

## Minutes to the 138<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting in Hamburg, Germany

**Date:** 16 December 2017

**Time:** 09:00 – 13:00  
14:00 – 15:30

**Venue:** Gastwerk Hotel – Meeting room “Denk.Mal”

<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	Secretary General
	Andrea Moser	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome, programme and agenda

Opening the final meeting of the year, EHF President Michael Wiederer introduced the prominent guests invited to welcome the EHF Executive Committee to Germany and to the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHF Women’s World Handball Championship.

IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa welcomed the group to the final weekend of the world championship. Moustafa stated that he was pleased that the IHF and the EHF continued to work together, moving in the same direction, to promote the sport. President Moustafa emphasised that the IHF remained open to all contact and stated that handball is a unique sport and needs to be treated as such both now and in future. The organisation of handball has to follow the same lines especially from the technical aspects. In closing, President Moustafa extended season’s greetings to the Executive Committee.

President Wiederer underlined the large amount of work been undertaken within the EHF and the IHF and the cooperation between both organisations. He mentioned the encouraging development with the tournament for the emerging nations, as well as how the World Championship is also positive for the ongoing development of women's handball.

President Andreas Michelmann of the German Handball Federation welcomed the Executive Committee to Hamburg and the event. He noted that the results of the German national team were disappointing and that although the event was not without its problems, no championship is, he hoped that all the guests were happy and have enjoyed the event. Following the departure of the guests, President Wiederer introduced JJ Rowland, head of EHF Media who was in Hamburg for the AIPS meeting and who would be present in part to report on the EXEC meeting. Finally, Wiederer noted that AP7 would be dealt with at the end of the meeting to allow time for any discussion necessary.

## **2. Minutes Executive Committee 09/2017**

With the minutes at hand, there was no additional comment to the meeting that took place in Lisbon, POR in September. President Wiederer noted for the minutes that following the meeting a circular resolution took place awarding the 2018 EHF Masters Handball Championship to Innsbruck, AUT (7 votes in favour of Innsbruck, 1 in favour of Montesilvano, 3 abstentions due to neutrality reasons).

## **3. Reports and decisions**

### **3.1. Finance Delegation**

#### **3.1.1. Minutes meeting 10/2017**

EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner gave a brief report on the meeting that took place at the end of October in Berlin. With the report at hand, the Executive Committee were informed that the Finance Delegation dealt with the budget and financial questions. Information on business partnerships, personnel, and other topics would be discussed at the relevant part of the agenda. President Wiederer reiterated that the Finance Delegation is a preparatory body for the EXEC dealing with strategic aspects to the various issues in addition to finances and contractual partnerships.

#### **3.1.2. 2017 Finances**

EHF Treasurer La Cour gave his report on the EHF finances and stated that the organisation is in a good position especially in terms of partnership agreements. There was positive development in the areas of transfers and fines with both areas showing growth. Savings have also been made on the side of organisation expenditure and the result is better than expected. Treasurer La Cour congratulated CFO Moser on the result and her team for the good work.

As a follow-up to the last meeting, the Treasurer reported that the FAR account has been settled and the case is closed and that compensation for the elected members and a bonus for the professional staff had been approved; it was underlined that this was all within the existing budget and at no extra cost to the organisation. In response to the question about the decrease to the YAC ECh budget

(line 62), the Executive Committee are informed that the adjustment was made due to the lesser number of participating teams.

The Executive Committee were also informed that the final 2017 result will be known in early spring and until that point the organisation will continue its normal rundown. The 2016 and 2017 accounting, as well as an updated (intermediate) 2018 budget will also be presented at the EHF Congress in June in Glasgow, SCO.

### **3.1.3. Other Finance issues**

Treasurer La Cour underlined the positive development in the area of revenues and the excellent cooperation with the Finance Department; costs are controlled and the cooperation and work with the clubs and federations is also good.

