

Session I &II:	Friday, 23 April 2021	09:00 – 12:30 14:00 – 17:00
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Venue: Hotel Pyramid, Vösendorf By Vienna/AUT

Delegates from 50 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, candidates for the elections, and office staff (see enclosure).

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PART I (1. — 6.) GENERAL PART

1 WELCOME AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES

President of the European Handball Federation (EHF), Michael Wiederer

The President of the European Handball Federation (EHF), Michael Wiederer began the Congress by commenting on the short notice change of venue from Luxembourg to Vienna within a matter of weeks and hoped that those present found the arrangements to be suitable. He took a moment to thank those in the EHF office who worked hard to prepare the Congress. The theme of the Congress was 'European Handball Future', and Wiederer remarked that it was not about the philosophical outlook, but rather encapsulated the weight of an election congress, where every four (this time, five) years, the representatives of the National Federations elect the persons to serve on the various Commissions to undertake the task of controlling the activities of the organisation and providing input. As was the case in 2016, and with the different motions, the EHF is once again defining its future.

Stating that despite the distance between the tables, there was not so much distance between the persons present as the enthusiasm to meet again in person was noticeable. The last meeting, on the occasion of the Conference for Secretaries General and the European Handball Conference in September 2020, saw a reduced number in attendance. However, the Congress in Vienna was almost at full strength, but all the Member Federations were connected, taking reference to those joining the meeting virtually; thus, making it possible to have a 'regular' Congress. Wiederer stated that the legal premises for the Congress were examined prior to the event.

Introducing the President of the International Handball Federation (IHF), Dr Hassan Moustafa, to give his words of welcome to the Congress, Wiederer reiterated the close connection during the previous months especially regarding the different activities, and that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) also acknowledged the activities of the IFs and, in particular, the IHF for executing a World Championship which has to be seen in parallel to the activities of the European Handball Federation specifically the Women's EHF EURO 2020; it showed that the sport of handball used the opportunity to improve the reputation in the world of sport and media to be recognised as an active federation. Dr Moustafa was awarded a special medal (an exclusive piece, one of 500) by Dr Thomas Bach, President of the IOC, for the activities and also motivating the sport of handball to continue the efforts to be active and cooperative.

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

Addressing the Congress, Dr Hassan Moustafa expressed his pleasure being able to attend the EHF Congress despite the difficult time caused by the pandemic, and extended his gratitude to the EHF President for the invitation to be in Vienna with the representatives of European handball to be able to listen and discuss together the matters of importance in order to move forward in the same direction. He also made a special mention of those working

with Wiederer, the Executive Committee, those challenged to organise an election congress which, in the given circumstances, was not an easy task.

The IHF President told of the meeting with Dr Bach of the IOC on 20 April; the discussion centred around the World Championships, the qualifications, the Women's EHF EURO in Denmark, and the positive response of the IOC about the handball activities at this time. IHF President Moustafa also extended his thanks to the representatives of European handball, lauding the presence of those in Vienna and those joining the Congress remotely as it underlined the good organisation of the event. He concurred that the IHF continued to have a very good relationship with the EHF with much communication via email, telephone calls, and meetings. He confirmed that the two bodies were moving in the same direction from which the sport of handball benefits.

Continuing, Dr Moustafa took a moment to reflect that this was his first visit to Austria where he would not meet a good friend, Gerhard Hofbauer, President of Austrian Handball Federation, who had recently passed away. Hofbauer had spent more than three decades working for handball, and Moustafa extended, once again, his condolences to the family for the loss of a man who had supported handball, and the IHF, for such a long time.

Moving on, the IHF President praised the EHF which under the leadership of Michael Wiederer had organised a successful European Championship in Denmark. He stated that the challenges were well known as in the following month the Men's World Championship took place in Egypt for the first time with 32 teams. The massive event was served by approximately five thousand people i.e. the volunteers, the media, the delegations, etc. who did an excellent job that was recognised in the opinion of many international sports federations as well as the IOC. The event was memorable starting with the draw that took place in front of the Pyramids, which was something not seen before in handball. And turning to Egypt, five hotels covered the event participants as well as the testing regime that was an enormous and challenging task due to the daily testing of all persons involved in the event.

The IHF President underlined that at this time, the handball community has to work together in solidarity, as it is important for all that, together, it moves forward in the same direction. In view of the Olympic Games, the IHF President recalled proposing to IOC President Dr Bach a meeting of all team sports, as they looked toward Tokyo in order to be on the same page in relation to the pandemic regulations, and importantly to have a unified view. This meeting took place on 14 April and, in August, all eight team sports will work in the same way. The recent handball activities would be used as the case study for the different team sports, and this message was already transmitted by the IOC.

The message of gratitude from Dr Thomas Bach of the International Olympic Committee towards the IHF for the Men's World Championship was played for the Congress. In closing, the IHF President extended his best wishes to all persons nominated for a position in the EHF bodies and wished them good luck for the election.

EHF President Wiederer thanked the IHF President for the information provided and the kind words.

At this point in the Congress, President Wiederer used the moment to pay tribute to those members of the European handball family who had passed away since the last Congress in Glasgow. Whether coaches, players, referees, delegates, or journalists – indoor or beach - they all played an important role either within the EHF or overall, in the sport. It was not possible to mention each and every person, Wiederer paid particular tribute to those being strongly involved in the activities of the EHF.

Of the National Federations: Gerhard Hofbauer (AUT); Juan de Dios Roman Seco (ESP), Sargis Grigoryan (ARM). Of the EHF Commissions: Sandor Andorka (HUN), Henk Lenaerts (NED), Bogdan Macovei (ROU). Of the Referees and Officials: Traute Berthold (AUT), Nebojsa Vujisic (MNE), Oleksandr Liudovyk (UKR), Thierry Deutz (FRA). Of the Players: Ekaterina Koroleva (RUS), Alfredo Quintana (POR). Of the Coaches: Zlatko Saracevic (CRO), Vasily Kudinov (RUS), Gojko Vucinic (MNE). Of the Journalists: Jozsef Simon (HUN), Peter Bruun (DEN).

President Wiederer requested the Congress stand for a moment of silence in remembrance of all the colleagues and friends who were sadly no longer with the European Handball Family.

2 FORMAL QUESTIONS

2.1 ROLL CALL

EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner informed that all 50 Member Federations registered in keeping with the EHF Statutes; 41 Federations were represented in Vienna, and the remaining nine Federations were connected remotely. The Associated Federations of England and Scotland were accredited and were taking part remotely.

2.2 ELECTION OF TELLERS

The EHF Statutes foresees the use of an electronic voting system. In case of an intermediate voting, which cannot take place at this Congress due to its hybrid nature, tellers are elected to undertake the task. The elected tellers are also responsible for confirming the voting and election process after the Congress. Sarka Drozdova/CZE and Päivi Mitrunen/FIN were nominated as the tellers for the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress and elected with 39 votes in favour.

2.3 STEPS OF PROCEDURE FOR CONGRESS ELECTIONS AND AWARDING OF EVENTS

Due to hybrid nature of the Congress, President Wiederer clarified that some adaptations regarding the handling of the Congress, including the election and awarding procedures were made. Foremost, and in accordance with Austrian law where the EHF seat is registered, the possibilities were carefully checked. It is possible to have a combined decision-making process as long as the technical requirements allow and fully follow the legal prerequisites; this includes using a voting system that allows those participating remotely to do so under comparable conditions. The hybrid solution also ensured the possibility to understand regarding the simultaneous translation, and to intervene and act, and to vote as secrecy within the system was still granted. The EHF had to ensure that the decision-making process

could be followed and those participating remotely could do so in the same manner as if they were present.

According to Article 3.1.6. of the EHF Statutes, casting a vote with a voting card upon request in individual cases is foreseen; however, due to the hybrid nature of the Congress, this could not be implemented. Furthermore, in the case of sole candidates, as in previous elections, voting would proceed by acclamation, though it was underlined that the voting system could be used upon request at any time during the election process.

At the request of President Wiederer, Senior Director IT, Christoph Gamper provided the Congress with a comprehensive explanation and introduction of the electronic voting system to be used.

3 DECLARATION OF THE LAWFUL CONVOCATION OF THE 15TH ORDINARY CONGRESS

Hausleitner informed that in alignment with EHF Statutes, the first information of the Congress was distributed to the Member Federations on 17 October 2020, six months prior to the event. The Congress Guide that included all the motions and the nominations for elected positions was distributed on 22 February 2021, two months prior to the Congress. Thus, with all regulations followed, the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress was lawfully convoked.

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE 14TH ORDINARY EHF CONGRESS 2018 IN GLASGOW/SCO (FOR INFORMATION)

For information purposes only, the Congress was briefly reminded that the minutes were adopted at the 13th Extraordinary EHF Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in January 2020.

4.2 MINUTES OF THE 15TH EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS 2020 IN STOCKHOLM/SWE

With no comments raised, the minutes of the 15th EHF Conference of Presidents 2020 in Stockholm, Sweden were adopted with 100% of the vote.

4.3 MINUTES OF THE 13TH EXTRAORDINARY EHF CONGRESS 2020 IN STOCKHOLM/SWE

With no comments raised, the minutes of the 13th Extraordinary EHF Congress 2020 in Stockholm, Sweden were adopted with 100% of the vote.

5 REPORTS

5.1 REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Commencing his statement, President Wiederer mentioned the tradition of hearing the President and the Secretary General, as well as the Chairmen of the Commissions present the summation of activities during the previous function period. Stating that the EHF remained a transparent organisation in a transparent world - a world of new media - all the activities with

all the reports from the meetings distributed, and all the news were published directly or across the official social media channels. At the end of every year, the Business Report was issued in print and electronic form.

Continuing Wiederer added that the Chairpersons of the Commissions, also representing the organisational aspects of the EHF, would deliver their reports, and would not step into those particular areas. He delivered key points of activities beginning with the election of a new Executive Committee in 2016 with many new people where a new set-up was created in order to fulfil the tasks and responsibilities of the organisation. With the competitions at the heart of EHF activities, the organisation of the competitions had to be restructured; focus was placed on the Younger Age Category events, the successful enlargement of the EHF EUROs to 24 teams, as well as adapting the club competitions in particular on the level of the top club competitions to the needs of the market requirements.

Wiederer briefly mentioned the challenge faced when some top clubs looked to form a breakaway league and, contrary to the crisis situation in football which likely many had followed, the importance of dialogue that eventually led to the integration of those stakeholders that contemplated a private league. From this, it was possible to create a common tender process for the entire EHF inventory, which resulted in a notable change in income starting in 2021 and the coming years. It was made clear that there are questions to be answered and challenges with the partners in such a new system, and there is a large amount of money also to be acquired by the partners on the changing markets; but ultimately, the new contracts (clubs and national teams) are a major step forward.

Following the previous election that saw a generational change, there was not only a restructuring of the management, but the installation of a new Secretary General, and changes at the professional level of the EHF; this was necessary in order to continue the work. Reflecting on the 13th Extraordinary EHF Congress in January 2020, the vision of the EHF was presented, this included the Master Plan.

Without wishing to give a 'pandemic report', President Wiederer mentioned a picture that caught his eye that seemingly summed up the situation that the EHF found itself in. The EHF contacted Red Bull Media and were granted permission to show a video clip, that was not a handball clip. The handball community was used to seeing nice images from full halls and top matches; unfortunately, that was not the case for some time. Therefore, Wiederer intended for the video clip, of the Surfing Championship in Nazaré/POR known to the EHF for beach handball events, a location where the waves can reach up to 20 meters. Wiederer added that the surfers choose the waves for their fun and excitement but used the scene as a metaphor for the challenges experienced by the sport. The organisation rode a dangerous wave, which was the pandemic situation fraught with an economic impact, as the EHF fought to survive, keep the sport healthy and, in the face of this, also develop the sport further.

Wiederer took a moment to thank all the persons who remained resilient and who continued to work under the circumstances, especially those linked to the competition system, and acknowledged that it was not easy to keep the sport 'upright' and continue through the changing situations in the different countries from week to week, and sometimes on a daily

basis, endeavouring to keep the activities going. Wiederer hoped that in those Federations where it was not possible to continue on the different levels that they would be able to come back in a short time in the expectation that handball can get back to a semblance of normality.

The EHF chose its top competitions as examples, as it was clear that it had the ‘showcases’, but the organisation also needed to keep the inventory in order to fulfil the contracts; simply put, the EHF needed to be on stage otherwise the sport would not be visible and would not exist. With that, President Wiederer highlighted three activities, the IHF President already spoke of the World Championship, and the EHF held the Men’s EHF Champions League Final4 in Cologne, not due to financial reasons as the event resulted in a negative in that regard, but to keep the showcase evident. The third event mentioned was the Women’s EHF EURO 2020 in Denmark. When Norway had to step away from the organisation only days prior to the tournament, the EHF, with Denmark, managed with the trials to reorganise the entire tournament; this was undertaken in and good spirit. At this time, the President and Secretary General of the Danish Handball Federation were invited to accept an award as a token of appreciation for the work done.

