

Minutes to the 143rd Executive Committee Meeting in Paris, France

Date: 15 December 2018
Time: 09:00 – 13:00
Venue: Pullman Paris Centre Bercy Hotel – Room Champigny

Participants:

Michael Wiederer	President
Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
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
Nodjialem Myaro	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

In part: Gerd Butzeck Chairman Professional Handball Board

Guests: Dr Hassan Moustafa IHF President
 Jean Brihault EHF Honorary President
 Joël Delplanque FFHB President

1. Welcome, programme and agenda

President Wiederer opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Executive Committee, as well as the special guests, to the meeting held in Paris on the occasion of the Women's EHF EURO 2018 Final Weekend. Commenting on the event, Wiederer spoke of the exciting matches held under a good atmosphere in a nice environment which was important for the sport, and specifically to women's handball. The guests were given the opportunity to impart their own words of welcome to EHF Executive Committee.

On behalf of the French Handball Federation (FFHB), President Joël Delplanque underlined the success of the event in terms of spectators and noted that by the end of the event over 200.000 people will have followed the EURO. Calling attention to the organisational difficulties experienced, he hoped that in the future, should France host another event, it would be better. After the FFHB hosted the 2007 IHF Women's World Handball Championship, the Federation created the women's handball league within its organisation targeting a professional league in the future. Through these and other activities, the FFHB continues to develop the women's handball brand in France. As France experiences political unrest, Delplanque also thanked the EHF for their cooperation on this level.

Dr Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation (IHF) stressed the good cooperation that continues between the organisations; highlighting the strength of the sport on the European continent, Dr Moustafa congratulated the EHF on the EHF EURO 2018 in France, whilst

emphasizing the urgency of closing the gap between men's and women's handball. Moustafa also took the opportunity to mention the ongoing efforts to develop the sport as a whole, especially the utilisation of experience in terms of handball in China and the United States of America. Bringing his statement to a close, he gave focus to the situation of the referees and the importance of the role in encouraging people to the sport, and thus the need for standards and consistency.

EHF President Wiederer underscored the point of President Moustafa adding that the professionalization of the referees' environment, as well as many other points that touch the level of international handball, was on the agenda of the Executive Committee. Wiederer also thanked President Moustafa for taking up the initiative of 32-team world championship events in the future as it was of core importance for Europe and would contribute to success; it was deemed a positive step that underlined the close cooperation.

EHF Honorary President spoke of the spirit of the organisation that has been maintained and enriched through continuity and permanent innovation which supports the quality of the sport. He noted that many years ago, it would not have been possible to host such an event for women in France; EHF EURO 2018 shows the progress made. Noting that his focus during his candidature as EHF President was on women's handball and women in handball, Brihault stated he was very satisfied with what was happening in this regard.

Following the departure of the guests, President Wiederer reiterated his welcome to the Executive Committee members, and also welcomed Gerd Butzeck, joining a meeting for the first time in his new role (see AP 6.2) in part, due to the WFHC General Assembly.

2. Minutes Executive Committee 09/2018

The minutes are adopted.

3. Reports and decisions

3.1. Finance Delegation

Reporting on the last meeting of the Finance Delegation that took place in November, First Vice President Bošković informed the Executive Committee that the majority of the topics discussed at that meeting were on the current agenda. Overall, there are no major issues concerning National Federation accounts and the situation is more balanced than it was previously. With the exception of two cases (where clubs have not submitted all relevant documents required), all injury cases resulting from EHF EURO 2018 CRO were settled. The situation around transfers remains stable. Reflecting on recent legal matters, Bošković referred to the doping cases from the 2018 EHF Beach Handball EURO, and the ongoing situations between MKD-GRE (qualification match) and SRB-KOS (cross-border league). Closing his report, he mentioned that the matters raised at the EHF General Assembly (held prior to the Executive Committee meeting) would be discussed later under the corresponding agenda points.

