

## Minutes to the 135<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting in Vienna, Austria

**Date/Time:** 24 March 2017 / 09:00 – 17:30  
25 March 2017 / 09:30 – 11:30

**Venue:** EHF Office Conference Room

**Participants:**

Michael Wiederer	President
Predrag Bošković	Vice President
Henrik La Cour	Treasurer
Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
Jerzy Eliasz	Chairman Methods Commission
Ole R. Jørstad	Chairman Beach Handball Commission
Stefan Lövgren	Member
Gabriella Horvath	Member
Anrijs Brencans	Member
Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
Narcisa Lecusanu	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board
Andrea Moser	Chief Finance Officer
Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Coordinator
Vesna Lazić	PA to the President

**In Part\*:**

Helmut Höritsch	Senior Manager Education & Development
Peter Fröschl	Senior Manager Beach Handball
David Szlezak	EHF Managing Director

*\*Present for the respective agenda points*

**Presenters:**

<b>Infront:</b>	Stephan Herth	Executive Director Summer Sports
	Martin Roos	Director TV & Media Rights
	Patrik Holmgren	Associate Director, Summer Sport
	Christian Sperling	Associate Director, Summer Sport
<b>NGS:</b>	Georg Unger	NGS Managing Partner/Recruitment

### 1. Welcome, programme and agenda

The President welcomed the Executive Committee to the third meeting since the 2016 Congress and the second working meeting of the electoral period. He underlined that in preparation for the upcoming season it was common practice for the EHF to schedule the meetings of the commissions and the stakeholder groups. Therefore, the March session of the Executive Committee was the meeting with the most content and was normally comprised of many motions where decisions are needed in order to enable internal departments to conclude the preparations on a business level. The amount of reading material was noted and it was stressed that due to the nature of certain topics, it was not possible to prepare some documents more than one week in advance; it was necessary to treat an issue with the most up-to-date information.

The Executive Committee were informed on the agenda that included two presentations. It was mentioned that due to the change in the Executive Committee, Infront requested a meeting to

present to the organisation and the new Executive Committee as a reliable partner. The delegation from Infront would present an overview of the EHF EUROs from 1994-2020, and is ready to take questions. It was also mentioned that an open discussion for the marketing of the EHF EUROs and the Men's Champions League in the future would also take place. NGS Global would present the matter of the new Secretary General.

## **2. Minutes Executive Committee 12/2016**

With no comment or remarks, the minutes were approved.

## **3. Reports and decisions**

### **3.1. Finance Delegation**

**3.1.1. Minutes meeting 01/2017:** Vice President Bošković informed on the meeting that took place in Paris on the occasion of the Final Weekend of the Men's IHF World Handball Championship. IHF President, Dr Hassan Moustafa welcomed the delegation to the meeting that was held under a responsive atmosphere. Among other items on the agenda, the Finance Delegation discussed the 2016 budget/accounting and the NGS procedure concerning the employment of the new Secretary General. The matter of business partnerships was also examined and updated information was given, which in turn would be provided to the Executive Committee during the relevant agenda points. With the exceptions of the matter of future partnerships, there were no open questions. Concerning EHF EURO 2016 Sweden, the final accounting is yet to be concluded, the positive elements were reiterated and the question of improvements for future events was raised. The Members were also informed that a 5-year transfer comparison was undertaken and the results show no significant changes and the income in this area remains approximately the same. Treasurer La Cour mentioned that as decided in the December meeting, a risk analysis had been undertaken and the document was recently released to the EHF; the Finance Delegation will analyse the document at hand and present the findings to the Executive Committee in June. Closing the point, President Wiederer underlined that the meeting of the Finance Delegation was a transitional meeting that provided a lot of information to the new members.

**3.1.2. 2016 Finances:** to the documents at hand, an overview was given to the matter of National Federation deposits. A motion was presented to adapt the permanent deposits to the respective level of activity for each National Federation and was confirmed.

Treasurer La Cour noted that from a financial perspective, the EHF business was running accordingly to plan and indicated a slightly improved result. The external audit of the organisation is currently in progress, and from the initial meeting, the EHF received positive preliminary information that no major changes or corrections will be necessary. Due to the schedule of the ongoing process, upon request, the mandate was given to the President and Treasurer to oversee and sign off on the auditing procedures; final information on the 2016 EHF Accounts will be given to the Executive Committee at the meeting in June 2017.

