to the motion that proposed to increase the age limit set forth in the EHF Statutes with regard to positions within the EHF bodies to 72 years.

Result: Failing to attain the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 4 is rejected by the EHF Congress. **Vote:** 31 in favour; 13 against, 4 Abstentions

Motion 5: Promoting Gender Equality in Handball

Following a brief introduction, Bente Aksnes representing the Norwegian Handball Federation, put forward the proposal to amend the EHF Statutes with regard to increased involvement of women in handball to ensure that both genders are represented.

Result: Having attained the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 5 is accepted by the EHF Congress. **Vote:** 37 in favour; 9 against, 1 Abstention

Brihault noted that this was a milestone in the history of the EHF, the big test will come when the EHF does not need specific rules any more to ensure gender equality.

19. 2016/2017/2018 Finances

19.1. 2016 Budget / Forecast

Concerning current and future finance matters, EHF Treasurer Ralf Dejaco with the support of CFO Andrea Moser, addressed the Congress once again.

After the end of the first year of a two-year period - i.e. 2015 - it is standard practice to update the budget for the second year and to present an outlook on the result to the Congress. This takes into account the financial impact of changes that have occurred in the meantime in agreements with partners, resolutions passed on projects, new competition structures and all information available on EHF activities. CFO Moser was asked to explain the individual items.



The 2016 revenues forecast have indicated a slight shift. Total revenues have risen from the originally budgeted EUR 11,084,000 to EUR 11,442,000 in the revised budget. Under line item 2, 'Entry Fees' from Club Team Competitions; the projection is based on actual entries for the 2016-17 season and on the new format of the Women's EHF Cup.

Budget item 3 "Partnership Contracts" reflected the final accounts of the Men's EHF EURO 2016 and the Women's EURO qualification. In particular it was the large number of spectators in the Men's EHF EURO that boosted the EHF's share of income from ticket sales. The line item "Other Partnerships" was impacted by changes concerning agreements with additional partners. The result of EHF Marketing, whose profit distribution has an impact on line item 7 "Financial Result" has likewise been updated. This resulted in an increase from EUR 8,891,000 to EUR 9,163,000.

The line item 'Transfers' was adjusted to reflect ongoing developments. Projected revenues have been increased by EUR 100,000. There were currently indications that another increase might materialize by the end of 2016. Item 5 "Fines" reflects fines collected by the reporting date.

Moving on to expenses, CFO Moser informed the Congress that there had been a rise in the expenses from EUR 11,776,000 to EUR 12,165,000. Under budget item 2 "Congresses, Meetings", the costs of the VELUX EHF Final4 were slightly higher than originally budgeted. Under Item 6, Development, additional funds have been provided for the Women's Handball Programme and for supporting YAC Beach EUROs, as the number of entrants has increased. This budget item has surpassed the EUR 1 million mark, with Development expenditure now amounting to EUR 1.1 million. The budget item 7, National Teams, covers the final accounts of the Men's EHF EURO 2016 as well as the first payment made under the newly closed agreement with the organizer of the Men's EHF EURO 2018. Annual amortization was adjusted due to an increased need for consolidation of various IT applications to keep up with technological developments.

From 2016 onwards, there would be a change in the item "Accruals / Deferrals". In the past, amounts recognized as deferred income in the first year of a two-year period were recognized as income in exactly the same amount in the subsequent year. Now, cost items expended in 2016 yet relating to the EUROs 2018 or 2020 would be moved to the relevant year.

Summarising the information given by CFO Moser, Treasurer Dejaco underlined the surplus of EUR 106,000 after accruals/deferrals, against the budgeted loss of EUR 92,000; he also highlighted the projected overall surplus over the two-year period.

19.2. 2017/2018 Membership Fees

The EHF moved to not charge any membership fees for the financial years 2017 and 2018, in line with past practice. The decision was approved by acclamation.

19.3. Presentation and adoption of the 2017/2018 Budgets

Before presenting the budget for the two-year period 2017-18, Dejaco reported on the results of the working group "Delegates/Referees Compensation" which are reflected in the two-year budget for 2017-18. The topic was first raised at the 2014 Congress in a motion submitted (and ultimately withdrawn) by the Faroe Islands. In 2015, at the Conference of Presidents, a working group was initiated. Dejaco chaired the working group that represented the stakeholders: National Federations, Clubs, Competitions Commission, and the EHF Office (Finance / Competitions). The proposal that was



ultimately submitted to the Executive Committee improved compensation for referees and delegates having considered the workload and financial resources. The result sees referees and delegates compensation based on per diems plus additional fees. The per diems constitute compensation for time spent and also make it possible to take into account actual journey times. The additional fee represents compensation for the specific demands made on officials serving in competitions (per match or lump sum). The Executive Committee adjusted the proposal and raised the per diem from EUR 55 to EUR 60. The changes will be implemented as per 1 July 2017, and will also apply to all those in official service of the EHF.