Continuing Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour informed the Executive Committee that from the original 2018 budget (approved at the 2016 Congress), the forecast has improved; thus, the initial line 3 result ("Result acc Act on NPOs") of negative EUR 124k has been amended in the forecast to EUR 501k; initial budgeted revenues are down, but so are expenses. In the area of National Federation accounts, a payment schedule was agreed with FAR to balance the account; **the Executive Committee confirmed the mandate to confirm the plan.** Returning briefly to the matter of injury cases, it was stated that despite the number of cases, the settled cases came in below the budgeted amount. La Cour highlighted the positive cost control. To the situation of MP&Silva and the

liquidation process, it was noted that the additional contract concerning referee advertising was concluded with the EHF; for the other outstanding monies, the EHF filed a claim with the liquidator. The EHF financial forecast was adjusted accordingly to reflect the situation. In closing it was noted that the 2019 budget will be revised to reflect the increase in the anti-doping budget (beach handball), signing fees (new contract), and IT costs; despite this, the expenses still remain very close to the budget.

3.1.1. Minutes 11/2018

The Executive Committee took note of the minutes.

3.2. EHF Marketing GmbH

3.2.1. Minutes WCB / MCB / Advisory Board 11/2018

The minutes to all meetings are at hand; President Wiederer stated that the strategic discussions are reflected in the notes. The content of the Women's Club Board (WCB) and the newly constituted Men's Club Board (MCB) meetings were reiterated during the meeting of the Advisory Board. The topic of "targeting the future" was the main issue of the MCB meeting, as this topic crosses into the new EHF agreement.

3.2.2. General Assembly 12/2018

The meeting took place earlier in the morning prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee. It was mentioned that the accounting of the EHF business 2017/2018 will have an impact on the 2018 EHF accounting.

3.3. Secretary General – Business Report

Based on the report made available to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, Secretary General Hausleitner summarised the activities of the organisation in the period since the last meeting. These activities included the final preparations of the EHF EURO 2018 FRA, the EHF-I/D Task Force meetings, the BH Champions Cup in Catania, which was a step forward on the level of media and marketing, as well as the 2019 YAC event workshops. The evaluations of the EHF EURO 2020 Qualification Phase 2 including the presentation of the matches that provide criteria for a corresponding share of the EURO development fund are taking place; a report will be presented at the meeting in January.

In preparation for the next Congress, the organisation has fixed the dates for key events leading up to the 2021 event in Luxembourg. Furthermore, in the area of personnel, the EHF welcomed a number of new starters i.e. Maïke Bouwer replaced Yannick Maresch in the EURO Events department, Jelena Bagarić has joined EHF Media and Communications in order to replace Sara Bella; however, the IT department has started a recruitment process for a Digital Content Coordinator.

Turning to the area of business partnerships, a new tender process has begun for a ticketing partner. Hausleitner stated that the EHF EURO 2018 FRA attracted a new sleeve advertising partner and provided new opportunities for sponsor activation. Moreover, the current partnership with Select (ball supplier) has improved; discussions to expand the cooperation will be initiated. Another meeting with Salming will take place in January in order to find solutions to the ongoing issues. The Gerflor partnership continues to function well and the sponsorship was activated accordingly at the current EURO event. The company took a positive approach to active engagement by organising a TV spot to coincide with the event in France. The contract with Sportradar is to be amended and a meeting has been scheduled.

3.4. Legal Management

No comment or questions were raised to the written report at hand. The legal department did however, did submit a proposal concerning the EHF List of Penalties to incorporate the EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup with a focus on the matter withdrawal from the competition. The motion proposes a series of financial penalties ranging from EUR 5k to EUR 25k and season suspensions. BC Chairman Jørstad underlined that it was important to have the penalties for beach handball in line with indoor handball. **The Executive Committee approved the proposal as written.**

