

## Minutes on the 136<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal

**Date/Time:** 28 September 2017 / 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 16:00

**Venue:** Olissippo Oriente Hotel Lisbon

<b>Participants:</b>	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Treasurer
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Jerzy Elias	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
	Martin Hausleitner	EHF Secretary General
	Andrea Moser	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President
<b>Guest:</b>	David Szlezak	Managing Director EHF (partly)
	Sascha Kojic	CEO SN1 (partly)
<b>Excused:</b>	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

### 1. Welcome, programme and agenda

President Wiederer welcomed the members to the Executive Committee meeting held at the beginning of the new season.

The EXEC was welcomed by officials of the Portuguese government, Joao Paulo Rebelo, Secretary of State of Sport and Youth, the City of Lisbon, the Councillor of the Municipality of Lisbon as well as representatives of the event's host, the Portuguese Handball Federation, President Miguel Laranjeiro and International Director Leonor Mallozzi.

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the programme and the agenda.

### 2. Minutes of Executive Committee 06/2017

The minutes of the June 2017 meeting were approved without further comment.

### 3. Reports and decisions

#### 3.1. Finance Delegation

##### 3.1.1. Minutes of meeting 09/2017

The minutes were confirmed.

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

SG Hausleitner provided information on further questions of current interest concerning support for the development of the Handball Federation of Malta as well as the future cooperation with the EPHU. Further negotiations will take place.

The FD presented a suggestion to offer additional support to National Federations taking part in the Youth competitions Men 18 and Women 17. The EXEC approved the proposal to assist every team signed in for the respective competition with a contribution of 4000 € each, starting from 2018.

Based on the established development fund additional resources are to be invested to strengthen the EURO Qualification Phase 2 in 2018. A discussion with the Nation Board will take place accordingly.

### **3.1.2. 2017 Finances**

Treasurer La Cour gave a comprehensive overview of the papers submitted. The financial perspectives for the business year 2017 were described as positive. On the income side, partnership agreements as well as income from the ordinary business are developing well. Due to the EURO distribution key, funds going to participants, the qualification, and to clubs for the release players will likewise increase.

The 2018 Budget was adopted at the 2016 Congress; a first meeting with the Treasurer for an update was scheduled in September in Vienna, due to detailed cost information from the various departments, a status report can be given in January 2018.

The timeline for the drafting of the Budget 2019 – 2020 was presented to members of the EXEC. As all major partnership contracts will end in 2020, the budget will be based on the usual figures and on past Congress decisions splitting the income from the respective competitions between EHF, National Federations and the Clubs.

In March 2018, the draft for the Budget 2019 and 2020 will be presented to the EXEC for adoption at the Congress in June 2018.

At the request of the Comptrollers, petty cash rules were drafted, presented and approved.

The accounts of the federations are largely balanced. A few open cases will be resolved within the next weeks.

### **3.1.3. Rules of Procedure**

President Wiederer presented information concerning work on the Rules of Procedure for the EXEC and the Professional Staff, which had first been issued in 2002 and later revised in 2006. Following the discussion in the EXEC and after the appointment of the new Secretary General, new Rules of Procedure were drafted, taking into account the new situation with a professional president as a CEO, the Secretary General as a COO and the Chief Sport Officer (CSO) and the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in their positions as General Management members. Furthermore the responsibilities are defined regarding functions defined via the Statutes and of the professional staff. On the level of the political leadership the function of the Finance Delegation of the EHF as a body being useful for the preparation of EXEC on the field of finances and finance related issues was defined.

The document was discussed and approved by the EXEC. The Rules of Procedure will be sent to the National Federations to inform them of the structure in the spirit of transparency.

The EXEC agreed to re-evaluate the situation on 2019.

### **3.2. Report of the Legal Management / ECA Council**

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

At the time nine cases were pending at the Court of Handball, four of which should be specially mentioned as these are the first doping cases in the history of the EHF. All procedures required by WADA and the EHF legal procedures were followed, including the official statement of the EHF on its website. Hearings of the players have been organized.

The EHF Court of Arbitration is currently dealing with the case of the abandonment of the match MKD-GRE during the EHF Championship Women 17 in MKD.

### **3.3. Report of the 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. 3 samples were tested positive during the Women 19 EHF Euro 2017 in Slovenia. Legal procedures were started accordingly. A provisional suspension of the players has been confirmed by the Court of Handball who is responsible for the further handling. Any consequences and general questions will be discussed after the legal proceedings have been closed.

Further Anti-Doping missions will be scheduled during National Team Competitions, Club team competitions as well as in the form of out-of-competition controls.

THE EXEC underlined the functioning of the EAU system.