Wrapping up his report, President Wiederer delivered a quote *“To think that sport, over the next ten years, is going to be consumed the way like before and is going to be different that every other part of our life: it is simply not true”*. The statement reported before the crisis, targeted media consumption and situation; however, it seemed to fit to the situation faced by handball. It was said that the social and economic life would return but would not be exactly as it was before. Wiederer stated that the spectators and, hopefully, sponsors and partners would also return. The EHF would do its utmost to improve the situation, but at the same time it had to be understood that the organisation would have to adapt to the situation. This held true for the grassroots activities and especially towards the activation of the next generations, but, at the other end of the spectrum, the organisation has to keep the top sport active in order to retain the showcases to the outside world.

In this respect, the EHF Master Plan introduced in Stockholm remained valid, despite the adaptations and delays forced by the pandemic; a report was to be given later during the Congress. Moreover, the existing agreements with the EHF partners are essential, so the inventory must be kept ‘alive’ and active in order to fulfil the contracts. In this respect, as an organisation, the EHF must understand that, as it is said, some decisions are made with the heart and explained by the brain afterwards. The sport is full of emotional components and it has to be used to the advantage.

In closing, President Wiederer extended his thanks to all the persons that had contributed to the work of the past five years, not only through the many meetings of the Commissions, but also together with the Member Federations. Wiederer also thanked the external partners for their contribution and cooperation.

5.2 REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner opened his report by reflecting on the change of perspective having joined the EHF office in 2017. He stated that it was an important step in which he realised that before, when serving as a Federation representative, he did not

comprehend everything in the business of the European Handball Federation. Immediately after joining the EHF, Hausleitner was involved in the tender process, a project that has been mentioned often, but it was important to realise that the process was based on the outstanding performance of the EHF competitions.

Continuing, Hausleitner spoke of the well-known success of the EHF EURO events; the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France amassed 200.000 spectators, and the club competitions persistently set benchmarks with the Final4 events in Budapest and Cologne every year. The true strength of the tender process was the cooperation of all the stakeholders in European handball. The Memorandum of Understanding which was prepared under the leadership of Jean Brihault and Michael Wiederer, provided a foundation that other team sports could be envious of as the cooperation between clubs and federations that align in the Memorandum of Understanding gives an additional beauty and power to European handball. This harmonised approach has immensely benefitted the EHF; the response of the market was readily accepted by the partners, Infront and DAZN. Moreover, this provided an extraordinary chance to develop the sport in the future. Such a partnership entails much work, and Hausleitner mentioned the many new fields in which the EHF must now engage.

Other than the sales process of media and marketing rights, the EHF wanted to have a digital approach to the sport. In order to reach new fans, the EHF had to assume new responsibilities and implement new processes.

Consequently, due to the increased workload, the EHF introduced a new department, 'Business Development' to direct the project as the new partnership was reflected in all other departments of the EHF e.g. the new responsibilities taken on by the EHF EURO Events department have led to a closer cooperation with the Competitions department, and both have to work closely with Infront and DAZN. The cooperation began in 2018, following the signing of the agreement, and it became clear that the organisation had to return to the roots and further develop. This led to the creation of the European Handball League (EHL) which needed new key visuals, which in turn resulted in a new branding.

Hausleitner explained that the brand process was one element among many, and the core values of the EHF had to be defined and harmonised with the handball family. It was determined that handball was to be promoted as a tough but fair, accessible sport that had to be left in a better condition for the next generation. Thus, the EHF has to work hard in order to attain the target of making handball the most attractive indoor team sport. The goals are defined in the EHF Master Plan, which has been discussed the Member Federations on numerous occasions.

The development of the EHF club competitions continued, and as mentioned the European Handball League (EHL) was introduced, and the new format for the Champions League was presented just over a year ago. As the EHF was gearing up to start, the situation changed completely and instead of exhibiting the new products, the organisation had to launch the 'Back2Handball' initiative. The platform garnered much solidarity from the Member Federations as they shared hygiene, development, and educational concepts for coaches and referees; material to encourage children back to the court was also proffered. Moreover, the

EHF was able to deliver the largest instance of financial support to the National Federations. In addition to this, the execution of the Women's EHF EURO 2020 in Denmark was also integral to shielding the sport by, once again, showing the handball is a reliable partner. In these times, the competitions safeguard the contracts, which in turn conserves the future for all our stakeholders – the Federations and the Clubs.

The EHF also entered into a development process, together with Infront and DAZN, in the 'new' digital environment; the enhancements in this area are targeting the EHF EUROs 2022 in Hungary/Slovakia and Slovenia/North Macedonia/Montenegro and the effective use of communication tools i.e. team press conferences. The feedback from the workshops already held showed that this was an important topic that needs to be kept current. It is clear that it is not necessary to wait for events such as the Conference for Secretaries General in order to spread information or to hold workshops beneficial to the development of the sport.

Hausleitner acknowledged the challenges that 2020 and 2021 inflicted on the handball community, nonetheless, the sport progressed; the organisation of the EHF EURO 2024 in Germany continued and the event will open with a match for more than 50.000 spectators. Parallel to that, the application processes for the events in 2026 and 2028 are well under way. In the new environment, the EHF was pleased to note the positive reception as there was more interest in the events than ever before.

The time was right to develop the digital sphere, in keeping with the new agreement, the EHF also developed eurohandball.com, it is viewed not just as a webpage, but it is the home of handball with several powerful databases in the background with additional tool that will be released shortly as the App, and the strengthened EHFTV platform. The organisation also commenced the data and CRM projects to get closer to the fans and the stakeholders. Meetings are held on a regular basis, and it has been possible to bring people together from across Europe with an hour by utilising virtual sessions. Overall, the feedback to these background activities is positive and the common opinion is that projects are being conducted on a high level.

Another message that flows back to the EHF is not to forget the smaller National Federations as such progressions continue. Returning to the brand, the development of the synchronised logo family on the internal level and as well for all competitions, qualifiers, and even the Younger Age Category events. The objective is to have a harmonious picture, but also lends to the support of the smaller Federations when organising championships to have a major element already accomplished and realised. Furthermore, the EHF is ready to share the knowledge and provide the tools to the National Federations.

Additionally, a further step in the realm of development is the tracking of the players on the court and a focus on the scientific approach of the sport with the iBall. As observed in other sports, a vast array of player data is available; the EHF had to bring this story to the people. Part of the data collected is used for entertainment being provided to the broadcasters, and as a service to the Federations, the data is made visible in the hall for the fans. The most important aspect is the prospective development of the sport; hence, the cooperation with the University of Alicante tasked with analysing the performance data which is then provided

to the National Federations, live during the event, then in an elaborated way after the event. The data is also distributed to the scientific bodies to improve training and to assist coaches with implementing this knowledge into handball education. It can be seen that the activities do not revolve around one topic or one project and will continue to target the various stakeholders and encompass many areas.

Naturally, this is a massive undertaking and is supported by the EHF IT department, which not only organises the technical elements of an EHF Congress, but also provides on-site support. Beyond such events, in the background, there are over 120 projects currently running, and the IT department is also managing the needs of the new environment. The data project cooperation with Oracle targets the expansion of the handball community; here, the organisation is focused on building a fan database, as well as a stakeholder archive for referees, coaches, federations, etc., and is part of the overall strategic plan. Additionally, the EHF intends to approach the fans directly with premium content, as well as referees and coaches with content and training possibilities. Finally, the EHF aims to serve the growth of its events to bring more fans to the EHF EUROs and the club competitions; ultimately, by getting to know the fans, the EHF will be able to launch targeted campaigns around the events of the Member Federations.

In keeping with the objectives and giving a prime example of best practise developed over the past years prior to 2017, Hausleitner moved on to the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Hungary, Austria, Switzerland that will take place with 24 teams. The EHF is very optimistic about the success of this EURO as many projects that have been, and will be, implemented will positively contribute. These initiatives include the coaches' course aimed at female coaches and the European Handball Manager course. Hausleitner mentioned the new political structure coming in with the Congress - the Nations Committee Women, as well as the newly configured Women's Handball Board that has done an excellent job over the years. They will also contribute to the 'Respect Your Talent' project for young players, and the female referee project. Scientific and technical analyses will be maintained through the Kinexon data project, and the EHF will continue to encourage top female players to act as ambassadors and role models for other female players as they progress their careers.

Continuing, Hausleitner reported on the record number of registrations received for the EHF EURO 2022 Qualifiers; 35 National Federations signed up, which leaves the EHF very confident that all the initiatives implemented would contribute to the success of the event.

Closing his report, Secretary General Hausleitner thanked the staff at the EHF office who have enthusiastically contributed to all the projects mentioned without questioning the workload and just completing the assigned tasks. He also took the opportunity to acknowledge all the event organisers, the Member Federations, and the Clubs for the constructive cooperation, especially during the last year. Finally, Hausleitner lauded the Executive Committee for the trust placed in him and the encouragement received during the last years.

5.3 REPORT FROM THE COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

The members of the Competitions Commission (CC) met multiple times in the previous year, mainly via video conference which allowed the group to successfully keep working. The

increased coordination, required due to the pandemic, was supported by good communication that transparent and open. Chairman Božidar Djurković thanked the members of the Competitions Commission – Jan Kampman, Carmen Manchado Lopez, Dragan Nachevski, Emeric Paillason, and Thomas Hylle for their dedicated work, which included the effective harmonisation of competition documents and regulations.

In terms of competition, the men's EHF EURO was expanded from 16 to 24 teams, which allowed for the participation of additional teams that normally would have missed the event in the past. The benefits of the expansion to 24 teams was seen across multiple areas, as the qualification system was also adapted. The coordination in this topic with the International Handball Federation also has influenced the IHF events in all categories.

As a result of the continued efforts to improve the product of handball at all levels, Djurković reported that in the 2018 edition of the Younger Age Category events more than 40 Federations took part in the event; the competitions were reconfigured in EUROs and Championships. The effect of the change in the men's events saw a record number of teams – 58 from 40 nations. Overall, this move is intended to benefit the preparation of the Women's EHF EURO 2022, the first event with 24 teams, where the qualifications are already underway. As the EHF saw in 2020 with the men's EURO with 24 teams, the organisation is expecting another success. At the continental level, European teams continue to make great strides in all events of the International Handball Federation.

In the field of officiating, it was reiterated that over 900 matches are conducted per season, and the EHF currently has 115 referee couples from 41 countries, and between 2016 and 2019, thirty new referee couples graduated through the candidates' courses. This growth is in part thanks to the successful cooperation with the Methods Commission (MC), especially its Chairman Jerzy Eliaz and the members that have worked consistently on referee education including the preparation of several events focused on Europe, but at the same time, also seen in the regulation changes and interpretations at the level of the International Handball Federation.

The major shift in the area of club competitions was the implementation of a new playing system across all six competitions as of the 2020/21 season; Djurković emphasised the individual ranking system to differentiate the elite events – the men's and women's Champions Leagues. He highlighted the transparent communication between the EHF and all the stakeholders i.e. the Member Federations, Clubs, Referees, Delegates, and others, whilst steadily improving the regulations that governed nearly 200 registered teams.

Moving into the area of the activities, Djurković spoke of the draw events, amassing more than 20 per season across all competitions; here he referenced the most recent draw in Budapest for the DELO EHF Final4 of the Women's Champions League. Additionally, he briefly mentioned the technologies implemented in competitions such as instant replay, smart balls, more cameras, the digital match report, and other tools.

Closing his report, Chairman Božidar Djurković, expressed his gratitude towards the employees of the EHF who delivered excellent work since the onset of the challenges caused

by the pandemic. He highlighted the successful organisation of the Women's EHF EURO 2020 as well as the Men's Champions League Final4 in Cologne, and the undertakings to tackle the issues and ultimately protect the competitions. Finally, Djurković especially thanked the Executive Committee for its continued support of the Competitions Commission.

5.4 REPORT FROM THE METHODS COMMISSION

Opening the report, Jerzy Eliaz, Chairman of the Methods Commission (MC) briefly re-introduced the MC members and naming the area of work: Sjors Röttger (NED), Member Methods and Coaching (until 12/2108); Peter Kovacs (HUN), Member Education and Training; Klaus Feldmann (GER), Member Youth, School and Non-Competitive Sport (until 11/2109); Pedro Sequeira (POR), Member Development; Marta Bon, Member/Methods and Coaching (from 1/2109); and Marina Gillard, EHF Member Europe of the IHF Medical Commission. Eliaz took the opportunity to thank the EHF staff members for undertaking the daily work and supporting the Methods Commission: Helmut Hörtsch, Doru Simion, Nicole Rabenseifner, Beata Kozłowska, and Vincent Schweiger.

Providing a basic overview of the undertakings covering the electoral period, and placing special emphasis on the past two years, Eliaz started with the developments within the RINCK Convention that expanded to forty signatory nations. In 2020, the 'Pro License' coaching system for those leading teams at EHF EURO and Champions League events was integrated. The EHF Master Coach courses continued despite the challenges that saw the third module (incl. closing ceremony) of the 2020 edition take place in February 2021 as an online event; license renewal seminars were also organised. The RINCK Convention Panel was convened in 2020, upon the endorsement of the Executive Committee, consisting of 19 experts from different countries, the group deals with topics of coaching and the licensing system. A total of 32 National Master Coach courses were organised, at the time of the Congress, seven were ongoing; due to the positive input of the National Federations, there are now over 1100 Master Coaches in Europe.

