

Minutes to the 127th Executive Committee Meeting in Bucharest, Romania

Date:	13 November 2015	
Time:	Session I	1000 – 12:00
	Session II	14:00 – 15:00
Venue:	Intercontinental Hotel Bucharest	
Participants:	Jean Brihault	President
	Arne Elovsson	Vice President
	Ralf Dejaco	Treasurer
	Leopold Kalin	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Jerzy Eliasz	Chairman Methods Commission
	Ole R. Jørstad	Chairman Beach Handball Commission
	Predrag Bošković	Member
	Per Bertelsen	Member
	Helga Magnúsdóttir	Member
	Joan Marin	Chairman - Professional Handball Board
	Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić	Chairwoman - Women's Handball Board
	Michael Wiederer	Secretary General
	Andrea Moser	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sport Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the Secretary General
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Coordinator

1. Welcome, programme and agenda

President Brihault welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to meeting, briefly mentioning the dense weekend of activities before moving swiftly onto the main agenda.

2. Minutes Executive Committee 09/2015

The minutes were approved without further comment.

3. Reports and decisions

3.1. Finance Delegation

The minutes of the Finance Delegation at the end of October were in the hands of the Executive Committee and the President underlined once again that the preparatory work was presented to the EXEC in order to come to respective decisions on the level of the Executive Committee. In addition to the general report, Treasurer Ralf Dejaco gave a report on the general status of the 2015 EHF Intermediate Accounting. He mentioned that the positive development already reported on in Trondheim at the last meeting has continued. Additional income has already been generated from the partnership contracts (Infront and EHF); he informed the Executive that this information was disseminated in the morning at the EHF General Assembly prior to the Executive Committee meeting. Moreover, the income generated from transfer fees has exceeded the budgeted amount; expenses, however, will remain in line with the budget. Overall, the 2015 budget projected a surplus of around EUR 735.000 in order to balance the anticipated loss in 2016. 2015 will now produce a higher buffer for the second year of the 2-year-period and therefore provide additional funds for projects and support in 2016.

Federation' accounts/voting rights: the Federation accounts were presented at the meeting of the Finance Delegation also with a view to voting rights at the upcoming Congress. A Federation has to fulfil its financial obligations towards the EHF in order to have the right to vote. Three Federations were contacted in this matter and subsequently covered the open amounts. Thus, all EHF Member Federation are permitted to vote at the 12th Extraordinary EHF Congress.

The final accounting will be undertaken towards the end of the year; it was underlined that there are no additional costs for the EO Congress as it was scheduled in the same period as the Conference of Presidents.

3.2. Secretary General – business report

The Secretary General described the actual business with no special report on the staff and the task distribution. The period since the last the Executive Committee meeting was very much dominated by the competition season and the October/November events on the level of the Boards as well as the preparation for the Bucharest activities.

With the written report at hand taking reference to the activities in short period since the last meeting in September, the Secretary General mentioned the ongoing construction works that have affected the working processes in the EHF Office and the fact that disruption was kept to a minimum and that all internal and external activities and meetings were carried out as scheduled. On behalf of the Executive Committee, President Brihault conveyed high appreciation of the EHF Office staff for having to endure such 'wet' conditions.

Moving on, the Secretary General mentioned that IT costs, which are a main part of the EHF budget. Providing an example of the tasks undertaken and informing the Executive that the EHF currently had nine servers in an external location, he noted that costs in this area could increase (weekend personnel and mainly external costs). With the objective of regulating the current system, the Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that negotiations with the external partner company had commenced in the spring; discussions have centred to the automatic run down of the competitions systems, the homepage, scouting, etc. Following negotiations, the matter will be submitted to the Finance Delegation for approval.

3.3. Report Legal Management

No special report; it was noted that the minor changes to the arbitration regulations resulting from the meeting in June were implemented.

3.4. Further reports

Secretary General Wiederer reported that with the start of the season anti-doping activities are in progress. President Brihault underlined that the EHF continues to expend much effort in this area and tries its best to keep the sport 'clean'. The official article on anti-doping was published as requested.

4. Technical Commissions – reports and decisions

4.1. Technical Delegation/CAN

In the period from the last meeting, no additional meetings of the Technical Commissions were carried out. Thus, there is no report from the Technical Delegation. At a later point, issues of the possible tracking of players in respect to the data management and the new IHF rules were mentioned.

4.2. Competitions Commission

Club Competitions: Leopold Kalin, CC Chairman reported that the current season of competition is ongoing and no issues were identified. A match between club teams from Serbia and Kosovo was carried out in Montenegro; the match was organised well and played without incident. President Brihault extended the thanks of the European Handball Federation to the Handball Federation of Montenegro for their support and cooperation for hosting the match. Member Boskovic underlined the positivity of the match and all persons involved. The new scouting system, which was implemented into both the men's and women's EHF Champions League, is working well; the next phase of the system that contains an upgrade to gather more data will be applied in the new year.

