

Minutes to the 136th Executive Committee Meeting in Zagreb, Croatia

Date/Time: 23 June 2017 / 09:30 – 14:30

Venue: Sheraton Hotel Zagreb

Participants:	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Treasurer
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Jerzy Eliaz	Chairman Methods Commission
	Ole R. Jørstad	Chairman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Gabriella Horvath	Member
	Anrijs Brenčans	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
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President

Guest: Martin Hausleitner designated EHF Secretary General

Excused: Marsha Brown Corporate Liaison

1. Welcome, programme and agenda

President Wiederer welcomed the members to the Executive Committee meeting held on the occasion of the Men’s EHF EURO 2018 Final Tournament draw held in Zagreb and on the fringes of the 2017 Men’s and Women’s Beach Handball EHF EUROs. The EXEC gathering in June is traditionally viewed as the meeting that closes the current season and, at the same time, makes the decisions for the upcoming handball season.

The meeting schedule followed the programme and agenda.

2. Minutes Executive Committee 03/2017

The minutes of the March 2017 meeting are approved without further comment.

3. Reports and decisions

3.1. Finance Delegation

3.1.1. Minutes meeting 06/2017

Following the minor correction of the term 2015/16 Finances instead of 2016/17 Finances concerning the biennial overview, the minutes are confirmed.

As the meeting of the Finance Delegation made reference to various points corresponding to the EXEC agenda, all relevant points will be discussed during the meeting.

3.1.2. 2016 Finances

Treasurer La Cour gave a comprehensive overview in regard to finalisation of the business year, its rundown, and the comptrolling via the external auditor and the EHF Comptrollers; he

stressed that despite the fact that the responsibility for 2016 lay with the former Executive Committee and the Secretary General/CFO, he was involved in the finalisation as well as present at the evaluation meeting with the auditors and comptrollers. The reports received orally as well as officially in written form confirmed the correct handling and as well underlined the proper preparation and cooperation from the EHF office staff. La Cour thanked the persons involved, especially CFO Moser, for the committed work in 2016 (and later on reiterated his thanks for the 2017 finances as well).

The preparation of the business year 2016 is concluded with a surplus compared to estimated result communicated at the 2016 EHF Congress. The total result of the 2015/2016 period is approximately EUR 900k above the budget approved at the 2014 Congress.

3.1.3. 2017 EHF Finances

The 2017 budget approved at the 2016 Congress can be adapted based on the experiences from 2016; the improved result from the Infront contract, as well as additional agreements and the EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden means that revenues are expected to increase by EUR 910k, and the expenses by EUR 510k; a more precise adaptation will follow at the September meeting.

3.1.4. Further points

Reports were given on the 2016 final accounting with Infront and respectively the OC SWE, what regards the Federations' accounts on the open amounts BIH (not yet resolved due to structural issues in the country), and POR (instalments until October). The Infront accounting resulted in improved shares for the participants of the 2016 EUROs (POL/SWE) as well as the clubs for the release of players' (distribution to be determined).

Treasurer La Cour informed on the follow up measures to be taken as a result of the Comptrollers report e.g. the definition of guidelines for the cash management in order to protect staff members from too much risk concerning the handling of cash payments.

3.2. Report Legal Management / ECA Council

The Executive Committee took note of the written report from Legal Management regarding disciplinary cases of the different legal instances.

There was no specific news to the legal process to the trademark EHF FINAL4 and the ehf.com domain disputes.

The minutes of the ECA Council from the meeting on 7 May are at hand and the EXEC members took note of the updated list of arbitrators and the fact that the fourth member of the ECA Council still has not been nominated by the PHB. The ECA minutes are enclosed with this document.

3.3. Report Anti-doping Unit

The written report at hand provided an overview of tests taken in 2017 in adult and younger age category national team activities as well as all club competitions and in particular the FINAL4 tournaments. All samples analysed tested negative; further tests are planned for the summer activities. The report also contained information to participation in international anti-doping symposia and seminars, as well as the further activities planned.

3.4. Report EHF Marketing GmbH / Advisory Board meeting 05/2017

On the basis of the minutes of the EHF Advisory 05/2017, the situation of EHF Marketing and in particular the financial consequences for the EHF budget were highlighted; the business year will be concluded at the end of June and the first draft of the result will be presented to the Advisory Board at their next meeting in Celje in August.

No special report was given on the matter of the Women's Club Board though a certain instability on the level of the club representatives was mentioned. The next Men's Club Board meeting will take place when deemed necessary and based on the future development of marketing contracts for the men's Champions League.

3.5. Report other business partners

Specific points were mentioned in the minutes of the Finance Delegation meeting under the respective agenda points.