The MC progressed in the area of wheelchair handball and handball for players with learning disabilities; three European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournaments took place in 2016 (SWE), 2017 (POR), and most recently in 2019 (CRO). The Wheelchair Handball Classification was conducted in cooperation with the International Handball Federation; the competition guidelines and other documentation created under the supervision of the MC were ratified by the IHF. The EHF Executive Committee bestowed official status on referees and delegates serving this branch of the sport. As a result of the IHF-EHF collaboration, the organisations had planned a Wheelchair European Regional Championship in November 2020 to take place in Sweden; ultimately, the event had to be postponed. Likewise, the Executive Committee approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia in 2020. This important step was taken in order to develop and promote the sport for players with intellectual disabilities.

Eliaz spoke of the importance of the work surrounding handball at the grassroots level; the EHF continues to be a partner of the European Union, specifically, the 'European Week of Sport' (EWOS) where in 2020, this yearly activity garnered interest from 42 countries with more than 32.000 registered handball events. Following the GOALCHA Conference in 2017,

the MC continued with a social media campaign in 2020 and 2021. A major achievement in this area was the launch of the first EHF Grassroots Summit – an online event with 780 participants; this proved to be a good indicator of the interest surrounding the topic within Europe and other continents. Development, across all levels, remained at the core of MC activities; in the period 2016 to 2021, 23 SMART Programmes were signed, and more than 150 requests from the Member Federations for material (balls) and intellectual support (lecturers) were supported; two ‘Foster’ programmes were also concluded.

The 4th edition (2017) of the EHF Scientific Conference was held in Austria, and the 5th edition was held in 2019 with the cooperation with the Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln (German Sport University Cologne). The sixth edition is scheduled to take place in November 2021 and is planned as an online conference. Other activities of the Methods Commission included continued cooperation with the EU programme ‘Erasmus+’ as well as the EHF ‘Handball4Dual Career’ (H4DC) that ran from 2017-2019 aimed at supporting and developing players with the cooperation of Clubs, Federations, the private sector, and educational institutes. The ‘Onside’ project began in 2018 and concluded in 2020 dealt with matters of officiating. The cooperation with Kinexon saw the introduction of the iBall and player tracking during the Men’s and Women’s EHF EURO 2020; the data collected was processed and analysed by the technicians at the University of Alicante in Spain. The support of the participating National Federations was imperative to the project for which Eliaz extended his gratitude.

The EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN) continued to focus on higher education. The ongoing cooperation with the German Sport University Cologne and the presentation of the ‘European Handball Manager’ academic certification programme saw 81 persons participate between 2016 and 2020. The EHF Master Coach course, in collaboration with the University of las Palmas produced 32 graduates. EHF CAN also held Club and Federation Manager seminars in Cologne in 2017, 2018, and 2019 producing 64 licensed managers. Parallel to these gatherings, the EHF Young Coaches’ Workshops educated 46 participants in the period 2017 to 2019; however, due to the ongoing pandemic situation the 2020 and 2021 editions of the workshops were cancelled. The 5th edition of the EHF Handball at School Conference took place in Kielce, Poland in 2018.

Eliaz mentioned the change in the office structure, specifically the merger of the departments ‘Additional Activities’ and ‘Education & Development’ to the new ‘Sport and Game Services’. Closing his report, noting his departure from the Methods Commission and wishing the handball family all the best, Jerzy Eliaz thanked the Congress for the collaboration over the years.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, First Vice President Bošković stated that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to work with him, and thanked Eliaz for his dedicated work in favour of the sport.

5.5 REPORT FROM THE BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

Chairman Ole R. Jørstad started his report by mentioning the cancellation of all competitions and tournaments and the difficulties faced by the Commission and the challenge posed to the beach handball environment. It is hoped that in summer 2021, the events – ebt Finals in

Spain, EHF Beach Handball EUROS in Bulgaria, and the Champions Cup in Italy – can return to the programme.

The members of the Beach Handball Commission (BC), Marco Trespidi (ITA) Events and Competitions, Ivan Sabovik (SVK), Officiating, Juan Carlos Zapardiel (ESP), Game Design and Coaching (until 11/2019), George Bebetos (GRE), Development and Promotion (until 2/2021), and Jelena Erić (SRB), Member were thanked by the Chairman for their enthusiastic participation and contribution that has moved the branch of the sport forward.

In the area of events and competitions, a Nations' Ranking based on performance results of national and club teams in previous beach handball competitions was established. The ranking is used to assist the draw procedures. The BH national team week was also added to the international calendar for the first time; this step allows for a proper preparation of national teams for upcoming events. Instant replay, goal line technology, and the electronic match report were introduced to improve the game, assist officials in top events and make the environment visible. Continuing, Jørstad spoke of the harmonisation of the competition regulations that enabled a proper development of the competition format. Additionally, the ebt point system was restructured to focus on the organisers' efforts on promotion, marketing and development. Hailed as the biggest BC achievement of the period 2016 to 2021 is the inclusion of beach handball to the 2023 edition of the European Games which will ensure that the sport is delivered to a wider audience under the European Olympic Committee banner; Jørstad thanked the BC and the Executive Committee for its efforts to bring beach handball under the Olympic umbrella.

Giving focus to the competitions, the 12th senior and 11th YAC beach handball EURO will be organised in Bulgaria, the 16th ebt Finals will be played in Spain in June, and the 6th edition of the Champions Cup took place. The effective cooperation with the European University Sport Association (EUSA) continued and beach handball was incorporated into the championships concept; unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, the EUSA Games were cancelled in 2020.

Overall, in the period 2016 to 2021, beach handball saw consistent growth in terms of players and National Federation participation; looking to the joint EURO events (YAC and Senior), the numbers were as follows: 2017 - 56 team from 21 countries, 2019 – 69 teams from 18 countries, 2021 – 73 teams from 22 countries. Approximately 50% of the EHF Member Federations are sending teams to beach handball events; Jørstad hoped that in the next period the more Federations would join the beach handball environment.

Shifting attention to promotion and development, Jørstad spoke of the work undertaken in relation to the launch of the beach handball corporate identity in line with the EHF rebranding; this also included a renewed presentation on the homepage and accessibility for news, regulations, as well as teaching and promotional materials. The cooperation with the new marketing partners Infront and DAZN was also beneficial for beach handball development in terms of professionalisation with the objective of achieving greater marketability for TV and commercial rights.

Continuing, Jørstad recapped how development continued through the introduction of the 'Beach Handball Forum' that presented a series of online conferences connecting the main stakeholders and experts to discuss the future of beach handball. The virtual platform also succeeded in bringing experts into a closer connection.

In the realm of officiating, more teaching, eLearning tools, and the education curricula (both at the national and European level) were updated following the development of the sport and uploaded to the homepage. All those embarking on beach handball education must first undertake a course at a national level before taking a course at the European level. At the match level, and to ensure equal competition conditions across Europe, nominations for all EHF beach handball events are made in Vienna together with the officiating responsible.

Prior to Juan Carlos Zapardiel stepped back from his tasks in the BC in 2019, he introduced the qualitative analysis of the EHF Beach Handball EURO. Short educational videos were also uploaded and made available to all interested persons; the clips explain elements of the game and provide training exercises. Furthermore, in order to broaden the reach of beach handball, a working group was convened to prepare a university curriculum for the sport, developing a learning structure to incorporate content, learning outcomes, and assessment criteria. Likewise, the curricula for the coach courses were also updated.

The BC also laid the foundation for new grassroots projects i.e. a mini beach handball concept; here the Commission continued to look to the future of the beach handball community. Also, in the endeavours to place beach handball on an administrative par with indoor handball, a registration system for players and teams were introduced; steps are being taken to follow this step with a transfer system. Additionally, the promotion of beach handball within the emerging nations was another achieved milestone in the working period.

Coming to the end of his report, Jørstad thanked the members of the Beach Handball Commission for the work, as well as the EHF staff, P. Fröschl (ret.) and his successor, I. Jelić for the positive collaboration. He also extended his gratitude to Member Federations for the contributions to the sport, and more specifically to the Executive Committee for the support of recommendations submitted by the BC that have developed the sport.

Speaking for the Executive Committee, First Vice President Bošković expressed that Jørstad would also be a part of the family, and would be missed as it was clear how much he dedicated himself to beach handball, and thanked him for his service to the EHF.

5.6 REPORT FROM THE COURT OF HANDBALL

Addressing the Congress, Panos Antoniou, President of the Court of Handball (CoH), mentioned that he had come to the end of his final term, and said that it was his pleasure to have worked with the representatives of European handball. Reflecting momentarily on his career beginning in 1993 as a delegate, and since 2000 first as the Vice President, and then as of 2016, as the President of the Court of Handball. Antoniou then paid tribute to the Vice Presidents, the late Henk Lenaerts (NED) and to Kristian Johansen (FAR), as well as the six members, Elena Borrás Alcaraz (ESP), Ioannis Karanasos (GRE), Libena Sramkova (CZE), Yvonne Leuthold (SUI), Urmo Sitsi (EST), and Viktor Konopliastyi (UKR) thanking them all for

good work conducted in a fair and independent manner for the benefit of the EHF Member Federations.

Antoniou reported on the activities of the past four years; a brief overview of the EHF legal system, introduced in 2011, that is divided into two instances – the Court of Handball (CoH) and the Court of Appeal (CoA), and one external body – the EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA). With the CoH serving as the first instance, the parties can appeal decisions via the second instance. If satisfaction still eludes either party, the outcome can be contested before the ECA.

From the transition period in 2016 (2016/17) to the point of the Congress (2020/21), the Court of Handball dealt with 199 cases, an average of 50 cases per season. Antoniou underlined that 75 cases were treated by the onsite Disciplinary Commission that saw the CoH act as an Ad Hoc body during the final tournaments men's and women's EHF EURO; the implementation of the system in 2018 was hailed as a success. Delivering an overview of the cases, direct disqualification (exclusion) accounted for the majority of cases, followed by unsportsmanlike conduct, marketing and advertising set-up. Antoniou remarked that based on the cases, there had been an increase in professionalism amongst clubs and federations.

In closing, Panos Antoniou delivered a heartfelt thanks to all the EHF Presidents and all those who have served the Executive Committee for the support and cooperation over all of the years. He also thanked the EHF staff members for their assistance. Finally, he thanked the National Federations and their representatives for the years spent together sharing and caring for the beloved sport of handball. Hoping that the paths would cross again in the future, and wishing the Congress all the best, he thanked them from the bottom of his heart.

First Vice President Bošković thanked Panos Antoniou for his committed service to the sport and looked forward to meeting again in the future.

5.7 REPORT FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL

Addressing the Congress, Markus Plazer, President of the EHF Court of Appeal (CoA), opened his report by expressing his thanks towards the members of the CoA for the excellent work and engagement.

Moving directly into the report, during the electoral mandated period, the court dealt with 20 cases. Noting the small number in comparison to the CoH, Plazer clarified that when a decision is appealed, each case has the minimum of twice as many documents as in the first instance. Looking back, between 2016 and 2021, 10% of the first instance decisions were appealed. The low amount of cases can be attributed to the good work of the first instance, the increased acceptance of decisions, but also the detailed transparency of the EHF regulations i.e. not a single case concerning advertising set-up from the 20 recorded in the first instance were appealed. Of the 20 cases that reached the second instance six related to a breach of regulations, three to unsportsmanlike conduct, two (from nine) withdrawal filings, four marketing issues, three concerned match protests, and two involved international transfers.

In this context, Plazer thanked the staff of the EHF office for their cooperation and support, and expressed his sorrow at the departure of Jens Bertel Rasmussen (DEN), well known for his precise and accurate analyses and detailed lectures, who served the CoA Vice President, and Member Roland Schneider (SUI) who delivered his standard words in the Swiss dialect, who both he praised as excellent lawyers and part of the court since its creation.

Concluding his address, Plazer thanked all the members of the Court of Appeal for the appreciation of the legal system, and the acceptance and understanding of the decisions.

5.8 REPORT FROM THE COURT OF ARBITRATION COUNCIL

As Francesco Purromuto, President of the ECA Council, was not able to be present, an oral report was not given; the Congress was directed to the written report found in the supplementary brochure 'Congress Reports 2016 – 21'.

5.9 REPORT FROM THE NATIONS BOARD MEN

Chairman Morten Stig Christensen opened his report to the Congress by stating that it was a time to bid farewell to an institution of great importance for the EHF, for all the Stakeholders, as well as for the development of top men's handball that has operated for more than a decade. The Nations' Board Men (NB) ended at the very top together with the EHF just as a new era begun starting with the 10-year cooperation agreement with Infront and DAZN. With a new, modern, professional and commercialised vision and strategy, the development of the product was launched; and with the EHF Master Plan, it is clear the new future challenges needed a new structure and new people; the Nations' Board Men served its purpose.