National Team Competitions: on a national team level it was noted that the qualification rounds one and two of the Women's EHF EURO 2016 and the 2017 Women's World Championship are concluded. A workshop with the organisers of the 2016 Younger Age Category events took place at the end of September in Vienna. The Executive Committee members are reminded that within the framework of the Conference of Presidents, draws for the M20 EHF EURO 2016 (DEN) and the WU20 WCh 2016 (RUS) will be conducted. Kalin also gave information that the respective documentation for 2017 W17 and W19 events was sent out by the office accordingly to the National Federations in early November; the deadline for host applications (22.01.2016) and participation (11.12.2015) were reiterated. The awarding of the events is scheduled for the 03/2016 meeting of the Executive Committee.

Worked out by the office and unanimously agreed by the members of the Competitions Commission, the seeding procedure had been approved by the EXEC in an email poll unanimously, and will be therefore implemented for the draw of the 2016 M20 EHF EURO Qualification.

Men's EHF EURO 2016 in POL: the Head of Delegation Seminar was carried out in October and the fourteen couples were reduced to twelve as planned. Further information to the EHF EURO will follow under the respective agenda point.

Other Matters: the awarding of the 2016 IHF/EHF Women's Trophy will follow under agenda point 6.3. The next EHF Referee Candidates Course with 5 couples (BLR, BUL, GER, KOS and SVK) will take place in Gabrovo/BUL from 19 to 21 November. To the International Calendar, the 2017/2018 calendar will be finalised when the decision regarding the EHF EURO 2020 Qualification has been taken; following this, it will be submitted to the National Federations, and by that, giving them the possibility for a long term planning.

Upon request information was given on the Players' Tracking System currently used in the EHF Champions League in cooperation with participating clubs; the project remains in the test phase, this will be followed by an analysis of the results. It is planned that in February, the technicians will have a report available for the Technical Delegation. Before moving onto the next agenda point, the topic of the new IHF playing rules and how it will affect upcoming competitions (OG, etc.) was briefly discussed and made clear that upon receipt of the details, clarification on an EHF level for the implementation will be sought.

4.3. Methods Commission

Chairman Eliaz gave a brief report and mentioned the following MC activities: "Wheels on Fire", the European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament, will take place in St. Pölten (AUT) on 12/13 December 2015; four teams (NED; NOR; POR, SWE) will participate and referees (who are experienced in wheelchair handball) from FRA and SWE have been nominated. The Executive will be represented by MC Chairman J. Eliaz and Ch. Kaschütz / AUT will serve as a delegate.

The organisation of the 3rd EHF Scientific Conference (Medical Aspects in Handball – Preparation and the Game) was carried out; 60 participants and 40 guests are expected; the event guide has already been produced and the official event documentation (print and eBook) will be produced in 01/2016. The event will begin on 13 November 2015 at 13:00hrs.

The EHF report on the European Week of Sport/European Open Day of Handball was distributed to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting; 13 countries were involved in the event, and the EHF submitted the requested questionnaire to the EU Commission.

The Methods Commission continues to cooperation with the Goalcha/Streethandball projects; activities carried out in Katowice and Gdansk in Poland.

In the area of coaching licensing, the Methods Commission proposed that in 2020 only EHF PRO Licence Coaches can be coaches of teams participating in the Final Round of the EHF EUROs as well as in Champions League club competitions (season 2020/21).

The invitation to the 2016 EHF RINCK Convention Open Master Coach and Licensing Course and EHF Top Coaches' and EHF Licence Renewal Seminar/POL was extended to the National Federations, the deadline for registration is 30 November 2015. Serbia and Spain/Portugal (joint venture) are preparing the 2nd module of the National Master Coach and Licensing Course, Germany is preparing the first module to which more than 40 applications have already been received; a total of 100 places are available.

On behalf of the Methods Commission, an invitation was extended to Lino Cervar/CRO to attend the 2016 EHF RINCK Convention Open Master Coach and Licensing Course; here he will receive the inaugural EHF Coaching Achievement Award.

The Methods Commission representatives will carry out discussions on the EHF development programmes with representatives from AND and MLT with reference to the SMART programme during the Conference weekend; talks with Romania are also planned.

At the scheduled point in the agenda at the Conference of Presidents there will be a signing session where new foster (BEL/FRA), SMART (BEL, EST, LTU) and RINCK Convention (BEL) will be signed by the EHF President and the Federation leaderships. The involvement of BEL via the EHF development programmes has taken the Federation to the point where it is now able to join the RINCK Convention; this was noted as an interesting development.