To a query concerning the decrease in the amount budgeted for long-term injuries, CFO Moser explained that EUR 150k was budgeted for long-term injury cases; however in the past, the EHF has never had to use the full amount. Currently, the three open cases are not expected to exhaust the amount budgeted. President Wiederer underlined that the financial result showed that having no specific insurance policy with an external company has paid off for the EHF two-fold: cases treated in-house are handled in a shorter amount of time, and the relationship with the clubs allows for an expeditious exchange of information allowing for an overall better outcome and money saved. PHB Chairman O'Callaghan underlined that such situations are well handled and that it was easy for the clubs to access the injury fund. Closing the point, Wiederer underlined that the EHF Injury Fund

processes pertain only to qualifications to EHF events, and not to World Championships events. It was agreed that an information circular to this topic would be sent to the National Federations to serve as a reminder.

**3.1.3. Personnel / Secretary General:** Georg Unger of NGS Global made a presentation before the members of the Executive Committee in the afternoon session concerning the appointment of a new Secretary General without the presence of the EHF administrative staff. The recruitment process with definition of the profile, the delivery of the documents, the interviews, and the assessment (in the presence of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer) was described, and the unanimous opinion resulted in the proposal to the Executive Committee to hire Martin Hausleitner, at the time Secretary General of ÖHB. The three final candidates represented different profiles, all of them interesting for the further development of the EHF business, however, taking into consideration the tasks of a Secretary General, and in particular, the work with the Executive Committee, the National Federations/Stakeholders, as well as the cooperation with the current Senior Managers, led to the proposal. All the EXEC members individually expressed their personal opinion, and the recruitment of M. Hausleitner for the function of Secretary General/Chief Operating Officer was unanimously confirmed for a start on 1 August 2017 and for a first period until 30.06.2022.

**3.1.4. Office house:** President Wiederer gave an intermediate report to the Executive Committee concerning the possible acquisition of land near the current location for the purpose of building a new office. An independent survey of the land was requested and was received by the EHF. It is known that the size of the vacant land exceeds the needs of the EHF and to use all free space would result in a construction approx. 3 times larger than the current facility. As a next step, the EHF will evaluate the information at hand and possibly make initial contact with an architect on how to utilise the available space. Further information will be provided to the Finance Delegation/Executive Committee.

**3.1.5. Further points:** an overview and situation update was given to the issues concerning National Federation Bosnia Herzegovina. It was noted that the situation had slightly improved, and BIH would be represented at the upcoming Conference for Secretaries General in April.

### **3.2. Report Anti-doping Unit**

No additional special remarks were given to supplement the report at hand that provided an overview of EAU activities and results of testing undertaken during events. The purpose (to protect European handball) and the position of the EAU in the realm of anti-doping on an international (IHF) and global (WADA) level was underlined.

### **3.3. Report EHF Marketing GmbH**

**3.3.1. Advisory Board meeting 03/2017:** the first meeting of the new period took place in early March; underlined as an introductory meeting, the participants were given an in-depth briefing on the business that included information on media figures (+18% TV audience in the men's competition) and the current situation on the 2016/17 Women's EHF Champions League and the scheduled Women's FINAL4. Among other points raised at the EHF AB meeting, the Executive Committee were informed on the concerns about the low amount of TV transmission for the Men's (25/48) and Women's (24/48) EHF Cup. For the benefit of the Executive Committee, it was underlined that all decisions made within the EHF AB are done so with the consent of all members, which includes a representative of the clubs.

**3.3.2. Future perspectives / partnerships:** the recent agreement between EHF and Sportradar was mentioned. It was underlined that all current agreements expire in 2020 or earlier, and that all long-term and/or high-value agreements have to be sanctioned by the EHF Advisory Board.

#### **3.4. Report other business partners**

A summary was given under agenda point 8.

#### **3.5. Other reports**

Upon invitation of IHF President Moustafa, EHF President Michael Wiederer and Vice President Bošković attended the IHF Council Meeting held in January 2017; it was obvious for the participants that the opinion of the European Confederation was relevant for handball overall and that the cooperation with the IHF leadership was beneficial. The structure of the IHF Council was described.

