

## MINUTES TO THE 15<sup>TH</sup> EXTRAORDINARY EHF CONGRESS | LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG

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Date | Time: Saturday, 24 September 2022 | 11:45 – 13:00

Venue: Parc Hotel | Europa Hall | Luxembourg, LUX

Participants: 72 National Federation Representatives

Representatives from 43 Federations, 2 Associated Federations, Guests of Honour, Executive Committee, Chairpersons of Court of Handball, Court of Appeal, and European Handball Court of Arbitration, and Office Staff (see enclosure).

Minutes: M. Wiederer  
M. Brown

Date: 3 October 2022

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### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

EHF President Michael Wiederer immediately opened the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress, following the conclusion of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents.

### 2. FORMAL PROCEDURE

#### 2.1. Roll Call

EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner informed that 49 Federations registered for the event and representatives from 43 Member Federations (with voting right) were present and registered in accordance with the EHF Statutes. The Associated Federations of England and Scotland were accredited. Representatives from the National Federations of Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Israel, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine were excused.

#### 2.2. Election of Tellers

As foreseen in the EHF Statutes, if no electronic voting system is technically possible on the occasion, the accredited Member Federations are issued with a 'YES/NO' voting paddle. Filip Miloshevski (MKD) and Liga Birina (LAT) were nominated as the tellers for the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress. This was followed by an explanation of the electronic voting system with a test vote delivered by Senior Director IT, Christoph Gamper.

#### 2.3. Introduction of Congress Formalities

##### MOTION 0 – 2022 CONGRESS LANGUAGE

With the EHF President presenting the introduction, it was stated that in the preparatory phase of the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress, it became apparent that in order to have a proper rundown of the administrative event, the European Handball Federation would have to introduce a 'Motion 0'.

Previous Extraordinary EHF Congresses were held in the English language only. However, having enlarged the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents with the framework event of the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF

Congress, and contrary to other EHF events, conferences, and congresses, on this occasion it was necessary to have the Congress confirm that the decisions (to be) taken have the consent of the National Federations to render the formal decisions in the English language only.

The motion, requiring a 2/3 majority, to have the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress prepared and held in the English language only with other official languages and official translations mentioned under article 1.5. of the EHF Statutes not applied, **was approved with 39 votes in favour, 1 vote against, and 0 abstentions.**

#### **2.4. Declaration of the Lawful Convocation of the Extraordinary EHF Congress**

The EHF Secretary General informed the Congress on the rundown and declared in alignment with the EHF Statutes, the invitation containing the first information was distributed to the National Federations on 24 May 2022 (4 months in advance), the Congress Guide, motions, and all final information were distributed on 23 August 2022 (1 month in advance) within all mandated time limits. Thus, in accordance with the procedures the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress of the European Handball Federation **was lawfully convoked in conformity with the EHF Statutes with 41 votes in favour and 2 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

#### **2.5. Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress in Vienna/AUT**

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress in Vienna/AUT were distributed on 2 December 2021. With no comment from the National Federations, **the minutes were confirmed with 41 votes in favour, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

With the Congress formalities concluded, First Vice President, Predrag Bošković assumed the Chairmanship of the meetings to introduce the next agenda points concerning the motions. Bošković informed the Congress that the nine motions to be decided concerned the EHF Statutes (Motions 1-4), the ECA Statutes (Motion 5), and the Legal Regulations (Motions 6-9).

### **3. MOTIONS RELATING TO EHF STATUTES**

#### **MOTION 1: NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Presented by First Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour.

The EHF Executive Committee moved to amend the EHF Statutes in order to unambiguously include the principle of non-discrimination relating to gender and gender orientation. The proposed amendments were to be integrated into Article 1.3. of the EHF Statutes. In response to the presentation, Fintan Lyons (IRL, President) voiced his concern on the terminology used within the motion concerned that the wording of the motion could result in unintended difficulties in the future. The motion was postponed to the end of the session. Later on, the proposed adaptation concerning the wording 'sexual orientation' instead of 'gender orientation' was confirmed with 40 votes in favour and 2 votes against in a simple majority. The amended motion went to the vote which **confirmed Motion 1, Non-Discrimination with 36 votes in favour, 2 votes against, and 3 abstentions.**

#### **MOTION 2: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

Presented by EHF President, Michael Wiederer.