Looking back, Christensen recapped the exigent situation of 2007/2008, a time where eight strong forces among the top clubs in Europe were ready to break away from the European handball family and create a more lucrative tournament. It seemed at the time that the protagonists were not prepared to act at the level needed to avoid what would have been a catastrophe. Eventually, it was the openminded approach of the EHF leadership and the absolute crucial decision to invite the stakeholders to the table. In February 2008 at the Extraordinary EHF Congress in Lillehammer that the forerunner, namely the National Team Committee, linked to the Federations, was introduced and its members (M.S. Christensen, P. Bana, M. Szjana, K. Akgüloglu) selected to serve. The first topic dealt with was the number of Championships in an Olympic cycle and the international calendar. Christensen noted the pressure coming from the clubs and federations at the time and underlined that the situation was a 'wake-up call' for European handball; however, the number of Championships remain the same today, and are placed in the calendar where there is barely no competition from other sports. Christensen underlined that this was a solid basis for the EHF and the Member Federations to create good business cases in order to secure the finances. He also reflected on an email received from Martin Hausleitner when he served as Secretary General to the Austrian Handball Federation, which showed a readiness to fight for the needs of the Federations.

The next step that further developed the internal structure was the foundation of the Nations' Board (M.S. Christensen, U. Strombach, P. Bana, B. Djurkovic, P. Hoes, A. Brencans) and the Professional Handball Board (PHB) in 2010. The EHF also supported the players in the efforts

to create a stakeholder group; so today, all the stakeholders – Nations, Clubs, Leagues, and Players – are represented in the PHB, and due to the common approach about shared responsibility, handball has benefited from the structure ever since.

Christensen mentioned though his report focused on men's handball, diversity was not just a buzz word and within a modern sports organisation where half of the handball players are women, structures are needed to support the development of diversity and gender equality; the EHF has reflected this with many young and strong women on board. Having stressed the importance of having strong platforms, he emphasised that strong voices from the Federations were needed within the EHF in order to secure a strong and professional development of the National Federations. Christensen accentuated the significance of a balanced sharing of the rights; regardless of being a top, mid-ranked, or emerging federation, each National Federation must be given the opportunity to operate on a commercial basis. Strong voices are also needed to create a good balance and understanding between the main stakeholders, and this should be based on a clear vision and solid values.

Today, it is clear that the EHF will serve as a beacon for all the National Federations due to the excellent work being undertaken with the strategy to turn the organisation into one of the most professional international sports federations. But, as previously stated, the EHF needs to be continuously challenged to uphold the balance between centralising and decentralising; to create this balance, a respectful approach and trust in each other among the stakeholders is paramount. Christensen continued and stated that he hoped that he managed to convey the mindset behind the Nations' Board and an impression of the topics dealt with by the NB members: increased income for the National Federations, more money for the emerging nations to encourage development and participation under strong regulations, better business opportunities for the Federations through the qualifications, etc.

Finally, NB Chairman Morten Stig Christensen expressed his heartfelt thanks towards the stakeholders for the cooperation since 2008, the EHF for letting the stakeholders in and for the great support, and to the administrative staff for assisting the NB and its members. Lastly, Christensen proudly presented the 2016 – 2021 EHF Nations' Board, the 'Band of Brothers': Philippe Bana, Mark Schober, Marek Góralczyk, Ingo Meckes, and Stephen Neilson thanking them sincerely for the excellent contribution over the past years. Bringing his address to a close, he reminded the Congress that involvement in sport can act as a springboard to many things; it is a window to the world, and this must be used in the best way. The handball community must remember to continuously develop the common product, not to only dream it; but to be it, and to live it. Ultimately to be the number one indoor sport in the world, there is always room for development.

Thanking Christensen for the report, Bošković stated that no report would be given by the Professional Handball Board, as it is not a Congress-elected body. He did divulge that as the one of the Executive Committee representatives serving the PHB, Bošković confirmed the positive work undertaken within the Board during the electoral period.

5.10 REPORT FROM THE WOMEN'S HANDBALL BOARD

Chairwoman Nodjialem Myaro stated that the report on behalf of the Women's Handball Board (WHB) would highlight the work undertaken and the most important initiatives during the last electoral period. Foremost, and for the benefit of the new representatives present at the Congress, she outlined the difference in the current structure of the WHB compared to the PHB where all stakeholder interest groups (EHF, NB, MFCH, EHLB, EHPU) are represented. The Women's Handball Board is strategic platform serving the EHF in an advisory capacity providing analysis to activities, looking at initiatives in view to further global development, as well as to improve participation of women's handball and women in handball.

As a result of the survey targeting National Federations and Clubs, the WHB Strategy & Action Plan 2017 – 2021 was updated and shared with the Federations during the three common workshops organised by the Women's Handball Board. Looking to the primary objective of raising the profile and popularity of women's handball and strengthen youth handball, the WHB developed and activated a broad spectrum of activities that focused on education, development, and promotion. The further education schemes were directed at strengthening female leadership and were offered to female coaches, sports managers, delegates, referees in indoor and beach handball; all of which were executed in cooperation with the EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN). In total, the European Handball Federation financially supported the participation of 60 women in EHF activities.

Along with publicising the 'Role Model' programme, empowering female leadership was at the core of the WHB promotion endeavours. All activities were connected to the Women's EHF EURO i.e. in 2018, the 'Handball Inspires' & Ambassadors campaign was launched, and in 2020, a podcast was added to the mix. Turning to the area of development, Myaro told the Congress about the work undertaken specifically with young people aged 16 to 20 years of age. The WHB recognised this age group as being at a critical stage of personal and sporting development; in order to reduce the drop-out rate and to create a better environment for younger players, emphasis was placed on the 'Respect Your Talent' (RYT) campaign.

The programme was created to contribute to a sustainable pathway of talented handball players across Europe, and is also linked to the Younger Age Category EHF EUROs and European Championships via the 'Player of the Match' award, as well as the 'Respect Your Talent' handball camp. Moreover, this is conducted as part of the EHF Master Plan, and here both male and female players are supported with digital training, a special talent toolkit, and 'Ambassador' sessions delivered by former top players supported by experts. The RYT Camp attendees are trained in topics such as the dual-career, on-camera interview skills, and social media conduct, in addition to anti-doping, the problematic of match fixing, and sports law. It is hoped that the knowledge and skills will contribute to stable and efficient professional development of the handball career and their personalities. Chairwoman Myaro informed on other elements that comprise the RYT programme e.g. 'Train the Trainer', but also underlined the importance of exchanging best practise examples across the handball community i.e. the All-Star Team, as well as how critical it is to develop the player by focusing on the career and providing the appropriate education, whilst encouraging along the path.

In brief reflection, Myaro praised the development of the 'Beyond 2020+' strategy and the partnership with Infront and DAZN. She continued that the future of women's handball showed much promise as these works were a huge step forward providing a great opportunity; although the magnitude of the commitment and obligation which necessitates further investment in women's handball was not to be underestimated.

In closing, Myaro thanked the WHB Vice Chairwoman, Pirje Orasson (EST), and the Members Narcisa Lecusanu (ROU), Leonor Mallozzi (POR), Luidmila Bodnieva (RUS) and Deja Ivanovic (SLO) for their dedication and contribution. The Chairwoman also extended her gratitude to the Women's Handball Coordinator, Alenka Cuderman for the support at the administrative level, and to the National Federations for their ongoing support of women's handball.

Finally, on behalf of the Women's Handball Board, Nodjialem Myaro gave special thanks to the Executive Committee for its support of the Board during the electoral period.

6 2018/2019/2020 FINANCES

6.1 REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FINANCES

Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour opened his report by with a summation of his first term in the position and described it as an *"intensive journey which brought impressive progress in various fields of finances"*.

2020 marked the end of the solo contract with Infront, as well as the ignition of the Infront & DAZN (I & D) media and marketing agreement. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the organisation saw a successful development of the top competitions both at a club and national team level. The EHF was able to expand and prolong existing partnership contracts and also find new partners; another major success was the improvements surrounding the EHF digital strategy.

Faced with such a challenging year, La Cour spoke of the increased frequency of meetings as the organisation endeavoured to keep the competition schedule active. Thus, the accounts of 2020 provide an overview influenced by, and based on, the Covid-19 pandemic which impacted the result at different levels, the launch of the 'Back2Handball' support programme totalling EUR 3.29 million, higher running costs and financial consequences (i.e. testing/health concept, postponements/cancellations, travel, etc.). Other activities that impacted the accounts of 2020 included the investment in the digital infrastructure and personnel costs.

2018 (2017-2018)

La Cour reiterated that the 2018 result was presented in detail at the Extraordinary Congress in Stockholm (01/2020) though formal approval was postponed until the 2021 session of Congress. It was reiterated that the financial result of 2018 was a surplus of EUR 835,000. On the one hand, increased revenues from the 2018 EURO events (EUR 490k) and a marked decrease in revenue due to the MP & Silva bankruptcy were attributed to the outcome. The

total 2018 income was EUR 15.12 million equating to EUR 27.91 million for the two-year period 2017-2018.

Turning to the 2018 outgoings, expenditure was reduced through lower personnel costs and lower Congress/Meeting expenses, although it was mentioned that development expenses did increase due to investments in technologies; additional expenses included the allocation of reserves for the new office building and EHF EURO deferrals. The total 2018 expenses amounted to EUR 15.35 million equating to EUR 25.18 million for the two-year period 2017-2018. The overall result of the 2017-2018 period was a surplus of EUR 2.748 million after the deduction of the social fund.

2019 - 2020

Concerning 2019 and the two-year period, 2019-2020, La Cour presented a side-by-side comparison which showed the development path of the business year. Revenues from entry fees dropped by approximately EUR 300k due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Income from EURO partnerships (mainly Infront), ticketing, and additional shares, increased as foreseen to EUR 8.32 million. Income from other partnerships (EHFM contribution, Gerflor, Select, Hummel) decreased slightly but remained at an acceptable level; Transfer income showed a slight increase (6%) due to higher exchange rates; revenues from fines remained stable. Other returns resulted from the Covid-19 Relief Package issued by the Austrian government for non-profit organisations. Due to the lack of dividend from EHF Marketing, overall revenues decreased in 2020 by approximately EUR 520k compared to 2019; this was also slightly below the figures of 2018, but still EUR 1.4 million above budget. Thus, over the two-year period, 2019-2020, revenues totalled EUR 30.21 million.

Presenting the expenses for the same period, the area of 'Compensations' remained stable, and there was a significant reduction in the line item 'Congress, Meetings', due to meetings being carried out virtually. Personnel costs followed the foreseen trajectory in light of the I&D contract implementation. Development expenses were impacted by the 'Back2Handball' support programme and the 'Business Development 2020+' line items that were added to this category. Other expenses recorded the anticipated decrease, but this is expected to change through the depreciation of the digital strategy investments; expenses therefore were EUR 2.1 million above budget as presented in January 2020. In conclusion, for the two-year period 2019-2020, expenses totalled EUR 31.23 million.

The final result of the business year 2019-2020, the losses in 2020 negated the profit attained in 2019; thus, in this period the organisation recorded an overall consolidated loss of EUR 876k taking into consideration the Social Fund deduction.

Closing the report from the Vice President Finance, Wiederer underlined that all financial activities of the European Handball Federation and EHF Marketing GmbH are controlled at the internal level by the Comptrollers and respectively the Comptrollers Council also, in accordance with Austrian law, by an external auditor. Adding another layer of transparency, the club stakeholders are also privy to the accounts of EHF Marketing GmbH.

6.2 REPORT FROM THE COMPTROLLERS

In the absence of Alain Koubi, Comptroller Robert Prettenthaler presented the report of the Comptrollers.

The EHF Comptrollers audited the EHF Balance Sheet as per 31 December for the years of 2018, 2019, and 2020. This was in addition to the examination of the income statements for the period 2018, 2019 and 2020; due to the pandemic the scheduled meetings of the Comptrollers took place in a virtual setting. The processes were verified by an external, independent auditor.

The EHF Comptrollers also audited the EHFM Balance Sheet as per 30 June for the years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, which had to be recognised in the EHF financial statements for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The financial information provided by the EHF and EHFM was found to be consistent with the accounting records that provided a true and fair representation of the activities, as well as the financial position at the end of each examined year. 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 2018, 2019, and 2020 were reproduced in the Congress documentation. Prettenthaler also stated that the recommendations of the Comptrollers were implemented accordingly as requested.

Closing the report and before requesting that the EHF Executive Committee conduct of business be discharged, Prettenthaler on behalf of the Comptrollers expressed gratitude towards the Finance Delegation, the Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour, Chief Finance Officer Bernhard Binder, as well as special projects leader, Andrea Moser. A special recognition was extended to Alain Koubi, in absentia, for the work he had undertaken in the last electoral period as he would be stepping down from his position.

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 2018, 2019, and 2020. The matter went to vote and with 43 votes (100%) in favour the EHF Executive Committee conduct of business was approved by the Congress.

EHF Master Plan – Interim Report

JJ Rowland, Director of the Business Development and Marketing department delivered a short update on the EHF Master Plan, the concept first accepted following the presentation at the Extraordinary Congress in January 2020 in Stockholm. He opened by stating he was aware that the EHF Master Plan had been presented at numerous conferences and meetings since then, and it had to be taken into account that the Covid-19 situation had delayed the development of the project as it was not possible to consult with all important stakeholders.