### **3.2. Report Legal Management**

With the legal report at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner gave a short summary on the cases. Nine cases are pending, eight are closed, and one case was submitted to the Court of Appeal. It was noted that one particular case (out of the competition area) did prove quite costly for the EHF, as a further consequence, the aims to expand the education for delegates. The Executive Committee were also informed that the legal challenges concerning the name of the Final4 and the EHF domain are still open.

In addition, President Wiederer spoke of the final decision taken by the Court of Arbitration (ECA) on 7 November in the GRE/MKD case and underlined that the ECA is not an EHF internal system (this is to safeguard against lawsuits) and that the majority of its arbitrators do not come from the realm of handball. The arbitrator of the case came from Spain and specialises in sports rights; the decision that was made in favour of the EHF came with recommendations that highlighted that the EHF had to be more aware as what concerns such matches and sensitive situations. It was understood that such situations would arise again and on a professional level the appropriate measures will be taken. President Wiederer emphasised that the recommendations would not be ignored.

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

With the written report at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner voiced the strengthened intention against doping; it was requested that the budget for AD education in the area of youth handball and more testing be increased. It was recognised that there is currently not enough information; a new agreement with H. Holdhaus would be put in place. It was expressed that a budget for the EAU and its forward planning was necessary. The Executive Committee approved this request.

### **3.4. Report EHF Marketing GmbH / Advisory Board meeting 11/2017**

The EHF General Assembly took place on 14 December in Hamburg. Vice President Bošković reported on the positive 2016/17 result that exceeded the projected figures. It was noted that the budget for 2017/18 rose by 14 per cent. The changes on a structural and personnel level were briefly mentioned. The EHF Advisory Board held four meetings in the 2016/17 period and two meetings were held so far in the 2017/18 period. Much discussion has revolved around the EHF Champions

Leagues in the future and possibilities for further development hand in hand with procedures surrounding the tender process. It was stated that there has been much positive cooperation and there could be significant changes in the future. The topics will be on the agenda of the Executive Committee meetings to come.

President Wiederer added that the conduct (incl. finances) of the EHF are controlled on different levels – by the clubs, external auditors, and the internal comptrollers. In this area, no questions arose and the payments to the clubs and the EHF are developing. The 2017/18 forecast is positive for all stakeholders. It was commented that the Managing Director David Szlezak has a good handle on the development of the EHF Marketing GmbH – there has been an increase in revenues and a decrease in costs, as well as an improvement in the atmosphere in the office. President Wiederer underlined the increased control of expenditure in the area of the Final4 by keeping the quality and mentioned that EHF would continue to work on the internal structure.

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

The EHF Executive Committee were informed on the changes within INFRONT; a new Head of Summer Sports, Julien Ternisien will be installed as S. Herth will be moved exclusively to football. The I-Ball project has been halted indefinitely as it proved not to be cost effective to the EHF; there are many similar products on the market which are to be explored. Analogous to EHF, key accounts will be installed on the side of the EHF. An agreement with the GRAWE insurance agency was signed for the sleeve advertising for the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia; the agreement will be implemented where there is no other insurance advertising in use.

Furthermore, the EHF wishes to enter into an agreement with Sportradar to deal with the area of fraud detection to which the Executive Committee were informed on the details (incl. costs) of the agreement that would see the monitoring of betting activity steered by external data and CSO Glaser nominated as the integrity responsible to receive the alerts, where the information would be transmitted to the legal department where the decision on any legal action would be taken. It was stated that it is imperative to protect the sport. The Executive Committee approved the move.

In response to the question of what is happening in the area of eSports, the EXEC were informed that handball is, resp. clubs are, too small to support this topic, but the EHF has to be ready in case of a change in the market, thus eSports rights were excluded from the tender process.

Closing the agenda sub-point, it was requested that more important news subjects be sent for translation into other languages for the websites of the Federations for a broader reach as some people do not read their handball news in English.