The Executive Committee were also informed on the IHF meeting in March that centred on technical issues. The EHF President Wiederer, EHF CC member refereeing Nachevski, CSO Glaser, as well as IHF referee PRC member R. Gallego attended the meeting where the regulations on clothing were discussed; the exchange of information included the suggestion to work on the precise interpretation of the clothing regulations to avoid a repeat of the challenges for both organisations seen in recent events. It was noted that clarification would be essential prior to the start of the upcoming 2017/18 season. In the brief discussion that followed, it was underlined that clear information must be given to the clubs and national federations; it was agreed that all relevant information would be transmitted and exchanged in a timely manner. To the matter of cooperation meetings, Beach Handball Chairman Jørstad reminded the Executive Committee of the previous IHF-EHF Beach Handball meetings and underlined that it would be a positive step to reinstate such meetings.

### **4. Technical Commissions minutes / reports and decisions 02/2017**

#### **4.1. Technical Delegation / CAN**

MC Chairman, Jerzy Eliasz introduced the TD report and underlined the importance of the role played within the organisation. Taking reference to the minutes available, he mentioned that the 'master plans' of the respective commissions (CC, MC, BC) and stakeholder group (WHB) were presented in brief at the meeting. Concerning the new EHF partnership with Sportradar, market leader for scouting data, Eliasz informed that a parameter overview was presented as of 2017/18. To the topic of teaching material, e-learning, testing, and licensing, the cooperation with the University Las Palmas Gran Canaria with the focus on referees would continue in the new period, and videos on basic handball would be produced in cooperation with the Polish Handball Federation. The Executive Committee were also informed that the areas of e-learning and e-testing would be expanded to include both indoor and beach handball referees, delegates, and coaches with portal solutions to be optimised. In 2017, the EHF CAN will issue two publications: Anti-Doping Test/Procedure Manual and the EHF Referee Manual for physical training, regeneration and nutrition.

Brief information was also provided on the current university cooperation: the second intake of the 'European Handball Manager' was 20 participants (Universität Köln), and 20 postgraduate master applications were received for the 'Academic EHF Master Coach Certification' (University Las Palmas). The clubs actively involved in the collaborative partnership with Erasmus+ and the project 'H4DC' (Handball for Dual Careers) were named: Ballonmano Granollers (ESP), IK Sävehof (SWE), and Fenix Toulouse (FRA).

Also resulting from the meeting, the TD made the recommendation to establish a partnership with the EOSE - European Observatoire of Sport and Employment - by signing a Memorandum of Understanding based on the several fields of cooperation. The recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee.

## 4.2. Competitions Commission

**Club Competitions:** CC Chairman, Božidar Djurković informed the Executive Committee that the clubs handball season 2016/17 is running according to schedule and there were no major issues to report. The specific issues mentioned in the official complaint lodged by RK Celje Pivovarna Laško are being dealt with on a technical level; the EHF is conducting an analysis of the referee performance in the match concerned. The draws for the FINAL4 events are scheduled to take place in Budapest (18.04.2017), Göppingen and Cologne (02.05.2017).

**National Team Competitions – Qualifications and Final tournaments:** a status update to the upcoming events was given to the Executive Committee.

- ◆ *Women's 19 EHF EURO 2017 SLO – qualification tournaments played; FT draw scheduled*
- ◆ *MU21 WCh ALG – qualification played; 13 European teams qualified for FT in July 2017*
- ◆ *MU19 WCh GEO – qualification played; 13 European teams qualified for FT in August 2017*
- ◆ *Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA – registration completed; qualification groups drawn*
- ◆ *Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR – overview of qualification phase 2 was given.*

**Refereeing Matters:** the Executive Committee was informed that the nomination process for the various summer events was nearing its conclusion, and a total of 30 referee pairings were needed for the events in Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania and FYR Macedonia. Referees nominated to the European Open (SWE), EYOF (HUN), and EUSA Games (ESP) will be chosen from the Young Referee Programme.

**Additional Matters:** the EHF 2018-2019 Calendar draft was sent to all National Federations in January; the two responses received were treated and implemented. The final draft was submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

**CC Motions:** the minutes to the CC meeting in February 2017 were confirmed; due to the numerous motions submitted to the Executive Committee, a summary of the outcome is reproduced below.