Returning to the 2017-18 budget and taking into consideration the change to the Executive Committee, the budget presented to the Congress was to be regarded as the basis for the work of the newly elected Executive Committee. CFO Moser examined the topic in-depth and gave a fuller explanation of the numbers of the budget at hand.

The 2008 Congress resolution remained the cornerstone that ensures that a certain proportion of EHF EURO revenues flow back into EURO qualifications to entrants, organizers and clubs releasing players to the development budget or general EHF activities. For the first time, the framework agreement with Infront provides the possibility of earning additional revenues from the 2016 EUROs. Based on a conservative estimate, these additional revenues will impact both revenues and expenses in 2017.

Revenues from entry fees were budgeted on the basis of existing competitions structures and with unchanged amounts of entry fees. Under “Partnerships”, the basic assumption consisted of the amounts guaranteed and, as explained by way of introduction, a conservative estimate of additional income. The increase in current personnel expenses in 2018 versus 2017 represents an index-based adjustment. Statutory provisions include provisions required by law, such as provisions for statutory severance payments to Office staff.

In order to provide sufficient resources for Development, funds of approx. EUR 208,000 were allocated over and above the share coming from the EUROs. Item 83 “Other Expenses” reflected the increase in per diems from EUR 55 to EUR 60 with a lump-sum amount of EUR 30,000 per year. Revenues were projected at EUR 22,486,000 million and expenses at EUR 22,147,000 for the 2017-18 period, resulting in a surplus of EUR 339,000. The Congress was asked to approve the 2017-18 budget, which was given based on the 44 votes in favour.

19.4. Appointment of External Auditor

Upon consultation with the EHF Comptrollers, the Executive Committee proposed to appoint Mr. Mag. Androsch resp. his accounting firm ANA Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungs GmbH for the 2016-17 period. The Congress approved the proposal with 44 votes in favour.

PART IV (20. - 24.) Events and Other Business

20. Awarding of the 2018 EHF Congress

The Polish Handball Federation withdrew their bid to host the 2018 EHF Congress; the remaining candidate, the associate Federation of Scotland was given the right to host the event by acclamation. On behalf of the Scottish Handball Association, S. Neilson gave a presentation of what the City of Edinburgh and the handball association had to offer the EHF Member Federations.





21. EHF Awards

National Federations

Based on the ranking system for the National Federations relating to their performance in the different competitions. Per Bertelsen received the award on behalf of Denmark for 2014 and Joel Delplanque collected the award on behalf of France for 2015; the award was presented by EHF President Jean Brihault. President Francisco Blazquez Garcia of the Royal Spanish Handball Federation collected the award presented by EHF President Jean Brihault and BC Chairman Ole Jørstad for the best Beach Handball Nation for the years 2014 and 2015. The inaugural Women's Handball Development award was presented to the National Handball Federation of Romania. Presented by EHF President Jean Brihault and WHB Chairwoman Lidija Bojić-Čačić, Steluta Luca collected the award for the Romanian Handball Federation. The National Handball Federations of Georgia and Portugal were awarded the EHF Top Organiser award for organising 3 or more EHF events. Presidents Zurab Kakabadze (GEO) and Miguel Laranjeiro (POR) collected the awards presented by EHF President Brihault and CC Chairman Leopold Kalin.

Special Awards

EHF President Jean Brihault and Secretary General Michael Wiederer presented four EHF representatives with the EHF Special Award to honour their years of service and dedication to the European Handball Federation.

As a long time member on a technical and sport-political level within the German Handball Federation, Wolfgang Gremmel also served as an international referee for more than ten years. He became an EHF delegate in 1999, before being elected to the position of EHF Comptroller in 2004; since 2012 he was the leading Comptroller. Having served three terms in this function, Wolfgang Gremmel was named a special award recipient.