### **3.6. Report international activities**

With the minutes at hand, brief information on the content of the two IHF Council meetings prior to (Nr.12) and after (Nr.1) the IHF Congress was given to the EXEC. It was noted that the minutes to meeting 12 were accepted without correction and an email was addressed to the IHF containing comments to meeting 1 and were taken into consideration.

Treasurer La Cour added a short verbal report on the IHF (election) Congress that took place in Antalya (TUR) commenting on the re-election of President Moustafa and the election of others to key leadership positions within the IHF including the election of N. Lecusanu (ROU) to the IHF Executive Committee. It is foreseen that the members of the IHF Technical Commissions will be nominated during the next IHF Council meeting in Zagreb (CRO). The organisation and execution of the IHF Congress was very professional and the materials were very well presented. On behalf of the EHF and its Executive Committee, WHB Chairwoman N. Lecusanu was congratulated on her election to the IHF Executive Committee. A general discussion took place on the election mode and the rundown of discussions on motions. The IHF sent a questionnaire to the participants asking for feedback. Furthermore, it was mentioned that an agreement of cooperation was signed between the FCH and the IHF. Concerning the international calendar a meetings held in Vienna provided a sound basis for the activities in the season 2019/20.

### **3.7. Additional reports**

With the list at hand the Executive Committee were informed on personnel changes. It was underlined that a replacement needs to be sought for M. Röhrer (IT). A report in writing on the President's activities was in hand including the information on cooperation visits e.g. in SRB, HUN, and GER. EHF Honorary President, Jean Brihault took part in a meeting of the EU for matters of Sport Diplomacy.

## **4. Technical Commissions / reports and decisions**

### **4.1. Competitions Commission**

In the area of national team events CC Chairman Djurković reported that Qualification Europe to the Men's 2019 IHF World Handball Championship commenced with Phase 1 in October and is now on its winter hiatus. Following the play-off draw at the end of January, the matches of the qualification will resume in June 2018. To the upcoming EHF EURO 2018 all preparatory issues regarding the referee and delegates for the final tournament are in hand; 12 from the original 14 couples are going to Croatia. The workshop for the YAC summer 2018 events took place in Vienna with all organisers present at the beginning of November. Contact with the organisers is ongoing and contracts will be finalised over the winter. With the first half of the current club season complete, CC Chairman Djurković gave a brief reiteration of the match in Round 2 of the EHF Cup that resulted in a legal process (CoH) where the decision was taken to play the 7m throws in a separate session.

### **CC Motions to the Executive Committee:**

Motion 1: Change of Venue for 2018 M18 in GEO. With the document at hand, the EXEC approved the motion to change the venue from Tbilisi to Telavi.

Motion 2: Player replacements in qualification tournaments in YAC and senior competitions: In accordance with the document presented and following the explanation given by CSO Glaser, the EXEC approved the motion as written in order to support the participating nations.

#### **4.2. Methods Commission**

With the report at hand, MC Chairman Eliasz reported on the activities since September. 13 EHF Master Coaches from 9 countries received their Academic Master's degree from the University of Las Palmas on the 2 November in Vienna. In this partnership between the European Handball Federation and the ULPGC, coaches who are already in possession of the Master Coach Diploma were allowed to enter the final stages of the new postgraduate Master degree, the MSc. EHF Master Coach. All 13 EHF Master Coaches completed and passed a final project, a Master's thesis, to gain the Master's degree. The previously attended Master Coach course was acknowledged by the university in line with the European Bologna system.

The minutes of the 2017 EHF Working Group Wheelchair Handball in early November have been distributed. The 2018 European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament is to be played in Portugal. The Hungarian Handball Federation registered its interest to host the event in 2019 and the Netherlands Handball Federation has registered its interest to host the event in 2020. Growing interest from the National Federations indicates that a Wheelchair Handball European Championship could be possible in the future. The working group noted the objective of getting wheelchair handball included on the list of Paralympic disciplines. It was noted that there are no physical or intellectual disability events included in the EHF Statutes and that a Congress decision would be necessary to make the amendment; the Executive Committee agreed that a motion would be formulated for the 2018 EHF Congress.