Fortunately, the coming elections allow for the opportunity to provide a framework for the next period and to furnish some of the newly elected with a challenge and assignment. The EHF Master Plan will aid the definition of the work for the next four years as the organisation moves towards the goal of becoming the number one indoor team sport in Europe. Taking reference to the brochure containing all relevant information and distributed to the representatives of the National Federations, Rowland focused on and iterated the five key objectives of the EHF Master Plan.

In closing, Rowland spoke of the reference groups to be introduced comprised of internal expertise coming from the Committees and Boards where the plans, projects, and initiative s are to be finalised with a direct correlation to the KPIs to be attained. The next status update is scheduled to be given at the Extraordinary EHF Congress in November on the fringes of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the EHF.

PART II (7. — 17.) ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Opening the second session of the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress, President Wiederer gave credit to the vast interest shown by the Member Federations in the 2021 election process; for the 53 positions available 139 registrations were received. He stated that time would be necessary to conduct the process. The Honorary EHF President, Jean Brihault was invited to oversee the elections to the EHF Executive Committee.

Taking the floor, the Honorary EHF President Jean Brihault delivered a brief statement on the principle of the elections. He underlined the notion that through the elections, Congress is building a team that will need to perform; thus, *“the elected persons must be competent, must be available, must be able to work together, and hopefully they must represent the whole of the continent.”*

Before commencing the election procedure, he reminded the Congress that the election process was directed under Article 3.1.6 of the EHF Statutes.

7 ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Addressing the Congress, President incumbent, Michael Wiederer, contemplative of the current situation, opened by quoting from The Tragedy of Coriolanus by William Shakespeare *“...when the sea was calm all boats alike showed mastership in floating”*. He continued that what was needed, and it held true for the position of the President, but as well for all those working in the Executive Committee and the Commissions, was an “all-weather grip”. Wiederer went on to say that the global model showed that you can have it easy when everything is easy; but in complex times, such as those currently faced, the situation is different. Referring to his report and acknowledging the other reports that were given earlier, he did not speak of the new programme; however, he intoned that he stands for the activities, and in that respect, he also stood for the position of President for the period 2021 to 2025 and hoped for the support of the Congress not only on the day of the election, but also for the years to come.

Michael Wiederer was re-elected to the position of EHF President for the electoral period 2021 to 2025 by acclamation.

7.2 ELECTION OF THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

In a statement to the Congress Tjark de Lange (NED) contemplated the origins of his entry on to the European handball scene when he took on the function of President of the Dutch Handball Federation in 2011. He spoke of the difficulties faced, and the decision of the Board to build consensus and work together in order to save the Federation as nothing was more important than the sport. Looking at the larger picture, de Lange expressed his pleasure at seeing larger and smaller Federations working together and making sacrifices for consensus

and for the good of the sport; and in that vein, he withdrew his candidacy for the position in favour of the current First Vice President.

Predrag Boskovic reflected four successful years of European handball, but also highlighted the past 12 months that proved very challenging. He underlined the need for unity and wisdom and quoted that *“The hard times are producing a strong people, strong people are producing good times, and good times could produce a very weak people”* and told the Congress to bear that in mind as the organisation needed persons that had the wisdom and the strength to do so. Boskovic continued by mentioning the opportunity he had taken to work with many of the persons present at the Congress in his function, initially as an Executive Committee Member and later as the First Vice President and was convinced that many were also capable to lead and develop the sport. In closing, thinking the Congress, and Tjark de Lange, for the support, he stated that he looked forward to continuing on the path with the representatives of handball.

Following the withdrawal and the acknowledgments of Tjark de Lange (NED), the First Vice President incumbent, Predrag Boskovic was re-elected to the position by acclamation.

7.3 ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FINANCES

As the only candidate, Henrik La Cour (DEN) was re-elected by acclamation.

7.4 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

Thierry Wagner (LUX) withdrew his nomination and, as the sole remaining candidate, Bozidar Djurkovic (SRB) was re-elected by acclamation.

7.5 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE METHODS COMMISSION

As the only candidate, Pedro Sequeira (POR) was elected by acclamation.

7.6 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

Following the withdrawal of the second candidate, Marek Goralczyk (POL), Gabriella Horvath (POL) was elected by acclamation. Delivering a short address to Congress, Horvath thanked the Congress for the support of her candidature to serve as the Chairperson of the Beach Handball Commission (BC) briefly stating her many years of experience in the world of the sport, having previously served on the BC, prior to serving on the Executive Committee. Looking forward to her return to beach handball, Horvath gave a nod to her predecessor and mentor, Ole R. Jorstad, by saying that she was following in the footsteps of a very inspiring and enthusiastic person before promising to do her very best for the sport.

7.7 ELECTION OF THREE FURTHER MEMBERS

7.8 ELECTION OF GENDER REPRESENTATIVE(S) – IN CASE ONE GENDER INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED

From the twelve candidates up for election, the nomination of Gabriella Horvath was removed accordingly following her election to the Beach Handball Commission; additionally, four persons - Bob Hanning (GER), Eugen Saracini (KOS), Alexandru Mihai Dedu (ROU), and Sergey Shishkarev (RUS) - withdrew their respective applications. The remaining seven candidates, Francisco V. Blazquez Garcia (ESP), Jerome Fernandez (FRA), Anrijs Brencans (LAT), Tjark de

Lange (NED), Bente Aksnes (NOR), Franjo Bobinac (SLO), and Stefan Lövgren (SWE), were confirmed by EHF Honorary President, Jean Brihault.

Motion 13: 2021 Election Mode for Gender Representative

**Due to necessity, Motion 13 was executed prior to the EHF Elections and not under Agenda Point 20.2.*

With Motion 13, the European Handball Federation targeted the election of the EHF Executive Committee (AP7.7.) specifically 'Election of Three Further Members/Gender Representative' for the period 2021 to 2025. In support of gender equality, Motion 13 would ensure that the election could transpire without preference restrictions.

President Wiederer recapped the previous amendment successfully proposed by the Norwegian Handball Federation regarding the number of female representatives in the different commissions, targeting the Executive Committee, the Court of Handball, and the Court of Appeal, as they were the bodies with more than five (5) members. With the amendment now in force, both genders are to be represented with at least two female elected representatives. However, based on the number of female candidates, the EHF wished to circumvent the situation of a second female candidate not being elected directly and therefore having a strong impact on the whole election procedure. President Lio (NOR) lauded the process.

Result: *First having attained the 2/3 majority needed for admission, and then the simple majority for the process to be admitted to the 2021-2025 electoral process (specifically AP 7.7.), Motion 13 was accepted by the EHF Congress.*

Vote: *44 For; 3 Against, 1 Abstention.*

Prior to the voting, Franjo Bobinac (SLO) took the opportunity to address the Congress. By way of introduction, he spoke of intent behind his candidacy which was the strong belief that he could add value to, and be part of, the successful work of Executive Committee that would continue in the future. Bobinac also mentioned his professional background as the CEO and President of Gorenje, the largest living industrial company in Slovenia and proud sponsor of many clubs and organisations in sport. Bobinac has served as the President of the Slovenian Handball Federation for more than a decade, and if elected it was his intention to help engage and bring more sponsors and partners on board, as well as to organise different events. In closing, Bobinac emphasised the need to collaborate, exchange views, and share knowledge by bringing together facets – media, business, sports, and politics, and to ultimately bring the sport closer to the fans by developing quicker systems and platforms, as well as promoting and increasing awareness and progressing the image and reputation.

The vote went ahead and Stefan Lövgren (SWE) was elected as Member 1 with 44 votes. Francisco V. Blazquez Garcia (ESP) was elected as Member 2 with 41 votes, and Franjo Bobinac was elected as Member 3 with 25 votes.

Following the successful acceptance of Motion 13, Bente Aksnes (NOR) was elected by acclamation as a full member of the Executive Committee for the electoral period 2021 to 2025.

With the conclusion of agenda point 7, EHF Honorary President, Jean Brihault was thanked for presiding over for his entertaining officiation of the election of the Executive Committee.

8 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

8.1 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER MEN'S COMPETITIONS

The candidacies of Tomislav Lukic (CRO) and Jan Kampman (DEN) were confirmed. J. Kampman was re-elected having exceeded the 50%+ (36 votes) majority required.

8.2 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS

As the only candidate, Diana Box Alonso (ESP) was elected by acclamation.

8.3 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER REFEREEING

The candidacies of Denis Reibel (FRA) and Jutta Ehrmann-Wolf (GER) were withdrawn by the respective National Federations. The candidacies of Jiri Konecny (CZE) and Dragan Nachevski (MKD) were confirmed. D. Nachevski was re-elected having exceeded the 50%+ (43 votes) majority required.

EHF First Vice President Bošković reiterated that the positions of Members Men's/Women's Club Competitions are nominated by the stakeholder groups, Men's Forum Club Handball and Women's Forum Club Handball, respectively.

8.4 ELECTION OF GENDER REPRESENTATIVE – IN CASE ONE GENDER INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED

The outcome of the election negated the need for this process.

9 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE METHODS COMMISSION

9.1 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER METHODS AND COACHING

The candidacy of Patrick Luig (GER) was withdrawn by the National Federation. The candidacies of Monique Tijsterman (NED), Marta Bon (SLO), and Yavuz Taskiran (TUR) were confirmed. As no candidate attained the 50%+ majority (25 votes) needed to secure the position, a second vote was called to break the tie between Tijsterman and Taskiran; the Congress voted in favour of Monique Tijsterman with 30 votes.

9.2 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The candidacy of Maria Carmen Manchado Lopez (ESP) was withdrawn by the National Federation. The candidacies of Patrick Luig (GER), Peter Kovacs (HUN), and Alexandru Acsinte (ROU) were confirmed. P. Luig was elected (35 votes) having exceeded the 50%+ majority required.

9.3 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER YOUTH, SCHOOL AND NON-COMPETITIVE SPORTS

In accordance with the guidelines, nominations for two candidates were submitted for the position of Member Development. The election went ahead with two candidates: Lidija Bojic-

Cacic (CRO) and Yavuz Taskiran (TUR). Having exceeded the 50%+ majority required, Lidija Bojic-Cacic was elected by 45 votes in favour.

9.4 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The nominations of Lidija Bojic-Cacic (CRO) and Pedro Sequeira (POR) were withdrawn accordingly. The remaining candidate, Maria Carmen Manchado Lopez (ESP), was elected by acclamation.

9.5 ELECTION OF GENDER REPRESENTATIVE – IN CASE ONE GENDER INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED

The outcome of the election negated the need for this process.

10 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

10.1 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

The candidatures of Francisco Ordonez Sanchez (ESP), Jerome Rolland (FRA), and Jens Pfänder (GER) were withdrawn accordingly by the respective National Federations. The four remaining nominations - Emir Beslija (MNE), Siv Oye Carlsen (NOR), Marek Goralczyk (POL), and Ayberk Dilmen (TUR) - were confirmed. With no candidate having exceeded the 50%+ majority required, a second vote was called and went ahead with two candidates with the most votes, Beslija and Goralczyk, which resulted in a tie of 50% of the votes being cast for each candidate. A third vote was called to break the tie between. The Congress voted in favour of Marek Goralczyk POL with 29 votes.

10.2 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OFFICIATING

Following the withdrawal of the candidates Marco Trespidi (ITA) and Ivan Sabovik (SVK), the election for the position of Member Officiating went ahead with two candidates: Jiri Opava (CZE) and Mateja Kavcic (SLO). Having exceeded the 50%+ majority required, J. Opava (38 votes) was elected.

10.3 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER GAME DESIGN AND COACHING

Following the withdrawal of Francisco Ordonez Sanchez (ESP) and Jens Pfänder (GER), the remaining candidate, Marco Trespidi (ITA), was elected by acclamation.

10.4 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

The candidatures of Tomica Madjercic (CRO) and Renaud Baldacci (FRA) were withdrawn by the respective Member Federations. The nominations of Mario Bernardes (POR), Tudor Mihai Marta (ROU), Jelena Eric (SRB), Ivan Sabovik (SVK), and Ayberk Dilmen (TUR) were confirmed. As no candidate attained the 50%+ majority (25 votes) needed to secure the position, a second vote was called to between candidates Bernardes and Sabovik; the Congress voted in favour of M. Bernardes with 28 votes.

10.5 ELECTION OF GENDER REPRESENTATIVE – IN CASE ONE GENDER INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED

The outcome of the election (Chairperson and Members included) negated the need for this process.

11 ELECTION OF COMPTROLLERS

11.1 ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS

The two candidates, Robert Prettenthaler (AUT) and Thomas Ludewig (GER) who served the board in the previous electoral period, were elected by acclamation.

11.2 ELECTION OF ONE SUBSTITUTE

With no candidate, the nomination of the substitute controller will fall to the Executive Committee.

12 ELECTION OF THE EHF COURT OF HANDBALL

12.1 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Prior to the election for the position of President to the EHF Court of Handball (CoH), the Congress voted on the late entry of candidate Kristian Johansen (FAR); the petition was rejected by Congress having failed to attain the required two-third majority.

As the only candidate, Ioannis Karanasos (GRE) was elected by acclamation.

12.2 ELECTION OF TWO VICE PRESIDENTS

Prior to the election for the position of two Vice Presidents to the EHF Court of Handball (CoH), the Congress voted on the late entry of candidate Kristian Johansen (FAR); the petition was rejected by Congress having failed to attain the required two-third majority.