With English being the common and accepted language for all EHF activities, the EHF Executive Committee moved to update article 1.5. of the EHF statutes in order to unify the communication within the EHF. Motion 2 would see the implementation of the English language as the sole official language. **The motion was confirmed with 40 votes in favour, 3 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

#### **MOTION 3: EVALUATION GROUP FOR ELECTIONS**

Presented by EHF President, Michael Wiederer.

In order to secure a more professional evaluation, the EHF Executive Committee proposed to lay the responsibility for the language knowledge analysis of the candidates for EHF elections in the hands of an 'Expert Group'. Therefore, the EHF Statutes would be amended to include the establishment of an 'Evaluation Group for Candidates for EHF Functions'. To secure neutral and equal conditions for all candidates, the objective of the evaluation group is to ensure that this part of the criteria and requirements for the language proficiency, as defined in the EHF statutes, is fulfilled. **The motion was confirmed with 34 votes in favour, 4 votes against, and 4 abstentions.**

#### **MOTION 4: ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

Presented by EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner.

The EHF Executive Committee proposed to amend the EHF Statutes regarding the formal assignment of responsibilities to the Executive Committee under special circumstances. Such situations need specific attention and encompasses the urgency for quick and efficient decisions. Article 3.1.10 of the EHF Statutes allocates all matters not explicitly assigned to the Congress to the EHF Executive Committee. The motion relates directly to Article 3.1.10 EHF Statutes and concerns immediate decisions under special circumstances; moreover, the intent is to specify and extend the article mentioned and add the situation of specific and unforeseeable circumstances explicitly to the wording of the EHF statutes. **The motion was confirmed with 39 votes in favour, 2 votes against, and 2 abstentions.**

### **4. MOTION RELATING TO ECA STATUTES**

#### **MOTION 5: COMPETENCE AND ADMISSIBILITY OF ECA CLAIMS**

Presented by ECA President, Michele Colucci.

The EHF Executive Committee proposed to amend the Statutes of the Rules of Arbitration for the European Handball Court of Arbitration (ECA) regarding the scope of the ECA, specifically the competence and admissibility of ECA arbitral procedures. An arbitration agreement can be usually assumed via the regulations concerned. In any case of doubt the admission shall be granted and further investigations shall be undertaken by the nominated panel; this is to allow for a better distinction between formal and material aspects and will be limited to purely administrative qualities. In order to put additional emphasis on this aspect, and to secure the broadest possible access to the court, the principle of admissibility within the ECA Statutes shall be amended accordingly. **The amendments shall be integrated into the ECA Statutes as the motion was confirmed with 40 votes in favour, 3 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

### **5. MOTIONS RELATING TO EHF LEGAL REGULATIONS**

#### **MOTION 6: FORMAL ADMISSIBILITY**

Presented by ECA President, Michele Colucci.

The EHF Executive Committee proposed to amend the EHF Legal Regulations in order to clarify the formal admissibility of issues presented, respectively received, by the body of first instance. The motion relates solely to material aspects in proceedings with the intent to facilitate the judgement of individual cases and would see the evaluation of the material content, without any exception, undertaken by the panel. **The amendments shall be integrated into the Legal Regulations as the motion was confirmed with 41 votes in favour, 2 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

#### **MOTION 7: OBLIGATION TO ANSWER PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS**

Presented by CoA President, Markus Plazer.

The EHF Executive Committee proposed to amend the EHF Legal Regulations with an obligation to explicitly decide on preliminary questions within a decision of the EHF bodies in order to safeguard the correct implementation of responsibilities. Specifically, the amendment of Article 35 of the Legal Regulations, which defines the requirements of a decision, will now include the treatment and the arguments relating to preliminary questions of the main issue. **The amendments shall be integrated into the Legal Regulations as the motion was confirmed with 43 votes in favour, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

#### **MOTION 8: COMPETENCE FOR INTERIM MEASURES**

Presented by CoH President, Ioannis Karanasos.

The Executive Committee proposed to amend the EHF Legal Regulations regarding the competence of the issuance of interim measures (e.g.: temporary injunctions) in specific cases of urgency. Such requests are usually circumstances which are not reversible, for instance in connection with a match protest or concerning the participation in a competition. A single judge system assigning the responsibility for interim measures to the president of the Court of Handball and the Court of Appeal is to be introduced. **The amendments shall be integrated into the Legal Regulations as the motion was confirmed with 40 votes in favour, 2 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

#### **MOTION 9: ENFORCEMENT OF ECA DECISIONS**

Presented by First Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour.