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

On the basis of the minutes of the EHF Advisory 08/2017, the situation of EHF Marketing and in particular the financial consequences for the EHF budget were highlighted; the Managing Director of the EHF Marketing, Davis Szlezak reported on a very positive business year, with three successfully organized Final Four Events of the EHF CUP, the Women's CL in Budapest, as well as the Men's Champions League Final 4 in Cologne.

The business year was closed, the book inspection by the clubs will take place on 9 October, and the EHF Comptrollers will do their work on 17/18 October. By that time, the external auditor's report will be ready. The General Assembly (shareholders' meeting) of the EHF Marketing will have to adopt the result of the business year 2016/17 at its December meeting.

### **3.5. Report on other business partners**

#### **Infront**

The final accounts of the Euro 2016 showed a positive result. The Clubs have been informed, the distribution will be the subject of further talks. The participating nations received their shares accordingly.

#### **Salming**

A meeting took place in Vienna in August. On the agenda were marketing issues, the preparation of the EURO 2018 in CRO, including the topic of merchandising, as well as beach handball and the delivery of products.

#### **Select/Kinexon**

A new project, the I Ball, started with a first test during the CL game PSG against Meshkov Brest. The new chipped Ball will be able to deliver several data feeds, which can be used for marketing,

but also for solving methods-related questions. The next meeting has been scheduled on 9 October.

### **Sportradar**

The new Data Scouting system project was introduced at the start of the season. Cooperation with Sportradar has improved; a further integration of the system is being planned on different levels. Furthermore, the EHF is dealing with the additional service of Brand protection through fraud detection. First meetings to clarify the environment have taken place. Further information will follow.

### **3.6. Report on Stakeholder Groups**

The EXEC received the minutes of the various stakeholder groups in the following order:

Notes of meetings with MFCH held on 17 August and 19 September, with the WFCH on 18 September; invitations have been sent out for the meetings with NB, PHB and the WHB scheduled to take place in Vienna from 9 to 11 October.

In addition to the existing documents, President Wiederer gave an update on the development of a new Memorandum of Understanding governing the cooperation between the EHF and Clubs on an international level, presented by the FCH.

The negotiations started in early spring 2017, followed by open communication with all stakeholders involved to find a balanced solution accommodating the different interests. Finally, in the September meeting mentioned, the leader of the EHF and the FCH agreed on a structure. The structure includes the representation of the clubs and the decision-making process for leading the EHF, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding regulating the cooperation between the clubs and the EHF on a long term basis from 2018 to 2030.

In his function as President of FCH, Xavier O'Callaghan expressed thanks for the open discussion and his trust in the solution.

Following further positive statements on the cooperation between the EHF and the leadership of the clubs, the new Memorandum of Understanding was approved by the EXEC for signing on 16 October.

### **3.7. Report on international activities**

President Michael Wiederer gave a report on the IHF council meeting held in late August on the occasion of the Men 19 WCH in Georgia. The EHF was represented by President Michael Wiederer and Vice President Predrag Boskovic in their IHF functions.

The preparation of the IHF congress, including elections, formed the centre of discussions at the Council meeting.

Pointing to the issue of holdings functions in the EHF EXEC as well as in the IHF Executive, EXEC member Narcisa Lecusanu informed the meeting about her candidature for the IHF, saying that she would withdraw from her function in the EHF after a possible successful election at the IHF Congress to fully comply with the EHF Statutes.

Wiederer said that all persons nominated by the EHF to various IHF commissions will continue in their functions until the Congress. After the election, the EHF leadership will evaluate the situation.

#### **4. Technical Commissions' minutes / reports and decisions 04/2017**

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

On behalf of the Technical Delegation, Bozidar Djurkovic gave a brief report.

There is a strong common understanding of the need to further develop the technologies in EHF and in handball. This concern the tools used at the matches, but also in education and further education. A number of activities are therefore taking place in the area of Technology Support (enlarged Instant Replay at the EURO in CRO, the I Ball Project, which is still at the beginning, the Digital Score Sheet with more matches and access for a large number of persons, Online Education and Testing for EHF-Delegates, etc.).

Activities on the coaches' side and cooperation with Universities will round off the image for the future of modern handball.

##### **4.2. Competitions Commission**

CC Chairman Djurković presented the minutes of the August meeting as well as an updated report on the follow-up and recent activities, also referring to agenda 5.2. and 5.3..

##### **4.2.1. National Team Competitions**

The qualification matches for 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA have started. For the first time ever, all 28 matches of the qualification week will be streamed live on ehftv.com.

The Women's World Championship in GER will take place in December. POL received a Wild Card from the IHF and replaces the team from OCE.

The Qualification Europe for the 2019 Men's World Championship in DEN and GER will start with Phase 1 at the end of October. The Play-Off matches will be drawn in CRO in January and will be played in June 2018.