Former international referee, Sandor Andorka has served the EHF Competitions Commission since 2004; he performed the tasks in the areas of refereeing/officiating and club competitions. Andorka was nominated to serve European interests on the IHF PRC. Andorka was also very active on the technical field on his home ground, the Hungarian Handball Federation.

As an active member of the board within the Icelandic Handball Federation, Helga Magnúsdóttir was the first female member to sit on the EHF Executive Committee, she was elected in 2012. Prior to joining the EXEC, Magnúsdóttir served as an EHF delegate and representative in the EHF Competitions Commission for the area of for women's handball. She is also known for her work with the Women's Handball Board.

Leopold Kalin is a long serving member of the Slovenian Handball Federation. His career within the EHF has spanned decades; Kalin is an experienced delegate, representative, and member of the Tournament Management for many top events such as the EHF FINAL4s and the EHF EUROS. Prior to being elected as the Chairman of the Competitions Commission and consequently the EHF Executive Committee in 2012, Kalin was responsible for the area of men's competitions.



22. Election of Honorary Members

Rui Coelho

On behalf of the European Handball Federation and based on the close working relationship, Monika Flixeder honoured the works of Rui Coelho, who had spent 25 years of his life working for and with the European Handball Federation. Paying tribute, Flixeder stated correctly that he is a pioneer and ambassador of and for handball in Europe. Coelho was at the founding EHF Congress in Berlin in 1991; together with his Federation, he was the host of the first men's EHF European Championship in Portugal in 1994. Coelho also led the way to the creation of the EHF legal system and its bodies.

Rui Coelho worked from 1991-1999 on the Arbitration Commission as a substitute chairman before moving to the Court of Appeal from 1999 to 2007, first as a substitute chairman and as President after being elected in 2004. From 2007 to 2011, he was the President of the Arbitration Tribunal before spending the remainder of his EHF career as the President of the Court of Handball from 2011 until 2016. Coelho was a handball leader having chaired many task forces, working groups, legal conferences as well as being an expert source in the area of delegates' education. Coelho was the driving force behind the reformulation of the Arbitration Regulations in 1999 and Legal Regulations in 2011.

Concluding, Monika thanked Rui for the friendship, the outstanding 20 year cooperation; on behalf of the European Handball Federation is proud to have had such a valuable partner that has played a critical role for over a quarter of a century. With the consent of Congress, Rui Coelho was elevated to EHF Honorary Member and awarded by Michael Wiederer.

Ralf Dejaco

Paying tribute to EHF Treasurer, CFO Andrea Moser began by illuminating the most recent honour bestowed upon Ralf Dejaco by the County of South Tyrol with the highest order for his outstanding work in the area of architecture. Noting his heart and passion for his profession, Dejaco also gave much of his passion and dedication to the sport of handball.

From a player to working as a professional within his home club, then the Italian Handball Federation, before breaking onto the European stage in 2000 as a member of the EHF Executive Committee, before become the EHF Treasurer four years later, Dejaco devoted many years to handball. Dejaco is also recognised for bequeathing a financially stable organisation to his successor.

A most welcome guest at the EHF Office Christmas parties, summarising the year in a witty and humorous ode, with a reputation that has reportedly reached Timbuktu; but being a successful architect, Treasurer and poet, it seems he faced his Waterloo when it came to salmon fishing in Norwegian rivers.

On a personal note, Andrea Moser thanked Ralf Dejaco for his confidence in her professional abilities, and thanked him also for the sincere friendship. Moser wished him "Petri Heil", as the fishermen say, for all his future endeavours, and hoped that he would find a way to continue to work for the sport of handball. With the consent of Congress, Rui Coelho was elevated to EHF Honorary Member and was awarded by Wiederer.



Arne Elovsson

On behalf of the European Handball Federation, Michael Wiederer paid tribute to EHF Vice President Arne Elovsson foremost stating that anyone who has worked with Arne, only has good memories. The EHF must bid farewell to a protagonist that has contributed on various fields, in particular the competitions side where Elovsson had complete comprehension of the system having acknowledged the complexity and contributed by asking questions or offering ideas for solutions.

Elovsson has been a careful observer and analyst of many cross-border activities such as competition and marketing, always giving input at the right time; he also stepped in as a back-up for major events where his experience as an organiser contributed to the successes.

As a defender of broad European interests, though coming from a top nation, Elovsson's interest was always to find solutions for European handball as a whole. A character that conveyed stability and loyalty to handball, to the EHF, and to his colleagues, Arne Elovsson was thanked for his outstanding contribution to handball and the European Handball Federation and, with the consent of the Congress, was named as an EHF Honorary Member.