President Wiederer reported on an initial meeting with Mariuz Damentko, Secretary General of the Special Olympics (supported by the IOC). The organisation expressed its wish to enter into a cooperation partnership with the EHF. It was underlined that a potential partnership would not target financial support but rather having the EHF as part of its system. It was noted that there was no time pressure to conclude an agreement.

The 2017 EHF Scientific Conference (4<sup>th</sup> edition) was held in mid-November in Vienna, AUT under the title "Scientific approach to players' environment – from participation to the top". A comprehensive report was submitted to the Executive Committee and all presentations are available to watch via the official EHF CAN YouTube channel. A full-scale documentation was published to the EHF cloud. Furthermore full-text articles will be published in an e-book and a printed version in February 2018. All articles can be accessed via [eurohandball.com](http://eurohandball.com), documentation available until January.

In the area of development the request from Montenegro concerning the support of a "Mini Handball" project within the scope of the SMART programme is in the preparation phase. Six short-term requests for national coaching courses have been supported, the first course commenced in November and the last course will run in January 2018. The 2018 EHF "RINCK" Convention Master Coach and Licensing Course - module 1- is planned during EHF EURO 2018 in CRO in combination with a Top Coaches' Course. Over 600 participants are expected. The request for support submitted to the Finance Delegation by the European Handball Players Union (EHPU) and its objective to continue the development of its infrastructure was approved by the Executive Committee.

#### **4.3. Beach Handball Commission**

BC Chairman Jørstad opened his report on the follow-up to the EHF-EUSA meeting in late November that focused on the pre-conditions of a possible implementation of BH into the EUSA activities (2019 EUSA BH Universities Championships, 2020 EUSA Games). It was commented that the cooperation is positive and both sides are working together to produce a show event (handball only) in summer 2018 with a view to the EUSA Games (20 disciplines) in 2020. The EUSA approach is professional in every aspect. President Wiederer noted that it was relevant to have beach handball find its way into the university stream and onto the teaching programme in an effort to gain access to young players.

The initial preparations for the 2018 MW18 Beach Handball EURO are in progress. The deadline for team registration has passed with the final number of 17 women's and 15 men's teams. It was foreseen to host the event with 16 + 16 teams. The 2018 event will be the largest event since the inception of the competition. Based on the question as to whether to reduce the women's teams by one was a logistical question, the BC Chairman will look how to use the 17 teams based on signal from EXEC.

Treasurer La Cour questioned if beach handball had any contact to Partille. It was recommended that contact with the leadership of the Partille Organisation Committee in regard to beach handball be established. It was mentioned that facilities to support beach handball were available. Furthermore, the occasion of the EHF Congress will be used to establish contact with National Federations with no beach handball programme, and to encourage the federations in their development of beach handball.

#### **BC Motions to the Executive Committee:**

Motion 1: The ebt Finals (May/June 2018) were awarded to Stare Jablanky/POL, based on the documents provided, the Executive Committee approved the motion.

### **5. Boards and Stakeholders**

#### **5.1. Nations Board**

##### *5.1.1. Minutes and follow up meeting 10/2017*

It was noted that the NB is not a political or decision-making platform, but a stakeholder's platform that makes recommendations and prepares for the Professional Handball Board on behalf of the National Federations. As a consequence, EHF President and Secretary General are not members of the NB, but are regularly invited to take part in the meetings. With the minutes at hand the report given by President Wiederer was brief. At the October meeting, the members of the Nations Board were informed on the tender process. Discussions concerning the regulations to the qualification phases of the events took place and it was agreed that there should be tailored regulations to the different phases to promote better clarification to the participants. The financial distribution related to qualification phase two was clarified as to what participating and non-participating teams would receive in terms of monetary support. Following a detailed explanation to the Executive Committee approval was sought and granted. It was underlined that the figures involved can only be used to improve the qualifications.