- ◆ ***TRC Members & Refereeing Lecturers 2017/18:** an overview of the TRC was given and both lists were confirmed. The situation regarding Comptroller Ehrmann-Wolf (to be substituted by R. Pretenthaler) was noted; a new substitute comptroller will be named at the 2018 EHF Congress.*
- ◆ ***W17 Championship in MKD:** new playing period (31.07.-06.08.2017) was confirmed.*
- ◆ ***EHF Calendar 2018/2019:** taking reference to the PHB discussion concerning the calendar draft, it was underlined that the draft at hand did not impact league activities in any way. The submitted draft was confirmed.*
- ◆ ***Club Competitions – EHF Cup/Challenge Cup:** the motion to lift mandatory attendance at all draws (M/W Challenge Cup) and with the exception of the Group Phase and Final workshop/draws (M/W EHF CUP) was confirmed.*
- ◆ ***Club Competitions – Champions League:** the motion for playing days of the M/W CL qualification tournaments to be amended to include Friday/Saturday, Friday/Sunday or Saturday/Sunday was confirmed.*

- ◆ **Club Competitions – Women’s Champions League:** *the motion to have the right of organisation of a CL Qualification Tournament to be decided by a draw was confirmed.*
- ◆ **Club Competitions – Technology Matters:** *the amendments to include a scouter, digital match report, and internet connection at every EHF Club Competition match was confirmed. Principal approval to amend the regulations concerning goal light, goal line, and instant replay technologies for the M/W Champions League was confirmed; it was noted that the EHF would continue to work with a technology service to explore the needs of the EHF, and to answer questions on the financial level.*
- ◆ **Club Competitions – Playing Schedule Adaptations for Men’s CL:** *underlining that balance must be sought regarding home and away matches, the motion was confirmed.*
- ◆ **Club Competitions – Qualification to EHF Competitions:** *the motion that proposed registration to the EHF Cup (Men and Women) via the National Cup or the National League Cup ONLY be possible for the two finalists of that competition was confirmed, though it was underlined that it applied only to season 2017/18.*
- ◆ **Club Competitions – WCL/WEHFC Playing System:** *the motion requesting a mandate to evaluate a change of the playing system for the 2018/19 season from the current situation was confirmed.*
- ◆ **Unified Colour of Referee Clothing:** *the motion requesting a mandate to continue working on the various steps in order to have a unified colour for referee shirts and shorts starting with the 2018/19 season was confirmed. It was noted that clubs are also considering grey, and it was important to mention this to the stakeholders.*

The treatment of the CC motions concluded the report of the Competitions Commission Chairman.

#### **Presentation of Infront Sports:**

Closing the morning session, President Wiederer welcomed the Infront Delegation to the Vienna meeting and introduced them, and the partner organisation, to the Executive Committee Members. Wiederer underlined the central role played by Infront with the EHF EUROs for men and women; he also noted that the existing agreement will expire in 2020 and 2017 would be the year that would define what would happen in this regard after the 2020 EUROs. Leading the delegation, Stephan Herth gave the presentation and stressed the importance of having the opportunity to introduce Infront and what drives the organisation, and especially the team that works closely with the EHF and handball to the new Executive Committee. He also underlined the availability of Infront team to the EHF and that they were ready to continue the cooperation. An extensive discussion regarding the market situation and the optimisation of income took place and respective answers were given by Infront. President Wiederer thanked the Infront delegation for their presence and the presentation with the information exchange to be continued during lunch..

#### **4.3. Methods Commission**

MC Chairman Eliaz presented the recent activities of the Methods Commission to the Executive Committee.

**2016/2017 EHF YAC EURO and Championship Analyses:** the 2016 EHF YAC Championship M18 LTU analysis has not yet been submitted despite numerous reminders.



**2017 EHF Young Coaches Workshop:** the 4<sup>th</sup> edition will take place in June 2017 in Poland; 14 participants are registered and the lecturers have been selected.

**EHF RINCK Convention:** reminders have been sent to BUL and DEN to submit the annual activity report. The application of KOS is under consideration following the recent coaching clinic. The documentation of the 2017 EHF 'RINCK' Convention Seminar has been distributed; the participants were informed on updates and changes regarding National Master Coach Courses and the EHF Pro Licence Renewal. The first module of the 2018 EHF 'RINCK' Convention Master Coach and Licensing Course, in conjunction with a Top Coaches' Course, is scheduled to take place during the Men's EHF EURO 2018 CRO.

**EHF Goalcha (Street Handball) Conference:** a conference to introduce the Goalcha concept is planned for summer 2017. The target audience is the EHF Member Federations and other interested persons, though participation is capped at 50. Travel and participation fees are to be borne by the participants who will receive the basic Goalcha package provided by the company.