Jean Brihault

Michael Wiederer, on behalf of the European Handball Federation, paid tribute to EHF President Jean Brihault. After many years of cooperation, Wiederer underlined the benefit of having a president that stood beside the professionals, and also led the way forward. Addressing Jean, Wiederer underlined that Jean Brihault never put himself ahead of the Federation, it was his position, input, defence and fortification, and his diplomacy that were always used to the betterment of handball and the good of the institution and the people involved.

Over the years, Brihault has provided the handball community with numerous quotes from many men and women from the realm of poetry and literature; but it was the principles of Jean Brihault that were and always will be relevant for handball. Brihault bore the international responsibility of the persons, the neutrality regarding decisions, the responsibility for education, the development on various fields, and much more. Through his broad knowledge, Brihault has taught so many, so much. On a personal note, Wiederer mentioned that he had also learned from the academic, and underlined the difference between a retired professor and professor Emeritus; whilst the first is a pensioner, the professor emeritus still has duties to perform and is also utilised and is needed in his field of competence. Wiederer underlined that Jean Brihault would not retire, for he was now the "Handball Professor Emeritus". With the approval of Congress and with a standing ovation, Jean Brihault was bestowed with the title of EHF Honorary President.

23. EHF Information

SMART Programmes – Signing Procedure

The SMART programme provides long-term support for developing handball nations through tailored activities and development measures. The EHF has assisted 16 National Federations through 33 programmes. Luxembourg entered the SMART Programme for the first time and the nations of Moldova and Serbia returned for another programme, signing their agreements on the occasion of the 13th Ordinary Congress. President Jean Brihault signed the agreements with representatives from LUX - President Romain Schockmel and CEO Christian Schmitt; MDA – President Nicolae Piatac and Secretary General Nicolae Vizitiu; and SRB - President Bozidar Djurkovic and SMART Programme Manager, Milan Petronijevic.



Foster programme – Signing Procedure

The project is based on the “fostering” of a developing nation by a developed nation; the cooperating Federations will be supported by the EHF. To date there have been 19 highly successful collaborations. The 20th foster agreement was signed between the associated handball federation - Scotland, who have initiated a different concept, and the Handball Federation of Albania. President Jean Brihault and MC Chairman Jerzy Elias signed the agreements with representatives from SCO - President Chris McManus and ALB Secretary General Armand Cakalli.

The case of HC Portovik Yuzhny (UKR)

Concluding the agenda point, President Brihault addressed the Congress on a situation of importance. He opened by stating that the EHF was very demanding concerning the separation of powers, which meant that the legal side is separate from the political side; judgments are made in the EHF without any interference from the political, this is an essential principle to be respected and the EHF is resolute about preserving this. However, the EHF is confronted with a situation where it needs a form of arbitration between the two powers, and it was considered that only the Congress, which is the lawmaker in the institution, can resolve the issue.

Since the 2004 Congress held in Cyprus, the EHF Executive Committee is not allowed to perform ‘Acts of Mercy’; this means that if a punishment has been imposed by the legal body, there is nothing that the Executive Committee, or any of the bodies within the EHF can do.

The EHF has been confronted with the case of the HC Portovik Yuzhny (UKR); following the registration of the club by the Ukrainian Handball Federation, the club did not participate in the European Cup due to the eruption of political violence in the region. The EHF legal bodies followed procedure and applied the rules and the law, and as a consequence, the club was financially sanctioned. The EHF considers that there is a very special situation where the National Federation is now being held responsible for the sanction, because the club has disappeared; the Ukrainian Handball Federation is being held financially liable for a situation that was not within their control.

Hence the dilemma faced by the EHF: the EHF legal bodies have worked conscientiously and they apply the rules and the EHF Executive Committee as a political body has no right to intervene with this decision. In order to find common ground, it was decided that the Congress would have to be consulted; and it is to be noted that such a consultation is not foreseen in the regulations of statutes. However, Brihault said that a way out must be found and the EHF cannot anticipate on every situation. The EHF had hoped that it would never be confronted with situations of political violence. Thus, the EHF proposes that, under these very exceptional circumstances, the Congress should waive the debt of the Ukrainian Handball Federation.