##### **EHF EURO 2018 in CRO**

The Officials Conference with all Delegates and Referees took place in Vienna at the end of August, 12 out of 14 couples will be nominated for the event in Croatia

The Heads of Delegation Conference will take place in Zagreb/CRO between 10 and 12 of October 2017. For the first time, the teams will have the chance to announce 8 team officials and the players' replacement will be handled in a new way, as all teams are allowed to replace a total of 6 players during the entire tournament.

The Goal Light Technology as well as the goal line technology and instant replay will be used at the EHF EURO 2018 in CRO in the same way as at the Women's EURO in SWE. In addition, the exchange of players will also be recorded for instant replay, with two extra cameras covering the benches area to detect cases of incorrect substitutions.

Information was provided on the summer events W17 EURO in SVK, W17 Championships in LTU and MKD, W19 EURO in SLO. The reports of all 4 YAC competitions in 2017 are available. All YAC events were well organized and executed on a high level.

Nevertheless, there are still some issues to be improved, which will also be integrated into the YAC 2018 Workshop to be held at the beginning of November this year: support by the host, hall/advertising set-up, minimum standards for media matters, handling of direct red cards.

YAC events in 2018 are: M18 EURO CRO and Championships AUT/GEO, M20 EURO SLO and Championships MKD/MNE, WU18 WCh POL, WU20 WCh HUN

The workshop will take place in Vienna on 2 November (Championships in AUT, GEO, MKD, MNE) and on 3 November (EUROs CRO and SLO).

The Executive Committee approved the minutes and took note of the report.

#### **4.2.2. Club Competitions**

The season started according to schedule, the first rounds have been played. Playing dates in the CL still remain an issue, especially dates with German teams due to their newly fixed schedule with matches on Thursdays and Sundays.

The Men's CL game of Zaporoshje vs. Chekhovski in Round 1 was played without any troubles or conflicts.

A Men's team from TUR withdrew from the competition in the Challenge Cup. A legal case was opened as a standard procedure.

The implementation of the Sportradar Data Scouting system had a difficult start, but is improving steadily. This topic needs a lot of resources at the Office, both EHF and EHF Marketing.

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

In addition to the minutes of the August meeting, MC Chairman Eliaz gave a detailed report on the EHF YAC EURO and championship analyses, activities in the framework of the RINCK Convention, information about the EU Week of Sport (23 – 29 September), the upcoming Wheelchair workshop in November, the project of Player's tracking data undertaken together with the Handball Federation of Sweden as well as preparations for the 2017 Scientific Conference.

The Executive Committee approved the minutes and took note of the report; the SMART Programme with England proposed by the MC was approved.

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

The minutes of the BC Meeting from 08/2017 were amended and updated by a report given by BC Chairman Jørstad.

Upcoming events include the 2017 Beach Handball Champions' CUP from 26 to 29 October, the cooperation with the University Las Palmas, 12 Men and 12 Women teams were organized within minutes, nominated immediately upon opening of the registration.

The EXEC agreed on the new date for the EHF Beach EURO in MNE from 29 June to 1 July.

The Executive Committee approved the minutes and took note of the report. Based on the BC meeting and as a preparation for the upcoming season, three motions were presented and subsequently approved: the List of Penalties for Beach Handball, making the participation in a national Beach Handball course obligatory for a BH education course on an European level as of 2020, and the EHF-EUSA cooperation agreement (to be finalized) concerning "2018 European University Beach Handball Championships/EUSA"

### **5. Competitions – reports and decisions**

#### **5.1. Organisation of events**

The written report contained a summary of notes on already completed events and their follow-up: the final accounts of the Women's EHF EURO 2016 have been completed. The summer

events were listed and had run smoothly. The issue concerning the match MKD-GRE and the positive doping cases at the W 19 EURO in SLO were mentioned as well.

#### **5.1.1.2018 Men's EHF EURO CRO**

Media workshop on 18/19 September took place with the involvement of a new partner. Ticket sales are running well, driven by substantial interest of the participating federations as well as strong interest on the Croatian market.

#### **5.1.2.2018 Women's EHF EURO FRA**

The second, more detailed report, referred to the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France and various issues regarding the organisation: new requests from the OC France concerning venue set up have been received and will be discussed.

#### **5.1.3.2020 Men's EHF EURO SWE/AUT/NOR**

Regarding the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR, the final proposal for the cooperation among the hosting federations on the EHF Euro Cup has been presented and can be finalised in October.

The draw for the qualification will take place in Trondheim/NOR in April 2018. A workshop on the development of the EURO Qualifications, as well as a workshop on new media and cooperation at social media level will be organized in the framework of the draw event.

### **5.2. National Team Competitions**

Following the request of EXEC member Gabriella Horvath concerning the cooperation between the EOC and the EHF in respect of the EOYF, President Wiederer provided information about the cooperation, which involves mainly the nomination of referees (YRP), but not organizational issues. The request to accept games at the EOYF as official international games were redirected to the IHF for implementation in the regulations.