The election went ahead with two candidates, following the election of I. Karanasos (GRE), and Andreas Thiel (GER) and Sorin-Laurentiu Dinu (ROU) were elected by acclamation.

12.3 ELECTION OF SIX FURTHER MEMBERS

The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows: Shlomo Cohen (ISR – 40 votes), Matea Horvat (CRO -30 votes) André Hommen (NED – 29 votes), Alan Grima (MLT – 27 votes) became the newly elected members of the EHF Court of Handball; Urmo Sitsi (EST – 31 votes) and Yvonne Leuthold (SUI – 28 votes) were re-elected as Members and retaining their seats for the next electoral period.

12.4 ELECTION OF GENDER REPRESENTATIVE(S) – IN CASE ONE GENDER INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED

The outcome of the election negated the need for this process.

13 ELECTION OF THE EHF COURT OF APPEAL

13.1 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

As the only candidate, Markus Plazer (AUT) was re-elected by acclamation.

13.2 ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The election went ahead with two candidates, Karsten Madsen (DEN) and Nicolae Vizitiu (MDA). Having exceeded the 50%+ majority required (38 votes), N. Vizitiu was elected as Vice President.

13.3 ELECTION OF FIVE FURTHER MEMBERS

The election, based on the number of votes per candidate, was decided as follows: Ilona Tordai (HUN – 33 votes) and Izet Gjinovci (KOS – 31 votes) became the newly elected members of the EHF Court of Appeal; Ketevan Koberidze (GEO – 40 votes), M. Petronijevic (SRB – 34 votes) and R. Czaplicki (POL – 32 votes) were re-elected as the Members retaining their seats for the next electoral period.

13.4 ELECTION OF GENDER REPRESENTATIVE(S) IN CASE ONE GENDER INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED

The outcome of the election negated the need for this process.

14 ELECTION OF THE EHF COURT OF ARBITRATION COUNCIL

For the benefit of the representatives attending Congress for the first time, it was reiterated that the members of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council (ECC) are responsible for overseeing the Commission (ECA). When a panel is formed, it consists of individually nominated representatives; Council Members are not part of the panel and not directly involved in cases. The involvement of Council Members occurs when no nomination follows or if changes resp. interpretations are needed. Concerning the election, it was also noted that the second ECC Vice President is selected by the stakeholders.

14.1 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

As the sole candidate, Giorgio Tedesco (ITA) was confirmed as President of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council by acclamation.

14.2 ELECTION OF ONE VICE PRESIDENT

With the election of Giorgio Tedesco (ITA) to the ECA presidency, the remaining candidate, Remy Levy (FRA), was elected to the position of Vice President by acclamation to the ECA Council.

15 INFORMATION ON NEW COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Ahead of the elections for the Nations Committee Men and Nations Committee Women, President Wiederer deemed it necessary to provide Congress with a complete overview of the structure. Supported by a visual aid, he conceded that the system was complex. In previous years, the EHF made a concerted effort to integrate the stakeholders into the decision-making process; this brought the organisation forward. Wiederer made it clear that unity was essential; thus, platforms were created to foster discussions between the national federations, clubs, the players, and ultimately, the Executive Committee being responsible for the business. At the request of the EHF Member Federations, the organisation implemented working groups to formulate a system that would see a more efficient

representation of the stakeholders at the nations level. The recommendation of the working group followed procedure and was approved at the 2018 Congress.

Wiederer went on to describe the process to follow; at the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress, the Nations Committee Men (NCM) and the Nations Committee Women (NCW) will be inaugurated with the six members per Committee to be elected. The members within each group will select a chairperson to lead the respective committee, and the members that will represent the NCM (two persons to the Professional Handball Board) and NCW (two members to the Women's Handball Board) in the different stakeholder bodies. In a next step, the NCM will nominate three persons, and the NCW will nominate three persons to serve on the reformed Nations Board (NB) that will consist of six persons. The chairperson selected, within the NB, will have a seat on the Executive Committee in the electoral period 2021 – 2025. Thus, the Member Federations will have a specific representative for this area of the business.

It was underlined that the persons elected to the Executive Committee are representatives of the Member Federations; however, those persons have to fulfil a general mandate, whereas the NB Chairperson is a dedicated representative of the National Federations. The reorganized Nations Board will deal with both men's and women's activities and submit their input and recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Wiederer reiterated the complexity of the system, the new procedures, and noted the first meetings of the new committees and board were scheduled for May 2021. In closing, he stated that, following the elections of the NCM and NCW and the democratic process on the level of the elected persons, he was positive that the new platforms would provide a good chance to discuss the topics of interest on that level and to receive feedback on the EHF activities.

16 ELECTION OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE MEN

16.1 ELECTION OF SIX MEMBERS

Prior to the elections of the EHF Nations Committee Men (NCM), the Congress voted on the late entry of candidate Morten Stig Christensen (DEN). The late entry of Christensen for the NCM was accepted by Congress having attained the required two-third majority.

Election of Member 1: the candidature of Elena Borrás Alcaraz ESP was withdrawn by the National Federation. The remaining candidatures, Morten Stig Christensen (DEN), Bertrand Gille (FRA), Mark Schober (GER), and Uros Mohoric (SLO) were confirmed. With the majority attained (33 votes), M. S. Christensen was confirmed as Member 1 in the newly constituted Nations Committee Men.

Election of Member 2: the six candidates - Andrei Baletski (BLR), Arik Deutch (ISR), Damian Drobik (POL), Alexandru M. Dedu (ROU), Sergei Ziza (RUS), and Ingo Meckes (SUI) - were confirmed. As no candidate attained the majority in the first vote, a second ballot was called between Meckes and Dedu. In the second round, I. Meckes with 26 votes was confirmed as Member 2 to the Nations Committee Men.

Election of Member 3: the candidatures of Pirje Orasson (EST), Stefano Podini (ITA), Thierry Wagner (LUX) were withdrawn by the respective National Federation. The remaining candidates, Jari Henttonen (FIN), Erno Kelecsenyi (SVK), Hikmet Vurgun (TUR), and Oleksandr Gladun (UKR), were confirmed. As no candidate attained the majority in the first vote, a second ballot was called between Henttonen and Gladun. In the second round, J. Henttonen with 31 votes was confirmed as Member 3 in the Nations Committee Men.

Election of Member 4: following the election of Alan Grima to the Court of Handball, the remaining candidate, Fintan Lyons (IRL) was elected as Member 4 by acclamation to the Nations Committee Men.

Election of Members 5 and 6: the candidatures of newly elected - Christensen (DEN), Henttonen (FIN), Lyons (IRL), Grima (MLT), Meckes (SUI) - were withdrawn from the election of Members 5 and 6 accordingly. The candidatures of Pirje Orasson (EST), Stefano Podini (ITA), and Thierry Wagner (LUX) were withdrawn by the respective National Federations. The remaining 11 entrants - Andrei Baletski (BLR), Bertrand Gille (FRA), Mark Schober (GER), Arik Deutch (ISR), Damian Drobik (POL), Alexandru Mihai Dedu (ROU), Sergei Ziza (RUS), Uros Mohoric (SLO), Erno Kelecsenyi (SVK), Hikmet Vurgun (TUR), and Oleksandr Gladun (UKR) - were confirmed. Following the election, M. Schober (GER) with 32 votes and B. Gille (FRA) with 24 votes were elected as Members 5 and 6 respectively to the Nations Committee Men.

17 ELECTION OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE WOMEN

17.1 ELECTION OF SIX MEMBERS

Prior to the elections of the EHF Nations Committee Women (NCW), the Congress voted on the late entry of candidate, Elena Borrás Alcaraz (ESP). The late entry bid was rejected having failed to attain the required two-third majority.

Election of Member 1: the candidature of Monique Tijsterman NED (elected to MC) was withdrawn by the National Federation; the other candidatures, Nodjialem Myaro (FRA), Zoltan Kynsburg (HUN), Cristina Varzaru (ROU), Liudmila Bodnieva (RUS), and Jelena Eric (SRB), were confirmed. With the majority attained (25 votes), N. Myaro was confirmed as Member 1 in newly constituted Nations Committee Women.

Election of Member 2: the four candidates Sarka Drozdova (CZE), Miglius Astrauskas (LTU), Monika Listkiewicz (POL), and Leonor Mallozzi (POR) were confirmed. With the majority attained, L. Mallozzi with 35 votes was confirmed as Member 2 in the Nations Committee Women.

Election of Member 3: the two candidatures, Andrei Baletski (BLR) and Paola Fiorillo (ITA), were confirmed. With the majority attained, P. Fiorillo with 31 votes was confirmed as Member 3 in the Nations Committee Women.

Election of Member 4: the two candidatures, Anna Melkonyan (ARM) and Pirje Orasson (EST) were confirmed. With the majority attained, P. Orasson with 36 votes was confirmed as Member 4 in the Nations Committee Women.

Election of Members 5 and 6: the candidatures of newly elected - Myaro (FRA), Fiorillo (ITA), Tijsterman (NED), Mallozzi (POR), Orasson (EST) - were withdrawn from the election of Members 5 and 6 accordingly. The remaining 9 nominations - Anna Melkonyan (ARM), Andrei Baletski (BLR), Sarka Drozdova (CZE), Zoltan Kynsburg (HUN), Miglius Astrauskas (LTU), Monika Listkiewicz (POL), Cristina Varzaru (ROU), Liudmila Bodnieva (RUS), and Jelena Eric (SRB) - were confirmed. Following the election, S. Drozdova and C. Varzaru, each with 23 votes, were elected as Members 5 and 6 respectively to the Nations Committee Women.

18 NOMINATIONS TO IHF CONGRESS

18.1 EHF PRESIDENT AS IHF VICE PRESIDENT FROM EUROPE

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

18.2 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.

18.3 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.

PART III (19. – 21.) HANDLING OF MOTIONS AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

19 MOTIONS RELATING TO STATUTES

Motion 1: Court of Arbitration

EHF Executive Committee Member, Stefan Lövgren informed the Congress on the spirit and purpose of the motion to not only emphasise the independent nature of the court, but also be aligned with the formal requirements, as defined by previous court decisions, by making it more accessible.

Result: Having attained the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF Statutes, Motion 1 is accepted by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 41 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions.

Motion 2: Initiator of Proceedings - Substitute

Jerzy Eliaz, Chairman Methods Commission, provided an overview of the 'Initiator of Proceedings' position, and added that since the creation of the function, only one person is nominated to the role. Eliaz explained the risk of a lack of neutrality and the necessity to have a substitute in place in order to ensure impartiality.

Result: Having attained the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 2 is accepted by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 42 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstentions.

Motion 3: Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions - Competence

The catalogue was last updated in 2011, and taking into consideration the continuous evolution of regulations, outdated as well as missing elements, the current status limits flexibility to react appropriately and efficiently. Secretary General Hausleitner presented the reasoning to allow the Executive Committee to amend the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions (as is the case for the List of Penalties).

Result: Having failed to attain the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 3 was rejected by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 26 For, 13 Against, 7 Abstentions.

[Unrelated to the topic at hand (Motion 3 and the respective procedures in place), the representative of Ukraine, Secretary General Oleksandr Gladun, chose the moment to make a statement about the lack of representation from the eastern Europe (i.e. Russia, Ukraine, Belarus) in the EHF Committees and Boards as well as the obstacles such Federations face as communication can be difficult in these regions and punitive measures have a strong negative impact within the Federations.]

Motion 4: Organisation of Meetings – Video Conferences

The current pandemic situation made the use of the technical infrastructure indispensable. Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour highlighted the changes to the working environment

and the need to have the EHF Statutes formally encompass the use of video conferencing systems.

Result: Having attained the necessary 2/3 majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 4 was accepted by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 35 For, 3 Against, 4 Abstentions.

Motion 5: Competitions Commission - Member Refereeing

President Wiederer issued the position of the European Handball Federation concerning Motion 5 submitted by the Hungarian Handball Federation (HHF). Reiterating the function of the new officiating system implemented in 2019 as well as the ongoing work in this area, Wiederer noted that the EHF agreed with the idea behind the HHF proposal, however requested more time to develop a complete system, in collaboration with the HHF, that can be presented to Congress in 2023 since any decision taken in 2021 can only be implemented as of 2025.

Result: No vote was held as it was agreed by HHF and the Congress that Motion 5 would be analysed and developed further and presented to Congress in 2023.

20 MOTIONS RELATING TO REGULATIONS

20.1 MOTIONS RELATING TO LEGAL REGULATIONS

Motion 6: ECA Council - Amendment to Organisation

Secretary General Hausleitner alluded to the similarities between Motion 6 and Motion 4 and how the integration of video conferencing systems must also be reflected in the ECA Regulations with the President of the Council being entitled to request a virtual conference if deemed necessary for the workflow in order to optimise the business conduct of the Council.

Result: Having attained the necessary simple majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 6 was accepted by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 39 For, 5 Against.

Motion 7: ECA Arbitrators – Composition

Executive Committee Member, Anrijs Brenčans presented the two-part motion that centred on the composition of list of ECA Arbitrators by amending the ‘criterion of incompatibility’ text and granting the ECA Council the authority to remove arbitrators from the list who no longer fulfil the applicable criteria. The purpose of Motion 7 in its entirety is to ensure the quality of the persons registered on the list of ECA Arbitrators.