3.5. Report Anti-doping Unit (EAU)

An overview of the activities within the unit was available to the Executive Committee; the proposed EAU budget reflects the planned activities for 2019. In the brief discussion that followed the missing knowledge of the players was underscored; it was conceded that it did not come as a surprise based on their youth. Case in point: prior to the 2018 YAC events, the EHF requested that the participating Federations undertake the online anti-doping course, it was revealed during the event that only a few had completed the task. Overall, the EHF has the mission to educate, but also control the outcome of the anti-doping education; it was underlined that this was part of good governance. It was questioned whether Federations resp. teams would be sanctioned for failure to comply with anti-doping education. CSO Glaser responded that prior to any sanctions, the EHF would have to be sure that the organisation had done everything necessary to facilitate anti-doping education. Therefore in 2019, the EHF will roll-out a renewed anti-doping initiative; this will be then evaluated in the months to follow, before making a new plan relating to the upcoming 2019 YAC events. Nevertheless, the possibility of introducing sanctions is not excluded.

3.6. International business

President Wiederer and First Vice President Bošković attended the meeting of the IHF Council (Doha, QAT). At the meeting a major point of discussion was the enlargement of the IHF Men's World Handball Championship from 24 to 32 teams as of 2021. Based on the evaluation undertaken prior to the Council meeting, further discussions, and presentations, the IHF Council decided to expand all IHF World Championship to 32 teams (M/W Senior, Youth, and Junior) events. The EHF President also attended the IHF Inter-Commission meeting; and at the Task Force "Competitions in the Future", Wiederer was nominated to serve as the Chairman, the matter of place distribution was also discussed in relation to the enlargement. At the next meeting (Herning, following the 2019 WC Final), the IHF Council will decide on the continental place distribution and about the playing systems of the enlarged competition structure. The subsequent impact on European competitions has to be evaluated by the Competitions Commission and the EHF Office. As to what concerns future Women's EHF EUROs, the discussion that focuses on the mid- to long-term situation will be initiated. Closing the agenda point, President Wiederer underlined that the communication at the level is good and open.

4. Technical Commissions - reports

The Chairmen of the three technical commissions gave only brief reports as no meetings were held in the period since the last meeting of the Executive Committee in Barcelona. The reports highlight the activities of the last three months.

- ◆ **Competitions Commission - Chairman Božidar Djurković:** the current club competition season continues to run smoothly with no major incidents. October saw the Heads of Delegation meeting, in preparation for the current EHF EURO carried out in France. The analysis of the individual topics resulting from the 2018 YAC events is underway, and for the upcoming YAC events in 2019, the first workshops with the organisers have taken place. The Competitions Commission continues to work in close cooperation with the organisers of all scheduled events.

- ◆ **Methods Commission - Chairman Jerzy Eliasz:** with no major happenings since the last meeting and the report at handball, Chairman Eliasz highlighted the 3rd European Wheelchair Handball Nations Tournament (Leiria, POR), the four-team event that took place at the beginning of the month. It was noted that the event has not reached the level (eight teams) needed in order to organise a Championship and remains at tournament level. Hungary and Netherlands have expressed its interest in hosting an edition of the event. At this event, the recently developed Players' Classification was implemented, and a workshop around the event was organised. The future perspective envisages a 4th Nations tournament in 2019 and European Championship in 2020; Netherlands expressed their readiness to organise the first EURO. BC Chairman Jørstad, who was present at the event confirmed the enthusiasm of the participants interested, and complimented the organisation and experience of the event. VPF La Cour related his encounter with wheelchair handball and suggested it could be an entry point for emerging nations to have more activities.

The 3rd module of the EHF Master Coach Course and the EHF License Renewal Course took place in Créteil/FRA; as this was the first time that such courses had taken place in France, the cooperation and engagement of the Federation (FFHB) was very compelling. Also in Créteil at the Maison du Handball, the MC also organised a "Grassroots Market Place" with demonstrations of the project "Share & Play" and a wheelchair handball in addition to various stands.