**Wheelchair Handball:** following the completion of the 2016 European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament, the MC recommends hosting the tournament only every second year due to organisational reasons. POR has shown interest in hosting a 2018 event. A 2017 EHF Working Group focused on wheelchair handball is currently under consideration in the MC.

**Development:** there are currently 13 ongoing SMART programmes; ENG/EHPU showed interest in making a SMART application, but the required information has not been submitted to date. The SMART request from SCO fulfilled the guidelines and budget requirements, and the MC recommends its approval. So far in 2017, 10 short-term requests have been fulfilled by the MC.

**2017 EHF Club Manager Seminar in Cologne/GER:** under the title "The Player in the focus – Club environment – Best Practice" the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the EHF Club Manager Seminar will be carried out in Cologne at the beginning of June 2017.

**2017 EHF Scientific Conference (4th edition):** the event will take place in November in Vienna/AUT under the title "Scientific approach to players' environment – from participation to the top". One central topic shall be "players' equipment issues". The Scientific Committee overseeing the Conference content has been selected.

**MC Motions:** the minutes to the MC meeting in February 2017 were confirmed; the outcome of the MC motions is reproduced below.

- ◆ **New List of EHF Coaching Lecturers / Specialists / Scientific Network (2017-2020):** an overview of the EHF Coaching Lecturers and the Scientific Network Group of Specialists was presented and confirmed.
- ◆ **2017 EU Week of Sport:** a continuation of cooperation with EU in 2017 (partnership) was confirmed.
- ◆ **SMART Programme SCO:** the development programme with SCO was confirmed by the Executive Committee.

Concluding the MC report, Chairman Elias supported by H. Hörtsch (EHF CAN Coordinator/Senior Manager Education & Development) highlighted the importance of 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference and the creation of a scientific network specially when dealing with medical issues that are becoming increasingly important, and dealing with new results coming from player tracking, it is important to

have someone (internal or external) to work on the results; it was underlined that this is a reason to keep such persons affiliated with the European Handball Federation with the idea being that specialists will serve the needs of handball. It was also mentioned that the requirements of the EHF PRO License courses also require the involvement of such specialists in these fields as it is not enough to only have renowned coaches on that level as Europe needs new findings in these scientific areas.

#### **4.4. Beach Handball Commission**

Beach Handball Chairman Ole Jørstad opened his by stating the current beach handball season is still the early stages; thus the report from the BC meeting at the beginning of March would be brief. He noted that the new constellation of the BC is an interesting group and the meeting showed promise for the future of such meetings. The focal point of the agenda was the integration of the new members including the task distribution as well as the discussion of the Beach Handball Master Plan for the period 2016 – 2020 to take beach handball further in the future.

***ebt Finals (ITA) May 2017:*** a brief explanation to the event and the historical significance of returning to Gaeta bringing beach handball back to its 'roots' was given. The deadline to register for the event is the beginning of April and, upon completion of the formalities, the contract between the organiser and the EHF will be signed. Within the framework of the Men's EHF BH EURO in Zagreb, a further education course will also be held for the 12 referees and 8 delegates attending the event.

***2017 EHF MW17 & senior BH EUROS CRO in June 2017:*** with 14+15 teams in the senior event and 15+12 teams in the YAC event, the 2017 BH events are expected to be the biggest in Europe to date. In a preliminary step, the BC has approached MPS concerning a media agreement and a draft agreement has been formulated, upon confirmation of technical requirements from CRO, the agreement which includes an income share clause, will be signed. It was underlined that it is the intention of the BC to generate external income to increase the BH budget. The Executive Committee will also host a meeting on the fringes of the event.

***2017 EHF BH Champions' Cup (ChC) in October 2017:*** the event returns to Gran Canaria (ESP) in October 2017. The invitation folder containing details will be distributed in May 2017. It was mentioned that the agreement with ULPGC will expire in 2017; the BC is currently awaiting an answer concerning first negotiation rights before defining further steps.

***Publications:*** a new set of BH video clips will be published in March, two sets were already released.

***EUSA:*** contact with the group was re-established and a meeting to clarify requirements is planned with the objective of bringing beach handball to the EUSA family; in response to a question raised, it was underlined that any agreement would not jeopardise indoor handball activities within EUSA.

***BH Club/Team Database:*** the latest BH initiative is to register, and compile a database, beach handball clubs and teams for the period 2016-2020. The idea is based on the fact that among the 50 National Federations, it is unknown how many clubs/teams exist, and the BC deemed it essential that the size of the movement in Europe be identified. The administration of the initiative is being undertaken within the BC and requires no additional resources.

