

## FIRST MEETING EUROPEAN HANDBALL COURT OF ARBITRATION COUNCIL

After the 2021 EHF Congress in Vienna/AUT  
Minutes

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### DETAILS

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**Date:** 24 April 2021  
**Time:** 12:00 – 12:30hrs  
**Place:** Bungalow D  
Eventhotel Pyramide  
Vienna, Austria

### PARTICIPANTS

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#### European Handball Court of Arbitration Council:

Georgio Tedesco	President (remote)
Remy Levy	Vice President (remote)
Tbn	Vice President (to be nominated by the stakeholders)

#### ECA Office:

Monika Flixeder	EHF Legal Management
Mihaly Kovacs	ECA Office
Sophia Touiker	ECA Office

### MINUTES

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#### 1. Welcome / Introduction

Flixeder welcomed the two new members of the European Handball Court of Arbitration Council (ECC), i.e. President Tedesco and Vice President Levy, and added that a second Vice President will be nominated by the stakeholders' representatives.

President Tedesco introduced himself and explained that his written English is better than his spoken English, but promised that in the next months, he will give a priority to the achievement of a proficient level of oral English. Since 1974, he is working in the sport field as a baseball and handball player, and he is currently managing the Handball Team *Bologna United*, the unique Italian team which reached the semi-final level in an European competition of the EHF. He has a long experience in sport arbitration, as well as in commercial and contract arbitration.

Vice President Levy introduced himself in his turn. He was the representative of the lawyers of Montpellier, as he is exercising the profession of attorney at law since 1978 in this city. He was a

football player but has however experience in the handball field as he was the president of the club Montpellier Handball, and even won the EHF Champions League together with the club. He was president of the French National League and is now involved in the French Handball Federation assuming several functions in the legal area. He also underlined that his spoken English is not sufficient at the moment concerning technical parts but he will remedy the situation shortly.

Flixeder took the floor and gave a short introduction of the European Handball Court of Arbitration (ECA), explaining notably that several motions were just voted at the 2021 EHF Congress, including the change of the name of the Court, i.e. formerly known as EHF Court of Arbitration. It was therefore recalled that ECA is acting as an independent body of the EHF as well as the “external body” after the EHF internal stages of appeal are exhausted. A claim may be filed against the decision of the EHF Court of Appeal within a period of 21 days.

Flixeder underlined that the ECC is playing a very important role within the court, as they are responsible for the correct initiation of proceedings as well as to safeguard the principles of fairness and independence. In a first step, it is important that the newly elected ECC makes itself familiar with the Rules of Arbitration for the ECA, including the ECA Statutes and the ECA Procedural Rules, in order to better understand the scope of their new duties in their function.

The ECA Office undertook to provide the new ECC members with all the documents they need to carry out their duties in the best possible way as well as an overview of all motions adopted by the 2021 EHF Congress, which will be implemented to the Rules of Arbitration for the ECA.

The ECA Office recalled that due to the new functions the ECC members have accepted, it is important that they make themselves available and agree to communicate regularly to ensure the proper conduct and administration of the ECA.

## **2. Overview of EHF Legal System & Legal Procedures**

The participants were provided with a welcome package including several overviews of different topics such as the structure of the EHF legal system, statistics of the cases dealt over the past election period, as well as short overviews regarding the decision making process of direct disqualification cases and the main procedural aspects of the EHF legal bodies.

The aforementioned documents were sent by the EHF Office to the participants attending the meeting remotely.

The role of the ECC is crucial for the functioning of the European Handball Court of Arbitration. Fairness and impartiality is essential. In any case of doubt or potential involvement reasons of bias shall be invoked.

A link to the ECA website was communicated to the participants in order to enable them to familiarise with the type of cases and issues the ECA was dealing with in the past.

Reference was made to the second Vice-President position in the body. The nomination will take place by the stakeholder groups, after coordination amongst them.

### **3. Meeting Plan**

The date for next official meeting of the EHF Court of Handball will follow accordingly (prior to the EO Congress in November 2021, to be confirmed).

### **4. Finances**

A statement of ECA's accounts was presented to the members who acknowledged the current situation. Reference was made to the fact that ECA is self-financing.

### **5. Pending issues**

#### Old Case – decision making process ongoing

The ECC members were informed about the currently pending case Benidorm. The case concerns the non-participation of the ESP club in the 2020/2021 European League due to Covid 19 cases. The panel consists of Alan Soric, Salvatore Civale and Julien Zylberstein;

#### New Case – Admissibility

The ECA Office introduced one of the tasks under the scope of the ECC members' responsibility, i.e. the reviewal of the admissibility of a case that is brought before the ECA in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration for the ECA.

It was agreed that the case as well as all the relevant documents will be sent in a separate email in order to enable them to make their decision after reviewing all the material.

#### Confirmation of Arbitrator on the list of Arbitrator

The ECA Office presented another of the duties of the ECC members, i.e. the reviewal of the admissibility of the candidates to be part of ECA Arbitrators, that may be proposed by EHF, the National Federation or by the stakeholders' representatives.

The ECA Office has received a proposal from the stakeholders' representatives and therefore the admissibility of the candidate needs to be reviewed by the ECC members in accordance with Article 4.1 of the ECA Statutes. Indeed, the aforementioned article was presented and explained to the new ECC members, and it was recalled that the motion n°7 presented and recently approved by the 2021 EHF Congress will be implemented as well, removing the criterion of incompatibility with the holding of another IHF function. Instead, the incompatibility concerns now the holding with another sport political function within an International or European handball organisation.

Regarding the present application, the ECA Office provided all the documents enabling the new ECC members to consider the admissibility of the current candidate to the list of ECA arbitrators. The latter confirmed to take a decision on the topic within the days to follow and confirm the nomination of Loic Alves to the list of ECA Arbitrators accordingly.

## 6. Miscellaneous

- Contact Details

A form was distributed to all participants to gather their data, phone numbers and email addresses in order to implement them into the internal system.

- Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct was distributed to all participants. All ECC members filled in, signed and send by email the Court of Conduct and therefore committed themselves to the principles and conditions that are key to the proper functioning of our system.

The ECA Office reminded the ECC members that it was available to assist and guide them in their new roles. All participants look forward to working together and hope that the next mandate will perpetuate the success of the ECA achieved over the past years.

The participants thanked each other for this first meeting and look forward to a good cooperation during the term of office.

Sophia Touiker  
Vienna, 28.04.2021/st

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