4.4. Beach Handball Commission

In his brief report, BC Chairman Jorstad stated that the photos from the 2015 YAC BH European Championships and the beach handball EUROs that took place in Spain in June 2015 have not yet been received. Concerning the upcoming 2016 YAC BH EChs in Nazaré/POR from 8 – 10 July 2016, the Executive Committee are informed that the Organisation Agreement will be signed within the framework of the Conference of Presidents in Bucharest. An information folder for participants will be distributed in November 2015 and the deadline for registrations is 12 February 2016. The second workshop for this event is scheduled to take place in Vienna on 22 February 2016. This event is classified as a qualification to the 2017 World Beach Handball Championship, which qualifies to the participants to the 2018 IOC Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

The organisation of University Las Palmas Gran Canaria (ULPGC) and the performance of the 24 teams at the 2nd edition of the Beach Handball Champions Cup were praised. The minor issues with accommodation and transfer from some teams were swiftly resolved. The Executive Committee representative at the event, Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić, added that there was a notable significant improvement in comparison to the first event – increased spectator interest, many more volunteers – and suggested that for the next edition that there be more beach handball info (banners, flyers - basics of beach handball, etc.). Having spoken to the coaches and players, it was clear that people were very satisfied with the event. It was also mentioned that ULPGC was interested in prolonging the cooperation with the EHF for this event beyond 2017. Both Champions Cup finals with the involvement of the Royal Spanish Handball Federation were televised live.

With a low number of participants at the 2015 BH Brainstorming Clinic in Gran Canaria (flight expense issues), Chairman Jorstad stated that although the BC is intent on continuing with such education measures, the situation will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Closing the report, he also mentioned the contact received from an external CZE agency about a possible future cooperation (Czech BH Open), possible options (CZE Federation involvement, ebt Tournament); further dialogue with the both the agency and the Federation was encouraged.

5. Boards and Stakeholder Groups

5.1. Nations Board

With the minutes of the meeting at hand, Secretary General reported on an issue that is of concern to all stakeholder groups – income generation via media partnership contracts. It was reiterated that current agreements are in place until 2020, and underlined that this is a sensitive matter. It was mentioned that partners have started to mention the possibility of prolongation talks, however, the EHF is not willing to enter into talks about the future (post 2020) so early (in 2016). The EHF, with the assistance of relevant internal and external experts, will use the opportunity of the time allowed to define its needs in order to develop a complete strategy for the future concerning media. In a first step, a media conference will be called for with external experts after the EHF EURO in Poland for gaining high level expertise on the different fields of media. A respective report on the building up of a long term strategy will be given at the Conference of Presidents by the Secretary General. This issue will be relevant for the conclusions of the different EHF and EHF Marketing bodies.

The resignation of Heiner Brand from the Nations Board was briefly discussed; thus, Aleksander Blagojevic (SRB), the second candidate for the position at the 2014 EHF Congress will assume the place on the Nations Board for the remainder of the electoral period.

5.2. Professional Handball Board

PHB Chairman Marin gave an overview of the topics discussed during the last PHB meeting – withdrawal of the FCH in the case against the IHF/DHB, player eligibility, feedback on the Champions League season, communication/media channels, and Manager Education. With the PHB minutes already distributed to the National Federations, it is requested that the National Federations encourage potential candidates to take part in the Manager Education Course in Cologne as the next edition of the programme will be in the English language.

5.3. Women's Handball Board

WHB Chairwoman Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić provided a written summary to the Executive Committee members and briefly touched upon the recent activities of the board in terms of education initiatives such as the three seminars and courses where 13 candidates were supported, in 2016 the WHB anticipate that this will be extended to 42 candidates over five seminars and courses.

The 2015 summer activities were reiterated, and the planned signing of the Brighton/Helsinki Declaration was mentioned. In the upcoming year, it is the intention of WHB to develop the Ambassador Programme within the framework of EHF EURO 2016 SWE and also present the top female leadership award, as well as awards for the All Star Teams, and Federation Awards for the development of women's handball at the 2016 EHF Congress.

In the area of development initiatives, the Chairwoman reported that the National Federation survey is complete; the club team survey is still ongoing. In 2016, the Women's Handball Board will organise a workshop with the aim of strengthening women's handball for those persons responsible for women's handball within the National Federations. With the proposal at hand, Bojić-Ćaćić also solicited support from the Executive Committee to commence the "Best Fostering Concept/Best School Project"; the support was given unanimously.

Following information from Bojić-Ćaćić, it was mentioned that BIH will be given information on EHF development programmes for boys and girls. To the ongoing situation with the Croatian female referees, the WHB sent a written communication to the EHF stating their full support for the referees in this matter. EHF President will initiate contact with the leadership of the Federations involved on a global level to find a pragmatic solution. However, the issue of referees changing National Federation is also seen as a principle matter and has to be followed carefully.

6. Competitions – reports and decisions

6.1. National Team Competitions/EHF Events

The good cooperation with the Polish Handball Federation in the organisation of the Men's EHF EURO 2016, which is proceeding accordingly, was underlined.