## **5.2. Professional Handball Board**

### *5.2.1. Minutes and follow up meeting 10/2017*

With the minutes at hand, it was reiterated that the purpose of the PHB was the expression of different stakeholder interests. No specific questions were raised

### *5.2.2. Forum Club Handball*

The EHF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Men's Forum Club Handball (MFCH) in accordance with the approval of the EXEC given in September. It was underlined that with this agreement, a healthy structure in Europe is secure. It was noted that this was a key document that would oversee the next twelve years. MFCH President, and PHB Chairman, O'Callaghan underlined that the negotiations were handled in the most professional way that was advantageous for both parties and was a perfect example of good cooperation.

### *5.2.3. European Handball Players Union*

The Memorandum of Understanding between the EHF and the EHPU expires at the end of June 2018. Negotiations for the renewal of the agreement are ongoing.

### *5.2.4. European Professional Handball League Association*

The Memorandum of Understanding between the EHF and the EPHLA expires at the end of June 2018. It is proposed not to renew the agreement due to the only small number of leagues being represented there and consequently no full mandate of EPHLA to speak on behalf of the European leagues. Following an update on the current status of the relationship between the EHF and the EPHLA, President Wiederer requested a mandate to begin a process to build a broader basis within the league system commencing with a request that would be submitted via the National Handball Federations of Europe taking into consideration the different forms of league status. The Executive Committee approved the mandate. In the case of a representative to the PHB who distributed EHF internal tender documents to unqualified external parties and transmitting in writing personal disparaging statements to a media representative, the Executive Committee – upon proposal of the President – agreed not to activate the legal bodies in order to avoid negative repercussions for handball and, in particular, his national federation. However, the contact with the respective league will be reduced to the level of business administration.

## **5.3. Women's Handball Board**

### *5.3.1. Minutes and follow up meeting 10/2017*

With document at hand, Chairwoman Lecusanu stated that the activities of the Women's Handball Board, with renewed focus in the area of education, were proceeding accordingly.

### *5.3.2. Workshop for Strengthening Women's Handball*

WHB and Executive Committee Member Horvath underlined the positive development of the workshop that was much improved on the last and stressed that it was a step forward for women's handball. Horvath also underlined the good organisation and content. It is hoped that the next workshop will be yet another advance.



### *5.3.3. Leadership questions*

Following the election of WHB Chairwoman Lecusanu to the IHF Executive Committee, a brief discussion took place as to this development and the consequences on a statutory level. It was recommended that the WHB Chair be transferred to Nodjialem Myaro in March 2018 in order to transfer the seat in the Executive Committee at the end of March. Hence, N. Lecusanu will continue to fulfil her EHF Executive Committee role until March and continue her role in the Women's Handball Board as mandated until the next EHF election Congress.

### *5.3.4. Women's Forum Club Handball*

With the minutes at hand, the Executive Committee took note of the document. Currently negotiations on a new Memorandum of Understanding for the period 2018 – 2022 are not foreseen.

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

### **6.1. Organization of events**

With the document from the EHF EURO department at hand, it was noted that the organisation and preparations for the upcoming events (EHF EURO 2018 CRO/FRA, Masters, W16 European Open, Beach Handball YAC EURO...) are all ongoing. It was noted that a number of high profile meetings will take place on the fringes of the EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia. In 2018 there will be more events than ever before.

To the EHF EUROs in the future, the Executive Committee are informed that all applications for the announced events have been received. There have been withdrawals and the evaluation process on the remaining applications will commence. The discrepancy in the date for the Women's EHF EURO 2022 event will be corrected in the document – the schedule was changed to November to accommodate an event in the international sporting calendar. The Women's EHF EURO 2024 event will be held in December; for this event there are no candidates.

Based on the outcome of the working group that convened to discuss the EHF EURO Cup, it was recommended that the event be played in a home/away format; advertising and TV rights were settled. The changes need to be amended in the EHF statutes. The approval of the motion was granted by the Executive Committee.