3.6. Report Stakeholder Groups

The EXEC received the minutes of the various stakeholder groups in the following order: Women's Forum Club Handball (General Assembly held 7 May), European Professional Handball Leagues Association, European Handball Players Union, Men's Forum Club Handball (all held on the 4 June in Cologne). The EHF leadership on a sport political (President/Vice President/Treasurer) and professional level (CSO/MD EHF/MD Senior Management) in various constellations were present at all meetings and gave reports and answered question, in turn they informed on the future strategy of the EHF regarding marketing of the top competitions.

3.7. Additional reports

The President reported on the good cooperation with the IHF leadership regarding the Emerging Nations Championship and regarding the clarification of the IHF Rules of the Game concerning equipment. The outcome, devised on a technical level, is supposed to be sent by the IHF to the National Federations in due time in order to start the season with the clear definition of the clothing rules for all parties involved.

Furthermore, the President reported on the European Evening of Sports in Brussels and the Handball Day with all-star matches organised in Prague by the Czech and Slovak Handball Federations in the presence of both the IHF and EHF President.

4. Technical Commissions minutes / reports and decisions 04/2017

4.1. Technical Delegation / CAN

On behalf of the Technical Delegation, Ole Jørstad gave a brief report. As the TD is a coordination body of the three technical commissions overlapping issues were on the agenda at the meeting held at the end of April. The report referred to the Conference for Secretaries General, Sportradar, teaching material/e-Learning, technical cooperation with the WHB, EHF lecturers list and follow-up, certificate programme European Handball Manager and EHF Club Manager, and the initiative for further dialogue with the IHF on changes/adaptations of the Rules of the Game in the future.

The EXEC confirmed the interest of cooperating with the IHF in the development process of the Rules of the Game in the future. The Executive Committee acknowledged the notes from the meetings of the Technical Delegation and the EHF CAN.

4.2. Competitions Commission

CC Chairman Djurković presented the minutes of the April meeting, as well as an updated report on the follow-up and recent activities. His report referred to the finalisation of the competitions season regarding club competitions as well as national team competitions without any specific point in respect to general issues. Details in the report mentioned one referee case, the successful FINAL4 events, and the preparations for the 2017/18 European Cup season as well as the qualifications for Croatia 2018, the IHF WCh 2017, and the status of the EHF EURO 2020 qualifications after the Emerging Nations Championship.

Regarding refereeing matters, a report was given on the first meeting of the new TRC and candidate courses. In addition to that, information was provided on the use of goal light and goal line technology and instant replay at the FINAL4 events which are to be used in 2018 Croatia as well.

The Executive Committee approved the minutes and took note of the report. Based on the CC meeting, respectively as a preparation for the upcoming season, four motions were presented by CSO Glaser and subsequently approved.

- Criteria for the ranking of the best 3rd ranked teams (EURO Qualification): already used, but to be clarified in the regulations
- Qualification Procedure World Championship 2019 Men: due to the reduced number of places for Europe (due to 2 organisers and the number of registrations), only the European Champion will qualify directly; teams 2 and 3 will go to the play-offs like the other EURO participants.
- Playing Schedules for Younger Age Category Championships with more than eight teams: cross matches will be introduced, resulting from the input of EXEC member Brencans financial support for additional costs for the participants will be analysed by the Finance Delegation.
- EHF Regulations for Qualification Matches to the EHF EURO: technical adaptations and a precise formulation was needed for the size of the catch nets, banner around the judges table, presentation of the flags, second row of advertising, match video, and the implementation of updates of the legal system regarding, timeline, distinction between the various sorts of legal cases, and the deletion of unnecessary paragraphs due to repetition.

4.3. Methods Commission

In addition to the minutes from the April meeting, MC Chairman Eliasz gave a detailed report on Lecturer nominations for the YAC EUROs, the young coaches workshop in Poland, the GOALCHA (= street handball) Conference in AUT, the EU Week of Sport 23-29 September 2017, wheelchair handball with the nomination of another working group in autumn, development issues and the 4th EHF Scientific Conference 17-18 November in Vienna.

The Executive Committee confirmed the minutes and took note of the report; the MC proposed SMART Programmes with AUT and LAT were approved.

4.4. Beach Handball Commission

The minutes of the BC Meeting from 04/2017 were amended and updated by a report given by BC Chairman Jørstad who, together with member Lövgren, is also representing the EHF at the 2017 Beach Handball EUROS.

A separate report concerning the M/W17 YAC Beach Handball EUROS and the M/W BH EUROS was given. The YAC events were regarded as high level championships referring both to the quality of the games and the organisation of the championships; the senior EUROS, which were attended by the EXEC following the meeting, showcased high level organisational standards and especially excellent figures on Facebook and YouTube, and for the first time following the conclusion of the agreement with MPS, on TV as well. Both events were presented via ehfTV on the internet with a very good response.