To the upcoming 2016 IHF/EHF Women's Trophy, it was noted that the information from the EHF was distributed at a time where not all pertinent information was available. However, from the four applicants (MLT, BUL, GEO, and ISR), upon evaluation of the bids, the event was awarded to the Georgian Handball Federation who will host the event from 8-13 March 2016.

The documents for the 2017 W17 EURO and European Championship were distributed to the National Federations in accordance with the event schedules; the same processes used for the men's selection will also be implemented for the women's selection.

Prior to the Conference of Presidents, the EXEC are given information on the three proposals to be discussed on 14 November 2015 to what concerns the EHF EURO 2020 Qualification. It is remarked that it is important to find out what is reasonable to the National Federations and what is relevant for them to take part. Following feedback and analysis, a decision will be taken by the Executive Committee in January 2016.

6.2. Club Competitions

CSO Glaser gave a short introduction to the document available concerning the awarding of the Men's EHF Cup Final Tournament giving a brief mention to the bids that had already been received as well as the interest shown by Viasat of co-hosting the event. The information given was to serve as a status update, as the documents submitted have not been evaluated. The Executive Committee approved the proposed procedure to continue the process, and the matter will return to the Executive Committee at a later date, and a mandate was given to EHF/EHF Competitions to prepare the final decision to be confirmed by the EXEC.

The Executive were also informed on the letter of intent received by the EHF from the Hungarian Handball Federation that expressed their keen interest in prolonging the cooperation agreement to host the Women's EHF FINAL4. At this time, the discussions will continue, and no decisions have been taken in this regard.

In the brief discussion that followed to the men's and women's Champions Leagues, it was agreed that the current women's system needs to be reviewed on a technical level. The idea of creating a group to review and evaluate specific elements of the Champions Leagues was also raised.

6.3. Other Competitions

Secretary General Wiederer reported on the 2015 European Handball Masters Championship at the end of September in which three EHF office veteran handball players took part.

7. Partners – report and decisions

7.1. EHF Marketing GmbH

With the report of the last meeting at hand, and with the presence of the Executive Committee in attendance at the EHF General Assembly in the morning, a discussion took place concerning the issue of sponsors and gaining more lucrative sponsorship deals. Comment included a statement of Member Boskovic that it was now time for handball to start looking closely at the matter and question why handball is not attracting more sponsors and deals. The idea of a working group was mentioned. It was noted to start with men's handball as it has the greater income potential. It was stressed that development must continue.

7.2. Other business partners

Information on partners and in particular the end of the partnership with adidas was given at the last meeting, and certain points including the agreement with SELECT Sport (balls) was reiterated by Wiederer. It was repeated that negotiations with equipment companies are in progress although there is nothing new to report at this time as the competitions for summer 2016 are covered. New partnerships could begin with the new competition season.

8. International questions

8.1. International Handball Federation/IHF Congress

A short report was given on the IHF Congress and the preparatory European meeting as well as the IHF Council meeting. An information exchange took place on the presentation of the planned IHF ball which does not require glue. It was underlined that the ball is still in the prototype phase.

The EHF motions submitted to the International Handball Federation were not adopted or defended at the IHF Congress.

8.2. Other partners

To the appointment of EHF President to the EU High Level Commission on Sports Diplomacy, it was noted that it is useful to know that handball is representing the world of sport. Furthermore, it was underlined that this is an EU group and that not the EHF was nominated, but specifically Jean Brihault in his function as the EHF President. Brihault will also participate at the next meeting of the European Olympic Committee; this participation is viewed as a good signal to show that handball is still present and interested in the works of the EOC. Further discussion with the EOC on the EYOF and possible 2019 European Games will follow.

9. Conference of Presidents/Eo. Congress

9.1. Programme/Organisation

Secretary General Wiederer confirmed that all relevant information had been distributed to the National Federations; registrations from all 50 Federations had been received, however, it was mentioned that due to health/travel issues, two participants were no longer expected to attend.

9.2. Agendas/Preparatory questions

A summary to the motions was given by President Brihault and there were no further comments or questions from the Executive Committee members.

10. Other issues

Wiederer reported on the initiative of INAS (Para-athletes) to host a championship in Zakopane (POL) during the winter games. Upon consultation with the EHF leadership, a letter was sent requesting more information. It was stated that such a matter (as to whether handball is suitable for the INAS initiative) must be dealt with on a technical level.

EXEC members who have had experience with handball events for people with learning disabilities are encouraged to send information to the EHF to assist in the further evaluation of the matter.

The “Wheels on Fire” tournament is mentioned again, and it is stated that it is hoped that the event can be developed further.

After giving further information to the rest of the events taking place over the weekend, President Brihault officially closed the meeting.

Vienna, 17 November 2015

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