Replacement regulations for the EHF EURO Final Tournament were explained in detail; it was underlined that the regulation would be valid for all final tournaments and both the men's and women's events.

### **6.2. National Team Competitions**

The Competitions department continue to work on a potential motion to the pairing of national teams from countries in matches that could cause difficulties; CSO Glaser asked for a postponement until the Executive Committee meeting in January 2018 as the group was not ready to present a finalised motion. The difficulties in preparing the motion were mentioned (passports, visas, flags, national anthems); a comparison to the club competitions was made (flags/no flags). It was underlined that there was no easy solution. In response, Vice President Bošković questioned whether

politics should interfere in sport; it was suggested that the EHF should focus on sporting issues only and consequences for non-compliance should be made known to the National Federations, Clubs, and Players.

### **6.3. Club Competitions**

As a follow-up to the ongoing situation with the German handball league concerning the number of places for GER teams in future club competitions on a Men's EHF Champions League level, it was stated that a different approach was needed. An official statement concerning the decision will be released; the German league will no longer have the option to present a team for the competition wild card due to the match date problems caused by their new TV contract.

Concerning the Women's Regional Handball League (WRHL), a new proposal on a constitutional level has been initiated and meetings with the EHF have taken place. The WRHL would like to refresh the league with the objective of development. At this stage the Executive Committee are informed that this is only the first information. If WRHL development and subsequent talks continue in a positive way, a request would be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval at a later date.

### **6.4. Competition related issues**

Based on the document and additional information supplied; the EHF EXEC followed the recommendation CSO Glaser coordinated with the EHF marketing and granted the organisation rights of the 2018 Men's EHF Cup Finals to SC Magdeburg (GER).

## **7. Tender information**

Opening the agenda point that was dealt with at the end of the meeting, Vice President Bošković stressed the importance of the topic that will decide the future of European handball. With the organisation aiming to implement a new vision in the realm of media and marketing rights, it took a risk and is confident that it will pay off. Bošković used the opportunity to thank all persons involved in the process.

### **7.1. Overall report / Presentation**

With a timeline of tender process available to the members of the Executive Committee, President Wiederer briefly reiterated the work undertaken on an office level in preparing the tender when the project began at the beginning of 2017, the integration of the clubs in the process, as well as analysing the offers received to date. Wiederer noted that the situation of the 'double task' to jointly market the national team and club competitions was both interesting and complex. The EHF is pleased with the positive reaction of the market to the announcement of the tender and it has resulted in many entities discussing handball in areas where it was not previously discussed.

The Executive Committee are informed on the four organisations that have submitted bids to the tender and will go into a second round; presentation sessions have taken place with their representatives where additional questions were answered and where the bidders were given information on unacceptable contractual elements from the side of the EHF. The auctioning of the other (three) bids received are on hold at this time. Potential impacts within the EHF based on this

process were reiterated; Wiederer noted that it may become necessary to establish a different marketing structure where the income will be generated and that there are many questions still to be answered on both a National Federation and club level.

It was stressed that the result of the tender is only the initial result and in a next step the four organisations interested in the tender process on a serious level are requested to improve their offers. The direct contact for this process is still with the external agency (SN1 Consulting) with a given deadline of January 2018. Following the outcome of the tender process, it is expected that an interim presentation can be given to the EHF Member Federations at the upcoming Conference of Presidents. It was reiterated that the tender process covers both men's and women's EHF EURO events and champions leagues.

## **7.2. EUROs after 2020**

No separate discussion on the issue took place as the competition and rights structure is unchanged.

## **7.3. Champions League as of 2020**

It was made clear that it was not possible to deliver a tender proposal to the market without a playing model; it was important to present a model to potential partners who were informed accordingly and had the opportunity to analyse potential playing systems. The 12-team system so far was deemed more attractive, and for some of the bidders a precondition for taking part in the tender; dialogue remains open and no final decision has been taken.