Result: Having attained the necessary simple majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 7 was accepted by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 37 For, 6 Against.

Motion 8: ECA Arbitrators – Liability

Delivering Motion 8 to the Congress, Executive Committee Member, Gabriella Horvath, emphasised that it proposed the amendment of the definition of liability of persons being involved in ECA proceedings, including the individual arbitrators for their decisions. The objective of Motion 8 is to ensure that such individuals, the deciding panel, are protected against legal action.

Result: *Having attained the necessary simple majority needed to amend the EHF statutes, Motion 8 is accepted by the EHF Congress.*

Vote: 38 For, 3 Against.

20.2 MOTIONS RELATING TO COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Motion 9: EHF EUROS - Refereeing Conditions

Kåre Geir Lio, President of the Norwegian Handball Federation, delivered the proposal of Norway to ensure genuine gender equality at all future EHF EURO events surrounding referee nominations. Motion 9 required the creation of documentation stating the quality of referees, the amendment of EHF EURO Regulations, and the representation of referees of both genders at EHF EURO events.

Executive Committee Member, Nodjialem Myaro presented the EHF position on Motion 9 by stating that the nominations of referees to EHF EURO events have to follow clear quality requirements that are already in use for the EHF competitions. Documentation of referee performance is undertaken by the delegates, the supervisors, the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC), as well as the Competitions Commission (CC). Performance data is reported to the referees and the National Federations in the EHF Family Portal. Nominations to the EHF EURO are influenced by other criteria, not only the documented performance, but also education, and the ranking list are also taken into consideration. Availability, as well as previous nominations to world championships, top club competitions, neutrality and the necessary development are also examined as another element surrounding the nomination in order to safeguard the organisation of the event. Within the competitions sphere, the matter of gender equality is a topic that has been intensively discussed, and as a result, several clauses have been added to the EHF Statutes; and several initiatives are running within the EHF business. The interpretation of the topic, as to when, how, and in which way gender equality has to be realised, varies and it seems impossible to reach a satisfying solution for all parties involved. Therefore, the EHF recommends rejecting the motion, and in the case of the motion being accepted, a clause must be added to the regulations which foresees that the availability of both genders in the nomination process is to be secured.

President Wiederer presented the rebuttal to Motion 9, whilst agreeing with the principles of gender equality and noting the steps already taken within the European Handball Federation, he illustrated that Motion 9 directly contravenes practices already in place, buttressing against neutrality. At an EHF EURO it is clear that the 'best' officiators are nominated to an event; furthermore, the scheduling of events (W-EURO December, M-WCH January) and the availability of the 'best' referees were also called into question. Thus, the terminology of 'best' can only be meant, in such cases, as 'available'.

Result: It was determined that the matter would not be voted upon in Session IV as implementation would be unfeasible. However, a clarification of Motion 9 would follow at the opening of Session V under AP25. EHF Information.

Motion 10: EHF Champions League - Economic Share for Participants

To supplement the comprehensive written information at hand, President Lio (NOR) presented Motion 10, aimed at introducing a ‘balancing Fund’ from the income of the men’s club competitions to bolster the women’s club competitions with a view to an equal share within 5 years. Lio emphasised the differences in the economic support and spoke of the gap between the genders widening and using Motion 10 as a way to redistribute the funds and promote equal opportunities for clubs.

Issuing the counterargument on behalf of the EHF, President Wiederer called for Motion 10 to be rejected based on work undertaken within the EHF to improve the situation of women’s handball (i.e. I&D media and marketing agreement); research (examples given) has upheld the reality of differences in various European markets changing based on the performance of men’s and women’s teams. Furthermore, the club stakeholders’ men and women (MFCH/WFCH) concluded an agreement on revenue distribution for three seasons. A positive outcome of Motion 10 would undo the work undertaken and lead to a separation of marketing rights and collapse a functioning system that grants a realistic growth of the value for women’s club competitions. The EHF moved to reject Motion 10.

Speaking on behalf of the club stakeholder groups, FCH Managing Director, Gerd Butzeck emphasised the potential negative impact of Motion 10 and underlined that agreements that regulate (income based) payments to the clubs are overall in place until 2030. He also spoke of the transparent process between the men’s and women’s clubs and the agreement reached in this matter. Butzeck acknowledged that currently the women’s club competitions did not produce the desired value and conceded that ideas to increase the value of women’s competitions need consideration but reminded the Congress that it is the market situation that drives the process.

Result: Having failed to attain the simple majority needed to amend the EHF Regulations, Motion 10 was rejected by the EHF Congress.

Vote: 14 For, 30 Against.

Motion 11: Beach Handball Regulations - Athletes’ Uniform

President Lio (NOR) presented Motion 11 targeting the Beach Handball Regulations concerning the uniforms for female athletes, and specifically requesting that the EHF liaise with the International Handball Federation (IHF) to support and initiate the necessary steps to the IHF Regulations. Supporting Motion 11, Lio stated that the contention surrounding the uniform continued to directly impact participation in beach handball events.

Delivering the position of the EHF, Ole R. Jørstad reiterated that the topic is not new and has garnered negative PR, not only in the Norwegian media, but also around Europe. However, the intention of the Norwegian Handball Federation is understood. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Jørstad suggested that in agreement with NOR and the Congress, the topic

should be submitted to the new elected Beach Handball Committee to be treated in collaboration with the EHF Legal Department to formulate a practical recommendation that can be subsequently be treated on the level of the Executive Committee, before being ultimately submitted to the IHF, as the matter lies in its remit.

President Wiederer underlined that the issues belonged with the Congress of the International Handball Federation. However, an interim solution to deal with the matter first on a technical level and then later at the political level, in the knowledge that ultimately the proposal of Norway would have to be submitted to the IHF Congress.

Taking the floor, Dr Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation stated that the matter was dealt with by the IHF Congress, and the outcome was not favourable. However, as the topic is raised again, the IHF will consider the matter further.

Result: Congress agreed that Motion 11 would be withdrawn, but the topic at hand would be delivered to the newly constituted Beach Handball Commission for further treatment.

Motion 12: Younger Age Category Events - Awarding Criteria

Submitted by the Handball Association of Israel, Motion 12 requested the European Handball Federation establish criteria to be assimilated into an awarding procedure for Younger Age Category events. This would see a YAC awarding structure that would prioritise nations that had not previously hosted events and a distinct daily rate framework with criteria to be applied separately. The ISR representative declined the opportunity to present the motion.

Božidar Djurković, Chairman of the Competitions Commission, elaborated on the reasons why Motion 12 should be rejected by the Congress, reflecting on the changes already implemented in the area of YAC events such as, but not limited to, capped daily rates, event minimum standards, organisational frameworks, as well as venue conditions.

Result: Motion 12 was officially withdrawn by the Israeli Handball Association.

21 2021/2022 AND 2023/2024 FINANCES

21.1 2021/2022 BUDGETS/UPDATE

Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour addressed the Congress once again to current and future finance topics. In the relatively short time since the last presentation of the 2021/2022 budgets at the Extraordinary EHF Congress in Stockholm an update became necessary due to new information concerning the partnership and because of the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic; this had to be reflected in the budget.

Beginning with income, La Cour informed that there had been no change to the estimated entry fees on the basis of the number of clubs and national teams participating in the 2020/21 season. Line item 3 'Partnership Contracts' reflects the income in accordance with the Infront/DAZN agreement and includes the additional share awaited as a result of the EHF EURO 2020. Line item 32 'Other Partnerships', mainly from EHF Marketing, was adjusted

slightly below the original forecast. Transfer income was conservatively adjusted upward to EUR 1.5 million per year. The (NPO and Events) support received from the Austrian government, according to the Covid-19 support measures, is also included in the updated budget. Based on negative interest rates of the banking institutions, further financial impact is anticipated in 2021. Total income will increase with the sum expected to total EUR 41.7 million for the period 2021-2022 compared with the figure of EUR 30.2 million for the 2019-2020.

With a view to the projected expenses, Line item 2 'Congress, Meetings' was adjusted down to reflect current expectations, but does include the Congress/30th Anniversary. Furthermore, personnel expenses were adapted on the basis of actual headcount, further activities/education, and legal reserves. Line item 4 'Office & Infrastructure' was expanded to include infrastructure costs relating digital strategy (i.e. running costs of the EHF online presence). The area of development is in line with the 2008 Congress decision; the figures presented also include, in part, 'Back2Handball' support, contractual obligations for digital investment, adaptation of competition costs, as well as the foreseen EHF Master Plan activities. Under further expenses, as depreciation was moved under the umbrella of 'Office & Infrastructure', both areas of depreciation were also adjusted down reducing expenses.

Therefore, for the two-year budget period of 2021 and 2022, a surplus of EUR 1.4 million is expected.

21.2 2023/2024 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The EHF moved to not charge any membership fees for period 2023 and 2024, in line with past practice. The recommendation was met by acclamation, and thus confirmed by the EHF Congress.

21.3 PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2023/2024 BUDGETS

The 2023-2024 budget is a working document that was established on the basis of 2021-2022 budget following the same assumptions. In terms of income, improvement is expected in the areas of entry fees and the partnership contracts. In year two (2024) the EHF Marketing result is also expected to have a positive impact on the income. Therefore, due to the negative interest of the banking institutions and with zero dividends being paid to EHF Marketing, the forecasted revenue is estimated at EUR 45.7 million combined for both periods.

The line items 'Compensations' and 'Congress, Meetings' see a slight increase due to the activities; 'Personnel Expenses' (line 3) is adapted upwards based on an increased headcount, index-linked salary increases, and an adjustment of the legal reserves as foreseen. EUR 4.5 million was budgeted to line item 4, 'Office & Infrastructure', for the two-year period; 'Development' expenses on the level of 2021-2022 are to be expected. Further expenses include a provision for new office building in the amount of EUR 1.15 million.

From the provisional figures presented a conservative surplus of EUR 395k for the two-year period is implied.

The proposal to approve the 2023-2024 budgets was met by acclamation, and thus confirmed by the EHF Congress.

21.4 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR COMPANY

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 2021-22 period. As in previous years EHF Marketing GmbH will follow the resolution of the Congress and likewise award the audit mandate to 'ANA Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungs GmbH'. The recommendation was affirmed by acclamation by the EHF Congress.

PART IV (22. — 26.) EVENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

22 AWARDING OF THE ORDINARY EHF CONGRESS 2023

On behalf of the Swiss Handball Federation, CEO Jürgen Krucker presented the vision of the Ordinary EHF Congress in 2023; the City of Basel was selected to host the delegates of the EHF and its Member Federations. As the only application, the Congress awarded the event to Switzerland by acclamation.

23 EHF AWARDS

National Federations

Based on the ranking system for the National Federations relating to their performance in the different competitions, the 'Top Nation in European Handball' awards for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020 were presented. Per Bertelsen received the award on behalf of Denmark for 2018. Philippe Bana collected the award on behalf of France for 2019. Ole Jørstad accepted the award on behalf of the National Federation of Norway, who participated virtually in the Congress, for 2020. Spain ranked as the top beach handball nation for three consecutive years; President Francisco Blazquez Garcia of the Royal Spanish Handball Federation collected the award presented by Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission, Ole Jørstad. The inaugural 'Fair Play' award was presented to the Dutch Handball Federation for their cooperative stance during the Women's EHF EURO 2020. The National Handball Federations of Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Slovenia were awarded the 'EHF Top Organiser' award for organising 3 or more EHF events.

Special Awards

The EHF Special Award was presented in recognition of the years of service and dedication to the European Handball Federation. Former Secretary General of the Ukraine Handball Federation, Viktor Konopliastyi was honoured for his work as an international referee, delegate, and a three-term member of the Court of Handball. Philippe Bana accepted the Special Award on behalf of Jacques Bettenfeld, who could not be present in Vienna, who served as Vice President of the EHF Court of Arbitration for three terms. Janka Stasova was as well lauded for her services to handball in technical functions also having served the EHF legal commissions for over a decade.

24 ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Panos Antoniou

Panos Antoniou served as Secretary General and later as Vice President of the Cyprus Handball Federation. His active involvement within the European Handball Federation began in 1993 as a delegate and he was also nominated to the working group that dealt with the

rules of the game. In 2000, Antoniou was elected to the Court of Appeal as a member, and then, in 2008, as Vice President. In 2012, he was elected to serve the Court of Handball, and ascended to the position of President in 2016. Paying tribute, Monika Flixeder highlighted successful cooperation cemented in trust and competence, as well as the diplomatic, sensitive, and solution-based approach that Panos Antoniou brought to a plethora of cases over the past 20 years. Flixeder also remarked on the crucial contributions made by Antoniou in developing EHF regulations and guidelines, etc. Concluding, on behalf of the European Handball Federation, she thanked Panos Antoniou for the friendship and the decades of cooperation.

With the consent of Congress, Panos Antoniou was elevated to EHF Honorary Member and awarded by President Wiederer.