A further report referred to the 2017 Beach Handball Champions Cup (open issues with Gran Canaria remain) and contact with potential organisers for 2019 as well as a meeting with EUSA regarding the integration of beach handball in their Championship or Games.

The application of MNE for the 2018 M/W18 Beach Handball EUROS was supported by the Beach Handball Commission and approved by the EXEC. The BC was asked to work out a procedure for the rundown, participation, and application of potential bidders. The proposal to install a working group for the development of university curricula for beach handball was confirmed, the nomination will be based on expertise in the respective fields; after the first meeting, a report will follow and the decision on a more general strategy will be made by the EXEC.

5. Competitions – reports and decisions

5.1. Organisation of events

The written report contained the summary of notes on already completed events respectively their follow-up: the accounting of the 2016 EURO SWE and the ebt Finals is done. The notes resulting from the Masters Championships in POR are available. The summer events are listed; a more detailed report was given on EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia – highlighting the successful draw event in a concert hall with the presence of 1500 spectators and delegates of the participating Federations as well as players taking the lots. The proposed new model for the replacement of players was approved by the Executive Committee and will be implemented in the regulations – including the respective procedures.

The next activities for the EHF EURO 2018 will be the course for referee and delegates at the end of August and the Head of Delegations Conference on 10-12 October.

The second more detailed report referred to the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France and various issues regarding the organisation:

- Tickets will be sold for individual matches
- Opening match the day prior to the start
- Fixed match times in order to make ticket sales possible

The qualification groups will take place September 2017 to June 2018 with the Final tournament Draw on 8 June in Paris.

Regarding the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR, the qualification phase one and the Emerging Nations Championship (organised by IHF) finalised the field of the participants for the qualification to be played October 2018 to June 2019. The draw for this qualification will take place in April 2018 in Trondheim/NOR.

5.2. National Team Competitions

Regarding the bid process for the Women's EUROs 2022 and 2024, a change of the event dates will be necessary. For 2022, due to the parallel FIFA World Cup in football, the new date will be 4-20 November (instead of 2-18 December) and for 2024, due to the original date being too close to Christmas (finals on 22 December), the date will be shifted to 29 November to 15 December. As a consequence, the European Federations will be contacted once again for registration.

In respect to the bidding documents, several points were stressed in order to keep the technical rundown transparent from the very beginning this includes the venue system, the number of officials, the organisation structure, the granted lump sum amounts increased by 50% and linked to the implementation of the ticket bonus system, a bonus award system for extraordinary achievements in women's events, a volunteering concept and the definition of key personnel, and the update of the manuals. Regarding the ticketing shares, the EHF is looking for optimised spectator attendance and after a very detailed discussion with input from all participants; it was envisaged to implement a system, which motivates organisers to have full halls with a minimum of 90% of the available capacity filled.

5.3. Club Competitions

The CC Chairman and CSO presented the proposal of the consultation group for the admission and distribution of clubs to the VELUX EHF Champions League. The teams designated to Groups A and B, as well as to C and D and one qualification group were confirmed by the EXEC after clarification.

The nomination is based on:

- the ranking/seeding
- the criteria catalogue in place
- the evaluation has taken place with the CC Chairman, CSO, EHFMD MD and a club representative.

The number of ambitious clubs was voiced by Vice President Bošković and the EXEC agreed to actively contact the clubs having submitted applications, but not having been granted a place.

The same procedure with the identical consultation group took place for the Women's EHF Champions League with finally 14 places granted and two qualification groups.

The results for the 2017/18 Champions Leagues club distribution were published immediately after the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the Croatian Handball Federation represented by President Grahovac and Secretary General Poljak joined the meeting and were welcomed by the EHF. Jointly, the positive atmosphere at the draw and the strong engagement of the Croatian Organising Committee were

highlighted and seen as a very good outlook for the upcoming EURO. The EHF underlined that in addition to a good organisation, full halls in all venues are of core importance for the sport of handball; the EHF President thanked HRS for their ambitious approach to the draw and the Beach Handball EUROs.

6. Marketing perspectives

6.1. EUROs after 2020

6.2. Champions League after 2020

Both issues were on the agenda of the March meeting of the Executive Committee and detailed presentations on the historical development, respectively partnerships, took place. Since then various activities in the direction of current EHF and EHF Partners were undertaken, and especially with the club representatives' clarification regarding the interest of all parties was sought.