***BC Motions:*** the minutes to the BC meeting in March 2017 were confirmed; and the solitary BC motion pertaining to the BH Lecturer List for the current administrative period covering the areas of education and coaching was confirmed.



## 5. Competitions – reports and decisions

### 5.1. Organisation of events

Wiederer opened the agenda point by noting that the report at hand is a summary of all events (both indoor and beach) and is comprised of the competition elements as well as providing information on the organisers, agreements, etc. It is meant to provide an overview to the Executive Committee and is a document for internal use only and to be used as an aid for decisions where necessary.

**EHF EURO 2016 SWE:** the EHF is still awaiting the submission of the final accounting by the organiser; the relevant preparations on the side of the EHF are complete. Any decisions can only be taken when all the information is available. The rundown of the procedure remains within normal parameters.

**2017 summer events:** following the report given by CC Chairman Djurković, there are no additional comments and there are no open questions on the side of the EHF.

**EHF EURO 2018 CRO:** the Executive Committee were given an update on the venue situation – an additional inspection tour and a meeting with local government representatives was held. It was noted that the venue in Split is confirmed. There will be the opportunity to meet with the local organiser in Zagreb on the occasion of the Final Tournament Draw event.

**EHF EURO 2018 FRA:** no special report

**EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR:** no special report. Organisation is ongoing and meetings are being held upon request of the individual organisers.

**EHF EURO in the Future:** is postponed to agenda point 6.2.

President Wiederer closed the sub-point by stating that the relevant managers remained at the disposal of the Executive Committee for any further questions.

### 5.2. National Team Competitions

No special report was given and one motion was treated.

- ◆ **YAC Events in 2018:** *awarding of all six events\* as recommended by the CC was confirmed; promotion/regulation in YAC events was also confirmed.*
  - **M18 EURO CRO; M18 ECh AUT (1) / GEO (2)**
  - **M20 EURO SLO; M20 ECh MKD (1) / MNE (2)**

*In the brief discussion that followed, and based on ideas raised at the EHF EURO Delegation meeting, the EHF Executive Committee agreed the principle of obligating the host(s) of a senior EHF EURO to organise a corresponding YAC event one year prior to the senior Final Tournament.*

Concluding the sub-point, it was noted that the next activity would be the EHF EURO 2018 Qualification Phase 2 draw in Paris on 21 April.

### 5.3. Club Competitions

No special report was given and one motion was treated.

- ◆ **Cost of Officials at the EHF Cup Finals:** *the motion to have the local organiser of the EHF Cup Finals bear the cost of officials (representatives, delegates, referees, office staff, etc.) appointed by the EHF instead of the participants was confirmed.*

### 5.4. Other Competitions

No special report.

## **6. EUROS in the future**

### **6.1. EURO Delegation – meeting 03/2017**

The meeting was rescheduled at short notice and took place in early March, and the minutes present a broad picture of the EHF EUROS. To the situation with EURO 2016 SWE it was reiterated that upon receipt of the final accounting from the organiser, a debrief session will be scheduled to deal with the open questions. To the matter of clothing violations it was underlined that the EHF are cooperating with the IHF on the matter and the process was expected to take some time. The Executive Committee underlined that clarification has to be sought for the 2017/18 season.

### **6.2. EUROS 2022/2024**

Concerning the EHF EUROS in 2022 and 2024, President Wiederer recapitulated the current status with Infront and it was underlined that if the EHF chooses to enter the open market, this would be communicated to Infront openly. Concerning the awarding of the events (bid processes), it was stressed that all relevant documentation has to be distributed to the National Federations at the beginning of July 2017 at the latest, so the bid process would begin without having a media agreement in place; due to the strength of the product, this procedure is not seen as problematic. Following the outcome of various stakeholder meetings (EURO Del, Finance Del, PHB/WHB, NB), where the topic was discussed on a broad level, it was stressed that an open discussion process to define the direction of future events was to take place on the level of the Executive Committee. In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that there is big market interest for the EHF EURO, but there must be a balance between the development of the product and securing additional income; objectives must be clearly defined, and any steps taken must not be to the detriment of the EHF EURO legacy.

## **7. Boards and Stakeholder Groups**

The minutes to all meetings that have taken place between the fourth quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017 were at hand and to which no special report was given.