Brihault underlined that prior to the Congress, the Ukrainian Handball Federation signed a document committing the Federation to paying the debt should the Congress reject the EHF proposal. The attitude of the Ukrainian Handball Federation had been clear and honest concerning the situation and that is the reason why the Federation was allowed to participate in the Congress.

With no objection raised, the EHF proposal to waive the debt of the Ukrainian Handball Federation was accepted. On behalf of the Ukrainian Handball Federation, Secretary General Oleksandr Gladun thanked the Congress for its support, cooperation and understanding.



Additional information

Secretary General Wiederer presented the Congress with additional administrative information in brief. He informed the newly elected members that immediately following the end of the Congress a brief coordination meeting of the commissions are scheduled to take place, they were informed on the next steps regarding times and meeting rooms.

The Congress is reminded that the Gala Overture would begin at 19:00 in the lobby of the Scalaria, with the official gala event beginning at 19:30.

The next administrative meeting of the EHF is the Conference for Secretaries General to be held in April on the occasion of the draw for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France; this is to be followed by the Conference of Presidents in November 2017.

24. Closing address by the President

Brihault addressed the Congress for the last time as it was drawing to a close; he stated that the Congress had fulfilled its promises. The EHF had worked seriously on the past, as seen from the reports that were presented and on the side of the Congress, who had listened. It nominated those who would be in charge for the future, and Brihault noted that the Congress was an impressive group. The electoral process was clean, respectful and respectable. Brihault thanked all those who stood as candidates for making their competence, their time, and their energy available to European handball. Those who were elected will now do, and those who were not elected would continue to work for handball in various capacities and various places, and would be available again in the future. Brihault stated that the time had come for the EHF to say goodbye to the friends who are leaving European handball at least in an institutional position, but would remain in a friendly position.

Once again, Brihault expressed his delight at the success of motion 5, a subject close to his heart, and the one that would take the EHF a step forward in the field of gender equality. (*The true mirror of our discourse is the course of our lives / Le vrai miroir de nos discours est le cours de nos vies*) Michel Eyquem de Montaigne (1533-1592). Quoting Montaigne, Brihault said that the behaviour at this Congress, the course of our lives, was in accordance with the discourse; the Congress speaking about equality and fairness achieved a major step in that direction. Brihault hoped that one day that specific rules and quotas would no longer be needed, and that it would become a natural process. EHF President Brihault expressed his best deepest and most sincere wishes to the incoming team; and expressed no doubt that the incoming President and his team would take handball to new heights. Closing the 13th EHF Ordinary Congress, EHF President Brihault expressed his thanks to the Congress, the special guest and partners who were in attendance.



PARTICIPANTS LIST
13th Ordinary EHF Congress
17/18 November 2016, St. Wolfgang/AUT

Nation	Name	Function
ALB	Armand Cakalli	Secretary General
AND	Gerard Pifarre Ros	President
	Jose Besada Garrido	Secretary General
ARM	Anna Melkonyan	Secretary General
	Sargis Grigoryan	President
AUT	Gerhard Hofbauer	President
	Helmut Schebeczek	Vice President
	Thomas Czermin	Vice President
AZE	Ernest Aghakishi	International Relations Responsible
BEL	Moons Piet	President
	Patrick Garcia	Secretary General
BIH	no participation	
BLR	Vladimir Konoplev	President
	Ivan Semianenia	Vice President
	Julia Grinkevich	President's Assistant
BUL	Rositsa Bakardzhieva-Koeva	President
	Teodor Nikolov Iliev	Head of Sport Activities
CRO	Tomislav Grahovac	President
	Damir Poljak	Secretary General
CYP	Charalambos Lottas	President
	Telemachos Savvides	Treasurer
CZE	Radek Bendl	President
	Libena Sramkova	Executive Committee Member
DEN	Carsten Grønmann Larsen	Vice President
	Jan Kampman	Board Member
	Henrik La Cour	International Representative
ENG	Michael Briers	Chairman
	David Meli	Chief Executive Officer
ESP	Francisco V. Blázquez García	President
	Elena Borrás Alcaraz	International Relations Responsible
EST	Pirje Orasson	Secretary General
	Urmo Sitsi	Project Coordinator
FAR	Gilli Wadrum	Board Member
	Ári Rouch	Secretary General
FIN	Jari Henttonen	President
	Päivi Mitrunen	Secretary General
FRA	Joël Delplanque	President
	Alain Koubi	Treasurer
GBR	Paul Bray	Chairman