The EHF Executive Committee proposed to amend the EHF Legal Regulations regarding the enforcement of decisions of the European Handball Court of Arbitration (ECA) within the EHF system. The ECA Procedural Rules do not include any enforcement conditions, except the assignment to the public court for execution. This situation is detrimental to the interest of all parties involved. In order to ensure an enforcement system for ECA decisions Article 37.6 of the EHF Legal Regulations shall be amended and the enforcement via the EHF system shall be introduced upon approval. **The amendments shall be integrated in the EHF Legal Regulations and respectively in the Rules of Procedures for the European Handball Court of Arbitration as the vote was confirmed with 43 votes in favour, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.**

### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **2023 ORDINARY EHF CONGRESS**

EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner reiterated that the organisation right of the 2023 Ordinary EHF Congress previously was awarded the Swiss Handball Federation, and the event would take place in Basel. The initial preparations for the event regarding the venue and accommodation reservations, as well as the requisite inspections have been completed. However, due to the volume of events in June 2023, the Executive Committee decided to reschedule the Ordinary EHF Congress from the original date of June to 14/15 September 2023. It was underlined that since as it is not an election congress, the change in date would not affect the current electoral period.

#### **AWARDINGS**

EHF President Michael Wiederer presented two European handball representatives with the EHF Special Award and one representative with the title of Honorary Member to honour their years of service and dedication to the European Handball Federation.

Jan Tuik, following his departure from the EHF Executive Committee in 2012, continued to serve the handball community for a further 10 years acting as a technical consultant for inspections and the set-up of playing halls and stadia; this effected the construction and adaptations of the venues. The European Handball Federation continued to benefit from his decades of experience with top competitions, and his contribution to the sport continues to be seen in many areas. Therefore, to honour his 30 years with the EHF, and in addition to receiving his honorary membership in 2012, Jan Tuik was granted the EHF Special Award.

Helmut Höritsch joined the European Handball Federation in 1993 and, in February 2022, retired as Senior Director after 29 years in the EHF office. During his service dedicated to the technical aspects of the sport, among many other achievements, he created the mini handball project, developed, and continuously refined an education structure for referees, delegates, and coaches – specifically, the RINCK Convention and activating university partnerships for academic studies. Höritsch was also the lead behind the EHF Competence Academy and Network, as well as the scientific conferences; he is also to be recognised for his work as an EHF EURO Coordinator having worked 25 EURO events. For his lifelong dedication to the sport, Helmut Höritsch was accorded the EHF Special Award.

Jeannot Kaiser, played a pivotal role in establishing the legal framework of the European Handball Federation at the time of its foundation. Kaiser served as the Chairman of the EHF Court of Appeal from 1991 to 2004, he also instituted the transfer regulations, adapted the IHF ‘Catalogue of Sanctions’ for European activities into three languages, and as well undertook the revision of the EHF Statutes. Furthermore, his service on the handball court as a delegate at over 150 European Cup and national team matches, including 6 EHF EURO events, is also commended. To recognise his efforts, dedication, and lasting contribution to European handball, Jeannot Kaiser was granted with title of EHF Honorary Member.

All three award recipients were acknowledged by the Congress with standing ovations.

## **7. CLOSING ADDRESS**

Bringing the 15<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress to a close, President Wiederer extended his appreciation to the National Federation representatives for their presence and contribution to the decision-making process, and formally closed the Congress.

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**15<sup>TH</sup> EXTRAORDINARY EHF CONGRESS**  
**PARTICIPANTS LIST | 24 SEPTEMBER 2022 | LUXEMBOURG, LUX**

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**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

ALB	Armand Cakalli	Secretary General
AND	Gerard Pifarré Ros	President
	Jose Besada Garrido	Secretary General
ARM	Anna Melkonyan	Secretary General
AUT	Bernd Rabenseifner	Secretary General
AZE	Orkhan Abbasov	Vice President
BEL	Jean Francois Hannosset	President
	Dries Boulet	Secretary General
BIH	Excused	
BLR	Excused	
BUL	Rosen Dobrev	President
CRO	Tomislav Grahovac	President
	Lidija Bojic-Cacic	Women's Handball Coordinator
CYP	Charalambos Lottas	President
CZE	Ondrej Zdrahala	President
	Sarka Drozdova	Secretary General
DEN	Morten Stig Christensen	President
	Jan Kampman	Vice President
ENG	Mike Bain	Chief Executive Officer
ESP	Patricia Lopez Ruiz	Assistant to the President
	Alba Rivero Quesada	International Relations Manager
EST	Kristina Kallas	President
	Pirje Orasson	Secretary General
FAR	Excused	
FIN	Jari Laine	President
FRA	Philippe Bana	President
GBR	Paul Bray	Chairman
GEO	Vakhtang Meipariani	President
GER	Andreas Michelmann	President
	Thomas Zimmermann	Board Member
GRE	Konstantinos Gkantis	President
HUN	Laszlo Nagy	Vice President
	Balázs Soós	International Relations Director
IRL	Fintan Lyons	President
ISL	Gudmundur Olafsson	President
ISR	Excused	
ITA	Pasquale Lorria	President
	Stefano Podini	Vice President
KOS	Eugen Saracini	President
	Izet Gjinovci	Secretary General
LAT	Ivita Asare	President
	Liga Birina	Secretary General

### NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

LIE	Patrick Wohlwendt	Finance Manager
LTU	Donatas Pasvenskas	President
LUX	Romain Schockmel	President
	Josée Keiffer	Vice President
MDA	Ion Jonta	President
	Nikolae Vizitiu	Secretary General
MKD	Zhivko Mukaetov	President
	Filip Miloshevski	Secretary General
MLT	Ian Psaila	Vice President
MNE	Petar Kapisoda	President
	Emir Beslija	Secretary General
MON	Claude Cellario	President
	Eric Perodeau	Vice President
NED	Roel Goffin	President
	Tjark de Lange	International Relations Representative
NOR	Ingrid Blindheim	Vice President
POL	Mihal Spieszny	Vice President
POR	Miguel Laranjeiro	President
	Leonor Mallozzi	International Relations Manager
ROU	Constantin Din	President
RUS	Excused	
SCO	Ewan Hunter	Director
SLO	Goran Cvijic	Secretary General
SRB	Excused	
SUI	Peter Leutwyler	Vice President
	Ingo Meckes	Sports Director
SVK	Ivan Sabovik	Secretary General
SWE	Frederik Rapp	President
	Jörgen Holmqvist	Vice President
TUR	Ugur Kilic	President
	Kenan Gökmen	Vice President
UKR	Excused	

### ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT

CRO	Tomislav Lukic	International Relations Manager
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### GUESTS

EHF	Jean Brihault	EHF Honorary President
EHF	Arne Elovsson	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Jan Tuik	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Rui Coelho	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Helmut Höritsch	Retired Senior Director
EHF	Jeannot Kaiser	Special Award Member
FCH	Gerd Butzeck	Managing Director
EHLB	Nikolas Larsson	Chairman



## EHF COMMISSIONS

EXEC	Michael Wiederer	President
EXEC	Predrag Boskovic	1st Vice President
EXEC	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
EXEC	Bozidar Djurkovic	Chairman CC
EXEC	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman MC
EXEC	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman BC
EXEC	Stefan Lövgren	Member
EXEC	Francisco Blazquez	Member
EXEC	Franjo Bobinac	Member
EXEC	Bente Aksnes	Member
EXEC	Xavier O'Callaghan	Chairman PHB
EXEC	Marta Bon	Chairwoman WHB
COMPT	Thomas Ludewig	Member
CoH	Ioannis Karanasos	President
CoA	Markus Plazer	President
ECC	Michele Colucci	President

## EHF OFFICE

EHF	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
EHF	Vesna Lazic	PA to the President
EHF	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison
EHF	Alenka Cuderman	Women's Handball Coordinator
EHF	Danuta Kluz	Front Office
EHF	Christoph Gamper	Senior Director/Information Technology
EHF	Andreas Krywult	IT   Business & Competition Processes
EHF	Charly Music	IT   Recurring Operations & Support
EHF	Lars Erichsen	IT   Documentation & eLearning
EHF	Michael Hell	Facility Management
EHF	Monika Flixeder	Senior Director   EURO Events & Legal Mgmt.
EHF	Maike Bouwer	EURO Events   Event Organisation
EHF	Thomas Schöneich	Director EHF Media & Communications
EHF	Simona Margetic	EHF Media & Communications   PR & Corp. Comms.
EHF	Doru Simion	Senior Director   Sport & Game Services
EHF	Nicole Rabenseifner	Sport & Game Services   Dev. & Special Projects
EHF	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
EHF	Mario Kovacic	Director National Teams
EHF	Tobia Pisani	Beach Handball Manager
EHF	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
EHF	Andrea Moser	Finance Projects
EXT	Erhard Hofbauer	Electronic Voting System
EXT	Uros Hocevar	Photographer