BC Chairman Ole Jorstad underlined the interest of Beach Handball to be part of the next European Olympic Games 2019, in Minsk.

### **5.3. Club Competitions**

The EXEC approved the renewal of the agreement with the SHEA League. On request of the Women's Regional Handball League (WRHL), a meeting has been scheduled to strengthen women's handball in the South East European region.

### **5.4. Competition-related issues**

Following information from the Greek Handball Federation stressing the political situation arising between games of Greece and FYRO Macedonia, President Wiederer informed the EXEC that, looking forward similar cases are likely to occur between other countries as well. The EHF Office staff will deal with possible procedures for upcoming cases and will present proposals for consideration by the EXEC.

The Austrian Handball Federation sent two letters stressing the advertising rights of the federations. After a clarification in a first answering letter it was clarified in a personal meeting, that obvious misinformation in the follow up on the EHF Congress 2014 led to misunderstandings. The new EHF EURO regulations were discussed and negotiated after a working group with NB representatives, followed by a decision of the EXEC, as provided for by

the Congress 2014. The EHF then signed a contract with business partner Infront, the income from which will go to the development of the EHF EURO qualifications.

The whole process of adaptations of EHF Euro regulations was done in a proper and transparent way. The topic will be discussed further on the level of the Nations Board.

## **6. Marketing perspectives**

### **6.1. – 6.3. EUROS and Champions League after 2020**

Both issues were on the agenda of the March and the June meetings of the Executive Committee and detailed presentations were delivered on the historical development and the partnerships.

President Michael Wiederer provided a detailed update on the progress of the process, including a timeline of the release of the tender and the decision making process, taking also into consideration the consequences for future competitions.

Preparatory measures such as market analyses, the preparation of high-quality tender papers, and finalization of a new Memorandum of Understanding finally led to the release of the tender on 18 September. The EHF is looking forward to a successful tender process, expecting a decision to be taken within the next 6 months, and further to the implementation of a new structure of partnerships.

At the invitation of the EXEC, the representative of the consultant agency for the tender process SN1, Sascha Kojic, presented the content of the tender covering audio-visual as well as marketing rights of the EHF competitions. A future partner will be asked to not only buy rights, but to provide in addition an exploitation concept and a development strategy for a long-term partnership till 2030.

To date, more than 20 qualified media companies and agencies have been provided with the tender documents upon their request.

### **6.4. Further Action**

Approval to take further steps for the preparation of decisions was given with the understanding that the information on a partnership will be presented to the Executive Committee for adoption.

## **7. 2017/2018 Conferences - information**

### **7.1. 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress**

There was no specific report further to the separate documents sent out by the IHF. Regarding elections and motions, the rundown has been published. A Continental meeting will be held on 10 November, the evening before the IHF Congress.

### **7.2. 4<sup>th</sup> EHF Scientific Conference**

The title of the Conference is: "Scientific approach to the Player's environment – from participation to the top". 53 abstracts have been received to date; approximately 80-100 participants are expected to attend.

### **7.3. 13<sup>th</sup> EHF Conference of Presidents**

Regarding the organisation of the event, a brief report was given on the CoP panned in Zagreb on the fringes of the final weekend of the EHF EURO. In terms of the development of the EHF for a professional future on a leadership level, the EXEC approved the motion to appoint a strategic working group to evaluate and develop the current structure of the EHF Statutes. Under the



chairmanship of former President Jean Brihault and with an external expert, Ole Jorstadt as representative of the Technical Commissions, further members Morten Stig Christensen (Chairman Nations Board) and Narcisa Lecusanu (Chairperson Women's Handball Board), the Vice President and the Secretary General will discuss this major contribution for the future of the EHF and present first results at the CoP in Zagreb.

#### **7.4. 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress**

The congress will take place on 19/20 June in Glasgow. In the follow-up to the strategic working group motions will be developed and presented for adoption in June 2018.

#### **7.5. Future Activities**

To promote the development of national team competitions, most importantly the Euro Qualification 2020, the EHF has scheduled a workshop within the framework of the draw event for the EURO Qualification 2020 in Trondheim. The main topics of the workshop will be the development of regulations with the operational side and the value of social media platforms.

### **8. Other issues**

#### **8.1. Report WHB**

Chairwoman Lecusanu briefly reported about the activities which took place since the last meeting and on the preparation of the workshop for strengthening the Women's Handball Network in October.

#### **8.2. EHF Presentation by Officials**

La Cour pointed out the importance of the representation of the EHF through its officials at EHF events. Rules for a dress code for official appearances will be prepared.

The President handed over symbolic gifts to EXEC Members who recently celebrated their birthdays. The meeting was closed with thanks for the contributions of the EXEC members.

For the Minutes: M. Hausleitner  
Vienna, 2 October 2017

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