### **7.1. Meetings Nations Board**

No special report.

### **7.2. Professional Handball Board**

Giving a brief report, PHB Chairman Xavier O’Callaghan underlined that the PHB meetings serve the purpose of being a platform for the exchange of information between the EHF, National Federations, clubs, leagues, and players. A brief overview of the topics discussed, to which the main topic remains Champions League in the future, were also highlighted in the Chairman’s report. On the level of the FCH (clubs) the Executive are informed on the consultation agreement to be signed between the IHF and FCH in Antalya on the fringes of the IHF Congress. On a league level, there is movement in Portugal and England, as representatives from leagues in these countries have approached the EPHLA (leagues) with reference to support/cooperation; an invitation to attend the next EPHLA meeting was issued to the representatives. The EHPU (players) reported on lack of communication with the newly formed IHF Athletes Commission, and highlighted player equipment/material as a topic of major concern. On a general level, the PHB discussed the flexibility of the international calendar produced by the EHF and confirmed the Calendar 2018/19. The topic of the Champions League in the future was of major interest to all stakeholders; and it was also mentioned that consideration must be given to the unification of parameters to improve player tracking and match data collection.

### **7.3. Meeting Women's Handball Board**

Taking reference to the two previous meetings of the Women's Handball Board held in December 2016 and March 2017, Chairwoman Narcisa Lecusanu gave a comprehensive report on the activities of the WHB. Beginning with an overview of the board members and the chairpersonship (Lecusanu 2016-2018 and Myaro 2018-2020), the Executive Committee are informed that the Board decided to uphold the strategy decided by the previous WHB administration; thus the WHB Master Plan is an updated reflection of the objectives. In the period 2017 – 2020, the WHB will continue to focus on:

- ◆ *Improving the image and brand of women's handball*
- ◆ *Raising the visibility & media exposure*
- ◆ *Further development of top products, especially WCL*
- ◆ *Focus to women's youth handball*

With the documentation at hand, the recommendations of the WHB were discussed; to the proposal to organise a Women's Handball Convention in 2018, the Executive Committee requested a full concept and postponed the decision until the meeting in June. Additional suggested activities (i.e. workshops) that would require close coordination with other internal EHF departments would be assessed on an individual basis upon submission of project concepts. Other recommendations such as the procurement of higher quality images from YAC events have already been considered and will be initiated by the relevant internal departments.

### **7.4. Meetings Stakeholder Groups**

With the minutes of EPHLA (11/2016), MFCH (01/2017) and EHPU (02/2017) at hand, no additional report was given as all topics of relevance were treated during the corresponding agenda points.

### **8. Club Competitions in the future**

Giving foundation to the discussion session of the agenda point, President Wiederer reiterated the history of club competitions and in particular the Men's EHF Champions League, including that of the structures implemented (EHFM, EHFM Advisory Board, EHFM Club Boards, and stakeholder boards) to give voice to the clubs in the activities with the objective of being a support to the club competitions management. It was noted over time the structures and the persons within have changed. A perspective was also given to recent events such as the inclusion of the club representative to the EHFM AB, the timeline (and situation update) on the MoU agreements between the EHF and the clubs noting the differences between the arrangements for men's and women's clubs. Information was also given on external initiatives concerning the men's top club competition, and EHF meetings with external organisations (MPS, IMG, etc.). Based on the information given a brief discussion took place; in summation of the agenda point, it was underlined that the EHF needs to consider the consequences to the overall structures of European handball as well as future developments. Common understanding on the level of the Executive Committee was reached that the best offer overall shall be accepted bearing in mind the integrity of European handball when analysing the initiatives arising from top European clubs. The Executive Committee agreed to a proposal that would send an open letter to the National Federations informing them of the initiative, to the clubs of top competitions reminding them of the EHF position. It was also noted that the EHF would continue to work with the clubs to define the overall competition structures in order to find the best possible partners for further development.

## 9. Legal issues / Commissions – reports and decisions

### 9.1. Report Legal Management

The report at hand provided the Executive Committee with an update on the status of current open cases. The Executive Committee approved of the following proposals under point 6 in the document presented.