Jerzy Eliaz

Jerzy Eliaz made his efficacious career on court as a national team goalkeeper and as a coach, more importantly, he also spent decades with the Polish Handball Federation acting as a guardian of the sport utilising his skills not only as a bastion of defence, but also effectively engaging in the development of handball in Poland at the youth level. In 2008, he took a seat on the Methods Commission first serving as a member, before being elected to the position of Chairman in 2012 in Monaco. Presenting the accolade, Helmut Hörtsch spoke of how Jerzy Eliaz was a mobilising force within the commission steering the board towards, and creatively navigating through, numerous ambitious projects that centred around corporate social responsibility to create a legacy not only through educational activities, being a champion for grassroots handball, but also through the scientific network.

With the consent of Congress, Jerzy Eliaz was elevated to EHF Honorary Member and awarded by President Wiederer.

Ole R. Jørstad

Paying tribute to Ole R. Jørstad, Secretary General Martin Hausleitner provided insight to an illustrious career beginning as an international referee overseeing many European Cup matches and making over 170 appearances that included World Championships. In 2000, his passion for handball shifted to the beach, and after qualifying as a beach handball delegate in 2003, Ole's fate was effectively sealed. Jørstad devoted his sport-focused energies solely on the development of the sport; thus, it was a logical step that he became involved with the Beach Handball Commission ascending to the position of Chairman in 2012. At the helm of the Commission, Jørstad had one primary objective and that was to bring the sport into the Olympic family, and this target was attained by the EHF as beach handball will debut at the European Games in 2023. Jørstad oversaw the expansion of the competitions that now have a system for Younger Age Category events, the emergence of the Champions Cup from concept to implementation; he also enthusiastically engaged the Member Federations which has resulted in a measurable increase in the number of European nations participating the various events. In a career that has spanned decades, and in all his undertakings, Jørstad embodied the 'Fair Play' motto.

With the consent of Congress, Ole R. Jørstad was elevated to EHF Honorary Member and awarded by President Wiederer.

25 EHF INFORMATION

Motion 9 - NOR: EHF EUROS - Refereeing Conditions

(Not voted upon in session three of the Congress due to the unfeasibility of implementation)

Kåre Geir Lio, President of the Norwegian Handball Federation, addressed the Congress to request approval for the reworked statement concerning referring conditions at future EHF EURO events. The statement read as follows:

“The EHF shall lead working towards good governance and equal possibilities and development for both genders. The referees participating in championships should be the best created referees available independent of gender. The goal in every championship shall be that both genders are represented and at the highest level irrespective of the gender.”

In response, President Wiederer expressed that the statement provided a framework to work within as it is the intent of the EHF to have the best championships with the best referees. He emphasised the goal of bringing referees to the top. Opening the floor for comment to which there was no additional input from the attendees, Wiederer mentioned that the common agreement of the respective text could be viewed as a conclusion to Motion 9.

EHF House

Secretary General Martin Hausleitner gave a brief reiteration of the history of the current building located in Hoffingergasse, which provided working spaces for nine persons, due to the growing staffing levels, and extension to the building was added. Currently, with over 70 members of staff there is no more space for any additional personnel, but even more for the activities and the meetings. For years, the EHF has been quietly looking for new office space and a new profile was recently developed; since then, numerous offers have been evaluated and rejected. However, in the last months a promising construction development was found that fulfils all the conditions with a view to the future. The new project location offers a direct airport connection and other requisite amenities providing the opportunity to represent European handball. The project in its basic form was introduced to the Executive Committee prior to the Congress; in a next step, an elaboration of the financial aspects will be presented to the new Executive Committee in June as it moves towards the decision-making process.

Meetings of the newly elected Commissions

Information was given on the meetings of the newly elected Commissions that were scheduled to follow the conclusion of the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress. The schedule and location of the meetings were presented on screen.

Further Organisational Procedures

As the Congress was proceeding ahead of schedule, the EHF imparted information to the remaining activities of the day, which included handling of the technical equipment in the Congress Hall, the Covid-19 testing procedures, and the farewell dinner as well as information on departing the event.

26 CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

In his closing statement, President Wiederer reiterated the expedited organisation of the Congress in Vienna with in-person attendance from most of the parties. He expressed his hope that all relevant questions were able to be answered. Following the election process for the next period (2021-2025) and with motions tabled, discussed, and resolved to a certain extent, it was noted that the European Handball Federation had a sound basis for the work and tasks over the coming four years. Wiederer mentioned that in view of future elections there may be points to be discussed to make the processes more digestible, and to that end noted the upcoming Conference of Presidents in 2022 in Luxembourg, prior to the next Congress in 2023, which will serve as a preparatory forum. Looking ahead to the 30th Anniversary of the European Handball Federation, Wiederer spoke of the planned extraordinary congress as well as the awarding of the men's and women's EHF EURO events in 2026 and 2028 in November 2021 accentuating the importance not only for the potential organisers, but also the European handball community, as the showcase events must be presented in the best possible way.

Wiederer foremost thanked the persons involved with the organisation of the Congress also including the external technicians and interpreters. He extended his gratitude to the colleagues in the Executive Committee and the Commissions for the efforts in preparing the various presentations held during the Congress. Wiederer reserved special thanks to the representatives that were able to be present in Vienna. With words of encouragement for the work ahead, the President formally closed the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress.

PARTICIPANTS LIST
15th Ordinary EHF Congress
23/24 April 2021, Vienna/AUT

Nation	Name	Function
ALB	Armand Cakalli	Secretary General
AND	Gerard Pifarré Ros	President
	Hugo Pou	Board Member
	Jose Besada Garrido	Secretary General
	Bernd Rabenseifner	Secretary General
AUT	Orkhan Abbasov	Vice President
AZE	Asim Sahman	Vice President
BIH	Andrei Barbushinski	Vice President
BLR	Andrei Baletski	Marketing Manager
	Tatsiana Zabaronak	International Relations Director
	Rosen Dobrev	President
	Teodor Iliev	Secretary General
CRO	Tomislav Grahovac	President
	Damir Poljak	Secretary General
	Lidija Bojic-Cacic	Women's Handball Instructor
CZE	Sarka Drozdova	Secretary General
DEN	Per Bertelsen	President
	Morten Stig Christensen	Secretary General
	Francisco V. Blazquez Garcia	President
ESP	Patricia Lopez Ruiz	Assistant to the President
EST	Pirje Orasson	Secretary General
FIN	Jari Henttonen	President
	Päivi Mitrunen	Secretary General
	Philippe Bana	President
FRA	Jerome Fernandez	Board Member
	Vakhtang Meipariani	President
	Andreas Michelmann	President
GER	Bob Hanning	Vice President
	Mark Schober	Secretary General
	Konstantinos Gkantis	President
	Laszlo Nagy	Vice President
GRE	Zoltan Kynsberg	Board Member
	Balazs Soos	International Relations Director
	Shlomo Cohen	Board Member
HUN	Arik Deutch	General Director
ISR	Pasquale Loria	President
	Stefano Podini	Vice President
	Paola Fiorillo	Board Member
ITA	Eugen Saracini	President
	Enis Idrizi	Vice President
	Izet Gjnovci	Secretary General

Nation	Name	Function
LAT	Ivita Asare	Vice President
	Normunds Blome	Secretary General
LIE	Alissa Wohlwend	President
	Uschi Bodenmann	Honorary President
LUX	Thierry Wagner	Vice President
	Josée Keiffer	Vice President
	Renée Krack	Board Member
MDA	Doina Banari	Board Member
MKD	Dimitar Ristovski	Board member
MLT	Ian Psaila	Board Member
	Alan Grima	Handball Operations Director
MNE	Petar Kapisoda	President
	Emir Beslija	Secretary General
MON	Eric Perodeau	Vice President
NED	Tjark de Lange	President
	Roel Goffin	Board Member
POL	Marek Goralczyk	Sports Director
POR	Miguel Laranjeiro	President
	Mario Bernardes	Finance Director
ROU	Aleksandru Dedu	President
	Sorin Dinu	Vice President
	Cristina Varzaru	Secretary General
RUS	Sergey Shishkarev	President
	Liudimila Bodnieva	Executive Committee Member
	Lev Voronin	General Director
SLO	Franjo Bobinac	President
	Goran Cvijic	Secretary General
	Uros Mohoric	National Teams Director
SRB	Milena Delic	President
	Mazlam Dzemailoski	International Relations Manager
SUI	Ulrich Rubeli	President
	Jürgen Krucker	Secretary General
	Ingo Meckes	Sports Director
SVK	Jaroslav Holesa	President
	Ernö Kelecsenyi	Vice President
SWE	Jörgen Holmqvist	Vice President
TUR	Yavuz Taskiran	Board Member
UKR	Yevhen Petrushevskyi	Vice President
	Oleksandr Gladun	Secretary General

National Federations: Online Participation

Nation	Name	Function
ARM	Anna Melkonyan	Secretary General
BEL	Dries Boulet	General Manager
CYP	Charalambos Lottas	President
	Stavros Panayiotou	Secretary General
ENG	Mike Bain	CEO
FAR	Gunn Ellefsen	President
	Ari Rouch	Secretary General
GBR	Paul Bray	Chairman
IRL	Fintan Lyons	President
ISL	Gudmundur Ólafsson	President
	Robert Geir Gislason	Secretary General
LTU	Donatas Pasvenskas	President
NOR	Kare Geir Lio	President
	Bente Aksnes	Vice President
	Siv Oye Carlsen	Board Member
SCO	Ian McKinven	Chairman
	Stephen Neilson	COO

National Federations: Additional Participants

RUS	Denis Bogomolov	Secretary General
RUS	Sergei Ziza	Board Member
SUI	Peter Leutwyler	Board Member

Guests

IHF	Dr Hassan Moustafa	IHF President
Gerflor	Lionel Arlin	Sport Federations & Events Director
EHF	Jean Brihault	EHF Honorary President
EHF	Arne Elovsson	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Rui Coelho	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Frantisek Taborsky	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Laszlo Sinka	EHF Honorary Member
MFCH	Gregor Planteu	MFCH President
WFCH	Zsolt Akos Jeney	WFCH President

EHF Commissions

Executive Committee

Michael Wiederer	President
Predrag Boskovic	First Vice President
Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
Bozidar Djurkovic	Chairman CC
Jerzy Elias	Chairman MC
Ole Jorstad	Chairman BC
Stefan Lövgren	Member
Gabriella Horvath	Member
Anrijs Brencans	Member
Gerd Butzeck	Chairman PHB
Nodjialem Myaro	Chairwoman WHB

Competitions Commission (CC)

Jan Kampman	Member Men's Competitions
Carmen Manchado	Member Women's Competitions
Dragan Nachevski	Member Refereeing
Emeric Paillason	Member Men's Club Competitions

Methods Commission (MC)

Peter Kovacs	Member Education and Training
Pedro Sequeira	Member Development
Marta Bon	Member Methods and Coaching

Beach Handball Commission (BC)

Marco Trespidi	Member Events and Competitions
Ivan Sabovik	Member Officiating
Jelena Eric	Member Game Design and Coaching
Georgios Bebetos	Member Development and Promotion

Comptrollers (COMPT)

Robert Pretenthaler	Member
Thomas Ludewig	Substitute Member

Court of Handball (CoH)

Panos Antoniou	President
Elena Borrás Alcaraz	Member
Ioannis Karanasos	Member
Libena Sramkova	Member
Viktor Konopliastyi	Member

EHF Commissions

Court of Appeal (CoH)

Markus Plazer	President
Nicolae Vizitiu	Member
Robert Czaplicki	Member
Maxim Gulevich	Member
Milan Petronijevic	Member
Janka Stasova	Member
Ketevan Koberidze	Member

Court of Arbitration Council (ECC)

Excused

Social Fund

Wolfgang Gremmel	Member
Helmut Schebeczek	Member

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

EHF Office

Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
Vesna Lazic	PA to the President
Danuta Kluz	Front Office
Alenka Cuderman	Women's Handball Coordinator
Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
Andrea Moser	Finance Projects
Christoph Gamper	Senior Director/Information Technology
Andreas Krywult	IT/Business & Competition Processes
Charly Music	IT/Recurring Operation & Support
Peter Großschmidt	IT/Implementation & Support
Lars Erichsen	IT/Documentation & eLearning
Michael Hell	Facility Management
Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
Joy Noppe	Competitions/National Team Competitions
Mario Kovacic	Competitions/Club Competitions
Helmut Hörtsch	Senior Director/CAN
Doru Simion	Senior Director/Sport & Game Services
Nicole Rabenseifner	Sport & Game Services/Develop & Special Projects
Beata Kozłowska	Sport & Game Services/Education & Grassroots
Monika Flixeder	Senior Director/EURO Events & Legal Management
Sophia Touiker	Legal Management
Mihaly Kovacs	Legal Management
Maike Bouwer	EURO Events/Event Organisation

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

EHF Office

Mate Kozma	EURO Events/Event Organisation
Philipp Moritz	EURO Events/Event Infrastructure
JJ Rowland	Director/Business Development & Marketing
Thomas Schöneich	Head of Media & Communications
Jelena Bagaric	EHF Media/Media & Projects
Andrew Barringer	EHF Media/PR & Corporate Communications
Luu Cornet	EHF Media/Digital Content

External Partner

Erhard Hofbauer	Voting System
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