In response to the question raised about the involvement of the stakeholders, it was noted that stakeholder (PHB/WHB) meetings are scheduled to take place prior to any final decision on the tender process being made; it was underlined that within the process, the national teams have to be protected.

However, concerning the leagues, the situation becomes more difficult. It was mentioned that there was much discussion on a men's handball level that covered the top tier of club handball, whereas the importance of the second tier was not underlined enough, but it was stressed that overall the process was about strengthening the handball environment and the sport must be sold as a complete system. In the ensuing discussion it was questioned how the strength of a team was defined and when evaluating clubs, the financial aspects around a club must also be considered as the image of the competition is impacted negatively when a club files bankruptcy during the season.

## **7.4. Further procedure**

The timeline and schedule were briefly discussed; it is hoped that all stakeholders will be satisfied with the outcome of the tender process - a turning point that will also define the future of the Executive Committee as well.

## **8. 2017/2018 Conferences - information**

### **8.1. 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress – report**

The participants on the EHF side sent their statements to the International Handball Federation following the Congress; no additional report.

### **8.2. 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference – report**

Based on the earlier report, the follow-up to the event will take place in the meetings of the Technical Delegation and the Methods Commission meetings in February 2018. It was underlined that the EHF will make use of the experts who want to contribute to handball in the future.

### **8.3. 13<sup>th</sup> EHF Conference of Presidents – preview**

The organisation of the event continues according to the schedule.

### **8.4. 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress – preview**

The organisation of the event continues according to the schedule. The information process has started and a formal invitation is to be distributed shortly. Due to the ambiguous situation as to what concerns financial support to the participating federations, it was proposed to absorb the cost of one National Federation representative and one female representative if part of the NF delegation. Furthermore, following the withdrawal of one comptroller, the role of the substitute comptroller was activated. It is the intention of the EHF to confirm the substitute comptroller in the vacated seat and nominate a new substitute. The EHF intends to send the relevant information to the National Federations asking for a two-step procedure. The Executive Committee approved both requests. Finally, the Executive Committee were reminded that confirmation of Court of Appeal candidate nominated, K. Koberidze (GEO), is to be put before the Congress in June for confirmation.

### **8.5. Structural issues / Working Group EHF Structure 2020+**

Opening the sub-point, the complexity of the matter concerning options for an internal restructure of the EHF was mentioned. The working group consisting of Chairman Brihault, Vice President Bošković, BC Chairman Jørstad, the representatives of the Boards, Christensen (NB), Lecusanu (WHB), and the Secretary General in their two meetings (notes at hand for the EXEC) tasked to work on the issues of making a complex structure easier, elevating good governance whilst considering the many ethical elements as well as reviewing the values and vision of the EHF. Vice President Bošković praised the cohesion and good work of the group so far and noted the positivity of the group. It was reiterated that the structure will change in the future and the working group continues to consider what the EHF would like to have, what are the goals, and how to attain the objective. Though there were many discussions and significant contributions, it was underlined that more consideration was needed.

The participants cemented the statement by adding that the task was ambitious and very complex; it became apparent that the group needed to take a step back as an initial potential solution was deemed unworkable upon further examination. The benefit of having L. Alves in the group to keep the participants abreast of potential legal implications was noted. It was underlined that the current structure is running well, nevertheless, it was the right time to hold such discussions and that from

the strategic standpoint more change might become necessary in the future as the organisation is dynamic; the intermediate result of the working group are just the first steps of many.

## **9. Other issues**

No other issues

In keeping with former tradition at the final meeting of the year, the EHF President gave the floor to the EHF Treasurer who thanked the members of the EHF Executive Committee for their commitment to their roles in the body over the year. A special mention of thanks was extended to V. Lazić for her endeavours for the flawless execution of the meetings and all the organisation has entailed.

Formally closing the meeting, the EHF President thanked the members for their participation during the meeting and stated that he remained at the disposal of the EHF Executive Committee during the festive season.

Vienna, 20 December 2017

For the Minutes: M. Brown

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