Nation	Name	Function
GEO	Zurab Kakabadze	President
	Tamaz Tevzadze	Board Member
	Ketevan Koberidze	Secretary General
GER	Andreas Michelmann	President
	Bob Hanning	Vice President Sports
	Mark Schober	Secretary General
GRE	Konstantinos Gkantis	President
HUN	Katalin Pálinger	Vice President
	András Novák	Secretary General
	Attila Ballai	Communication Director
IRL	Fintan Lyons	President
	Susan Moloney	Operations Manager
ISL	Guðmundur B Ólafsson	President
	Knutur Hauksson	Former President
	Einar Þorvarðarson	Secretary General
ISR	Doron Simchi	Former President
	Arik Deutch	General Director
ITA	Francesco Purromuto	President
KOS	Eugen Saraçini	President
	Shqipe Bajçinca	Board Member
	Izet Gjinovci	Secretary General
LAT	Anrijs Brencans	Advisory Board Member
	Julija Samricka	Women's Handball Coordinator
LIE	Uschi Bodenmann	President
LTU	Donatas Pasvenskas	President
LUX	Romain Schockmel	President
	Thierry Wagner	Vice President
	Christian Schmitt	Secretary General
MDA	Alexandr Jedic	Board Member
MKD	Zhivko Mukaetov	President
	Nikola Kolevski	Board Member
	Filip Miloshevski	Secretary General
MLT	Louis Borg	President
	Andrew Decelis	Vice President
MNE	Zoran Radojičić	President
	Emir Bešlija	Secretary General
MON	Claude Cellario	President
	Eric Perodeau	Vice President
	Christophe Medecin	Secretary General
NED	Tjark de Lange	President
	Norman Uhlenbusch	Secretary General
NOR	Kåre Geir Lio	President
	Bente Aksnes	Vice President
	Erik Langerud	Secretary General



Nation	Name	Function
POL	Andrzej Kraśnicki	President
	Bogdan Sojkin	Vice President
	Henryk Szczepański	Vice President
POR	Miguel Laranjeiro	President
	Ulisses Pereira	Institutional Director
	Leonor Mallozzi	International Relations Director
ROU	Alexandru Dedu	President
	Daniel Georgescu	Vice President
	Steluta Luca	Vice President
RUS	Sergey Shishkarev	President
	Andrey Lavrov	Vice President
	Victor Poladenko	Sports Director
SCO	Chris McManus	President
	Jim Rankin	Competitions Director
SLO	Franjo Bobinac	President
	Marko Sibila	Executive Committee Member
	Goran Cvijic	Secretary General
SRB	Mazlam Džemailoski	International Relations Responsible
	Jelena Rakonjac	Women's Nat. Team Director
SUI	Peter Leutwyler	Vice President
	Jürgen Krucker	Managing Director
	Ingo Meckes	Sports Director
SVK	Jaroslav Holeša	President
	Ernö Kelecsényi	Vice President
	Ivan Sabovik	Secretary General
SWE	Fredrik Rapp	President
	Lena Runströmer	Vice President
	Stefan Lövgren	Director SHF Company
TUR	Bilal Eyuboğlu	President
	Güenal Ensari	Honorary President
	Uğur Kiliç	Board Member
UKR	Zinaida Turchyna	Vice President
	Nataliia Turchyna	Member Methods Commission
	Oleksandr Gladun	Secretary General
Guests:		
IHF	Hassan Moustafa	President
IHF	Erwin Lanc	Honorary President
IHF	Miguel Roca	Vice President
Infront	Philippe Blatter	Chief Executive Officer
Infront	Stephan Herth	Executive Director
Infront	Uwe Ploch	Director Summer Sports
Infront	Martin Roos	Director TV & Media Rights
Infront	Partik Holmgren	Associate Director Summer Sports
Infront	Christian Sperling	Manager Summer Sports
Gerflor	Lionel Arlin	Sport Fed. & Event Manager



Guests:

EUSA	Adam Roczek	President
EUSA	Matjaz Pecovnik	Secretary General
AIPS	Günter Pfeistlinger	Chairman Spec. Comm. Handball
MFCH	Xavier O'Callaghan	Chairman
FCH	Gerd Butzeck	Managing Director
EHPU	Marcus Rominger	Chairman
EPHLA	Frank Bohmann	Chairman
EHF	Claude Rinck	Honorary Member
EHF	Karl Güntzel	Honorary Member
EHF	Jan Tuik	Honorary Member
EHF	František Taborsky	Honorary Member
EHF	Laszlo Sinka	Honorary Member