- ◆ **List of ECA Arbitrators Nominated by EHF:** *the Executive Committee renewed the mandate of the current ECA Arbitrators as listed in the document provided respectively took note of the changes due to the new position in the EHF.*
- ◆ **On-Site Proceedings - Overview:** *the proposal to treat such cases externally by the Court of Handball during an EHF EURO ensuring the integrity of the processes was approved. The language in the EHF European Cup Regulations will be amended and be applicable from season 2017/18 for Champions League, EHF Cup and Challenge Cup Regulations.*
- ◆ **Update legal system at club competition final tournaments and qualification tournaments (based on administrative necessities):** *the proposal to clarify procedures applicable on-site during club competitions qualification and final tournaments was approved. The language in the EHF EURO Regulations will be amended and be applicable with the next EHF EURO.*
- ◆ **Coaches licensing:** *the proposal to amend the EHF EURO Regulations, EHF EURO Qualification Regulations, YAC EURO and Championship Regulations concerning the completion of Coaches Licensing Application Sheets as presented to the Executive Committee was approved. The amendment would enter into force as of the next competition concerned.*
- ◆ **Photos:** *to ease the process as well as to improve the pictures provided by National Federations participating in EHF EURO Qualifications, the proposed modifications were approved. The EHF EURO Qualification Regulations will be amended and will enter into force with the Women's EHF EURO 2018 Qualification phase.*

### 9.2. Legal Delegation

The meeting was carried out in the presence of the CoH and CoA Presidents as well as the EHF legal staff (Flixeder and Alves). The minutes are available were made available to the Executive Committee and the motions were already treated under 9.1.

### 9.3. Court of Handball

With the minutes at hand, no special report was given.

### 9.4. Court of Appeal

With the minutes at hand, no special report was given.

### 9.5. ECA-Council

Due to the unavailability of the ECA President, the meeting did not take place as scheduled. President Wiederer informed the Executive Committee that the PHB has also yet to nominate the stakeholder representative to the ECA Council; an alternative date for the meeting will be sought.

Following the EHF Congress in November 2016, the ECA Procedural brochure was updated and distributed to the European handball community; the Members of the Executive Committee were also provided with a copy.

## **10. 2017 Conferences - information**

### **10.1. 10th EHF Conference for Secretaries General**

The Executive Committee were provided with Info 2, which was already distributed to the National Federations.

### **10.2. 36th Ordinary IHF Congress**

The Congress is scheduled to take place in Antalya (TUR) in November 2017. The Executive Committee are informed that any/all motions/nominations have to be submitted 5 months prior to the Congress. It was mentioned that the Confederation Europe has a speaking right during the Congress, but not a voting right. Currently, the EHF is not targeting any specific motions. It was agreed that a circular containing relevant information would be sent to the European Member Federations with the request that any motions submitted to the IHF Congress be sent in copy to the EHF. Once all the motions to be tabled are known, if there is a clear picture, the EHF will provide explanations where necessary.

### **10.3. 4th Scientific Conference**

#### **10.4. 13th EHF Conference of Presidents (01/2018 in Zagreb/CRO)**

The two events were originally scheduled to take place parallel to each other. However, due to the close date of the IHF Congress in November, it was agreed to postpone the Conference of Presidents until January 2018; though noted that it was too early to definitively name the topics for discussion at the Conference of Presidents, the development/marketing of the EHF EUROS and club competitions will be under consideration. The 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference will go ahead as planned; the documents have already been sent out and are also at hand.

## **11. Other issues**

- ◆ Member Brencans highlighted the activities within the Georgian Handball Federation and suggested that the second edition of the Eastern European Handball Conference could be hosted in Tbilisi.
- ◆ President Wiederer presented the EHF Style Guide developed by EHF Communications and Media department to the members of the Executive Committee. The document is a comprehensive guide to handball vocabulary and terminology. The work in this area will continue with a focus on relating to the youth associated with handball in order to improve the presence of qualitative content in all kinds of publications resp. TV/new media.
- ◆ It was reiterated that adidas clothing is no longer to be used for any EHF related handball activity; the official clothing package from Salming is expected to be distributed in April parallel to the meetings of the Technical Commissions. Regarding the lecturers, clarification is needed.
- ◆ An invitation to host the September meeting of the Executive Committee in Lisbon was received from the POR Federation. In agreement with the Executive Committee the invitation will be confirmed.

President Wiederer thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their patience and attention reiterating the volume of information and documentation that provided the content for the meeting, and officially closed the session.

For the Minutes: M. Wiederer/M. Brown  
Vienna, 29 March 2017

EXEC\Meetings\1703\_AUT\_135\135\_Minutes\_170329e