Regarding the MC in cooperation with the Women's Handball Board (WHB) project of mentoring of coaches in women's youth handball (presented at the EHF Women's Handball Convention in France), the MC requested a mandate to continue with the two-year project. Two applications from Belgium and England have been received so far, and Switzerland has also shown interest in the project. **The Executive Committee gave the mandate for the project to continue.**

Following a brief report on the three requests received for the SMART Programme (EST, NED, UKR), the MC recommended supporting the requests from EST and NED (the SMART programme funding will be invested in GOALCHA balls and education material), in order to strengthen the basis of handball in each country. It suggested that the confirmation of the UKR request should be linked to the further cooperation regarding the RINCK Convention and subject to one official communication channel/contact between the EHF and UKR. **The Executive Committee confirmed the recommendation of the Methods Commission for EST and NED; concerning UKR, the EXEC took note of the information provided.**

Furthermore, the MC requested the appointment of three new EHF Coaching Lecturers namely Lidija Bojic-Cacic (CRO), Mattias Andersson (SWE) and Vlado Sola (CRO). **The EHF confirmed the MC request as written.**

- ◆ **Beach Handball Commission - Chairman Ole R. Jørstad:** in response to a previous request from the Executive Committee to the Beach Handball Commission, the Beach Handball Strategic Concept to develop the sport in emerging nations was distributed to the members of the Executive Committee; Chairman Jørstad requested feedback after the members have evaluated the document. At this time, there are 25 active beach handball nations and the BC aims to target the remaining 25 National Federations. The plan for 2019/20 aims to find an inlet to offer the non-beach handball nations a way to the sport e.g. offering lecturers; personal direct contact will be the starting point.

The EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup (CHC) was, despite the weather, played in Sicily. Jørstad mentioned that some of the accommodations were not acceptable and would have to be improved for the next edition of the event. Highlighting the live transmission media figures, the BC were pleased and have high expectations for the next Champions Cup. Representatives from the new partner company DAZN visited the event watching the sport for the first time; conversations were held on how to optimise the social media aspect surrounding the event. Additionally, all anti-doping tests carried out during the event were negative.

Beach handball is expected to be part of the 2019 EUSA Championships for the first time; following delays on the part of the organisers in Belgrade, the venue for the university BH championship next year will be confirmed on Monday, 17 December. The registration for the teams will be sent out in January.

The BC implemented the use of the Digital Score Sheet (DSS), which was deemed as a useful tool in the sport; it is hoped that the concept application can be offered to more stakeholders (teams). The topic will be discussed at the next meeting of the Technical Delegation. As of 2018 the Commission also utilises Goal Line Technology.

Jørstad mentioned that in January 2019 Peter Fröschl will retire; his successor Ivana Jelić joined the department in November 2018.

The BC proposals to the Executive Committee centred on a mentoring programme for new beach handball nations; **a decision on the recommendation was postponed until January 2019 to allow for feedback/input to be admitted.**

Based on the documents at hand, and due to incomplete documentation from a host candidate (RUS), the 2019 ebt Finals were awarded to Marta Sport Club (ROU) at the Baia Mare City Centre.

Giving feedback to the report, President Wiederer noted that in the last two months, big steps have been made in the area of beach handball; though unconvinced of the Olympic aspirations, the IHF have taken the initiative in this area, and are doing it in a correct way, not only on a political level, but also getting beach handball a place in major competitions in order to create understanding e.g. the IOC YOG were a success, to which the IOC took note. Talks have been held with the EOC to add handball to the list of disciplines in the EYOF, and discussions at this level will continue. With many beach handball activities, as well as the increase in the number of participating nations, EHF beach handball can contribute to this develop. The objective remains to get more nations involved; this can be supported.

VPF La Cour suggested that the BC contact the Partille Cup to enquire if a beach handball demonstration can be held on the fringes of the event in 2019 (i.e. to access a large number of potential players).