European Handball Federation

EXEC	Jean Brihault	President
	Arne Elovsso	Vice President
	Ralf Dejaco	Treasurer
	Leopold Kalin	Chairman CC
	Jerzy Elias	Chairman MC
	Ole Jorstad	Chairman BC
	Per Bertelsen	Member
	Predrag Bošković	Member
	Helga Magnusdottir	Member
	Joan Marin	Chairman PHB
Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić	Chairwomen WHB	
CC	Martin Hausleitner	Member Men's Competition
	Carmen Manchado	Member Women's Competition
	Dragan Nachevski	Member Refereeing
	Sandor Andorka	Member Club Competitions
MC	Sjors Röttger	Member Methods and Coaching
	Peter Kovacs	Member Education and Training
	Juan Anton	Member Youth, School and Non-Comp. Sport
	Pedro Sequeira	Member Development
Marina Gillard	Member Europe in IHF MC	
BC	Marco Trespidi	Member Events and Competitions
	Gabriella Horvath	Member Officiating
	Siniša Ostoić	Member Game, Design and Coaching
	Georgios Bebetsos	Member Development and Promotion
COMPT	Wolfgang Gremmel	Member
	Božidar Djurković	Member
	Robert Pretenthaler	Substitute Member



European Handball Federation

CoH	Rui Coelho	President
	Tapio Arponen	Vice President
	Panos Antoniou	Vice President
	Jolanta Jankeviciene	Member
	Willy Tobler	Member
	Henk Lenaerts	Member
	Ioannis Karanasos	Member
	Viktor Konopliastyi	Member
CoA	Markus Plazer	President
	Jens Bertel Rasmussen	Vice President
	Nicolae Vizitiu	Member
	Lucio Correia	Member
	Roland Schneider	Member
	Marek Szajna	Member
	Milan Petronijević	Member
ECA	Jörgen Holmqvist	President
	Janka Stasova	Vice President
	Jacques Bettenfeld	Vice President
NB	Morten Stig Christensen	Chairman
	Philippe Bana	Vice Chairman
	Aleksandar Blagojević	Member
	Marek Goralczyk	Member
	Stephen Neilson	Member
WHB	Nodjalem Myaro	Deputy Chairwoman
	Narcisa Lecusanu	Member

Additional Delegates

EHF	Janusz Czerwinski	Special Award Member
EHF	Jean Kaiser	Special Award Member
EHF	Jesus Guerrero	Special Award Member
EHF	Moshe Hermann	Special Award Member
CRO	Silvijo Njirić	Additional Delegate
CRO	Anita Šikić	Additional Delegate
HUN	Andrea Pordan	Additional Delegate
HUN	Balazs Soós	Additional Delegate
NOR	Per-Otto Furuseth	Additional Delegate
RUS	Maxim Gulevich	Additional Delegate
RUS	Ludmila Bodnieva	Additional Delegate
SLO	Marta Bon	Additional Delegate
SVK	Pavol Streicher	Additional Delegate
SWE	Stefan Albrechtson	Additional Delegate
EHF	Björn Pazen	Additional Delegate



EHF Office

EHF	Michael Wiederer	Secretary General
EHF	Vesna Lazić	PA to Secretary General
EHF	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Coordinator
EHF	Alenka Cuderman	Women's Handball Coordinator
EHF	JJ Rowland	Head of Media & Communications
EHF	Thomas Schöneich	Media & Communications
EHF	Christopher O'Reilly	Media & Communications
EHF	Andrea Moser	Chief Finance Officer
EHF	Christoph Gamper	Head of IT
EHF	Andreas Krywult	IT
EHF	Charly Music	IT
EHF	Markus Glaser	Chief Sport Officer
EHF	Peter Sichelschmidt	Senior Manager National Teams
EHF	Thomas Gangel	Venue Management
EHF	Helmut Höritsch	Senior Manager Edu. & Dev.
EHF	Nicole Rabenseifner	Education & Development
EHF	Beata Kozłowska	Education & Development
EHF	Peter Fröschl	Beach Handball
EHF	Doru Simion	Additional Activities
EHF	Monika Flixeder	EURO Events/Legal Management
EHF	Johannes Müller	EURO Events
EHF	Loïc Alves	Legal Management
EHFM	David Szlezak	Managing Director
EHFM	Lisa Wiederer	Event Manager