To the EHF events and meetings (including copies of letters addressed to the different contact partners), the EXEC members were updated, and in Cologne, the situation was clarified with the stakeholders, in particular the club representatives. On the occasion of the MFCH General Assembly, the overall strategy was presented to all the clubs: a tender will be launched for the rights of the Champions Leagues as of 2020 and the EHF EUROs as of 2022. The tender is supposed to be defined in cooperation with an external consultant and will target a larger field of partners in a modular form in order to optimise the result due to the amount of content. Individual meetings of the President with all partners (in part with the presence of the EHF MD Szlezak) took place explaining the procedure in order to promote transparency. In a separate working session with MFCH President O'Callaghan and MD Butzeck the future cooperation with a shared responsibility regarding principal decisions for the marketing of the men's Champions League was discussed and later on their confirmation, after internal consultation, was received.

6.3. Further procedure

The Executive Committee was asked for an approval of the tender procedure in respect to long term partnerships to be worked out within due course and to be published in September. The approval was given with the understanding that the final decision on any partnership would be tabled before the Executive Committee.

Furthermore, the Executive Committee mandated the President and Secretary General to develop a long term Memorandum of Understanding with the clubs to be approved at a later date by the Executive Committee. The MoU will be necessary in order to involve a club representation in the decision making process on the respective part of the tender.

7. 2017/2018 Conferences - information

7.1. 10th EHF Conference for Secretaries General

All documents relating to the Conference including the minutes were published. The meeting, as usual, was regarded as a working session on a professional level and organised together with the qualification draw for FRA 2018, and therefore ideas for further treatment on various levels were produced.

7.2. 36th Ordinary IHF Congress

There is no specific report in addition to the separate documents sent out by the IHF. Regarding elections and motions, the rundown is published and, specifically, one motion (NOR) was sent in copy to the EHF. Detailed discussion of the motions and the position of the EHF will take place

upon receipt, and subsequently at the September EXEC meeting. For a motion of MNE regarding players' nationality change (eligibility), clarification will follow if this is a motion to the IHF Council or the IHF Congress. However, the EXEC basically supports the idea, which is following the rules in football (FIFA).

7.3. 4th EHF Scientific Conference

The conference title 'The Player in Focus' describes the content and resulting from the scientific approach through the players' approach, the input will be analysed and this will also include issues of equipment.

7.4. 13th EHF Conference of Presidents

Regarding the organisation of the event, a brief report was given on the planned CoP in Zagreb on the fringes of the final weekend of the EHF EURO. Points relating to the content will be discussed together with the 2018 EHF Congress.

7.5. 14th Ordinary EHF Congress

The written report of V. Lazić on the Edinburgh inspection was amended by a report on the hotel and finance situation. Eventually, in close cooperation EHF-SCO, it was proposed to organise the Congress in Glasgow, which offers much better hotel/Congress facilities and regular pricing in particular, instead of Edinburgh. The Executive Committee agreed to the change due to organisational reasons.

Referring to the content of the Congress, President Wiederer reminded the EXEC members of his statement at the 2016 Congress that based on previous experiences with structural changes and issues relating to the statutes, a clarification for the EHF, for the period as of 2020, has to follow at the 2018 EHF Congress. The Executive Committee agreed to the proposal to start the structural discussion and to have an exchange of information at the Conference of Presidents in January 2018 in order to work out formal motions afterwards to be discussed and decided in June 2018.

8. Other issues

Relating to the task distribution between Executive Committee/President/Secretary General/Office – the rules of procedure need to be adapted; the work will commence in August in order to be completed by September for the approval of the Executive Committee. Based on the input of member Jørstad, a special section will be implemented in context to the tasks of the Finance Delegation.

Regarding structural issues, a project was launched based on the initiative of the Italian Handball Federation for the analysis of its Federation, structures, and activities. Honorary President Brihault, on the basis of his competences from the academic world, where he carried out such evaluation processes, developed a strategy and had a first meeting with FIGH and in the presence of Senior Manager Höritsch. This pilot project will be evaluated and possibly structured as a part of the EHF Development Project, especially for middle ranked and smaller federations.

WHB Chairwoman Lecusanu informed briefly on the activities taking reference that the WHB is targeting a positive development of and in women's handball, and therefore needs the support of the other parts of the EHF. The WHB requested a stronger online presence and awaits homepage activities.

Member Brencans informed on his professional activities on the level of technology for indoor sports such as basketball, ice hockey, and handball as well. He underlined that these activities are not

connected to his EXEC position and, in case of any contact of the EHF with this field of activity and the company, he will recuse himself from the discussions.

The President handed over symbolic gifts to those EXEC Members having recently celebrated a birthday. The meeting was closed with thanks for the efficient execution of the meeting and it was specifically remarked that the September meeting with the involvement of the new Secretary General will see a new structure and task distribution within the Executive Committee.

For the Minutes: M. Wiederer/M. Brown
Vienna, 28 June 2017

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