5. Competitions – reports and decisions

5.1. Organisation of events

Secretary General Hausleitner gave a short recap of the document at hand; he mentioned among other items, the following:

- ◆ **2017 EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup:** claim has been lodged with ECA concerning the withdrawal of the organiser.
- ◆ **2018 Men's 20 European Championship:** MNE has yet to claim funds for costs.
- ◆ **EHF EURO 2018 FRA:** outstanding external picture; EHF utilised a solution-oriented approach to overcome the many issues.
- ◆ **2019 European Open:** contract agreed, but not yet signed.
- ◆ **2019 EYOF (AZE):** due to a change in the organisational staff, issues have arisen around the contract. The first steps in terms of possible participants have been done.
- ◆ **EHF EURO 2020 SAN:** cooperation remains at a good level and is ongoing; the next meeting will take place on 16.12.2018.
- ◆ **EHF EURO 2020 DEN/NOR:** the next workshop is in the planning stage; intensive preparation will follow after the conclusion of the current EURO event.
- ◆ **EHF EUROS 2022:** initial preparations have begun and workshops are scheduled to take place.
- ◆ **Women's EHF EURO 2024:** see also AP 5.4.

5.2. National Team Competitions

CSO Glaser reported as follows:

- ◆ **EHF EURO 2020 Qualification Phase 2:** matches took place in October; as a result of the workshop in Trondheim (NOR) more effort was made i.e. nomination of marketing supervisors. With no infrastructure, the Faroe Island matches were played in Denmark (Skjern). The MKD/GRE matches took place without incident despite the political pressure on both sides. All matches of Round 6 will take place on the same day at the same time (18:00 CET)
- ◆ **EHF EURO 2022:** the qualifiers phase 1 will take place in January 2019; MLT will participate for the first time in a senior EURO event.
- ◆ **YAC Events:** due to changes on an international level, and taking into consideration the implementation of a two-tiered competition in 2016, the YAC system is to be reassessed. It is proposed that a working group (incl. stakeholder representation) be installed to undertake the task of looking at matters including, but not limited to, age issues. A first report could be presented at the 2019 Conference for Secretaries General, and a follow-up report be given at the Conference of Presidents. **No objection was raised to the proposal.**
- ◆ **Fraud Detection:** the good work and positive cooperation was highlighted. In his function as Integrity Officer, Glaser described the meetings attended in London, and France. He reminded

the Executive Committee of the educational presentation in Zagreb, as well as the workshops with the 28 Men's EHF Champions League teams. Underlining the complexity of the topic, he stressed that the EHF had to remain proactive. With more activities and next steps planned for 2019, Wiederer made it clear that the EHF is not an investigative body; it only cooperates with the partners for the analysis of the sport.

5.3. Club Competitions

CSO Glaser informed the Executive Committee on a few matters within Club Competitions:

- ◆ Men's EHF Champions League: Overall, the groups are interesting and it is expected that the many decisions will remain open until the last rounds; the defending Champion is struggling. The same holds true for Groups C/D.
- ◆ The strategy concerning German teams continues to work well, and have reduced match scheduling conflicts with the HBL; since season there have been no overlaps.
- ◆ The department is paying attention to the political situation in UKR; for the matches scheduled in February difficulties could be faced.
- ◆ The Women's EHF Champions League will return in January; the competition is running normally without any major incident.
- ◆ SRB/KOS – Mokra Gora: the Executive Committee are updated on the situation; the EHF continues to work with both Federations. It was underlined that the issue is a cross-border league situation without permission of a Federation being involved. The EHF is focusing on technical (not political) solutions. The non-admission of Serbian clubs will be a consequence, and legal proceedings will be initiated if SRB registers the club in the next season.

5.4. Competitions in the future

5.4.1. National team competitions

Giving focus to the Women's EHF EURO 2024, President Wiederer referred to the upcoming changes in the IHF (32-team events) that were previously described and also remarked that the awarding of events are made way ahead of time, and in 2018 when the EHF EUROs 2022/2024 were awarded there was no change to be expected to the events as the men's event were already set with 24 teams and the women's events with 16 teams (six years in advance).

However, due to recent changes, it became clear that the EHF needs to rethink the arrangement of the women's competition in the future. Looking to the current event, it was noted that on the one hand, the women's national teams have seen improvement; nevertheless, on the other hand and to have a reasonable qualification, a significant number of stronger teams are missing. It was concluded that with long-term planning and investment in the further development of the competition, there is a chance to realise a 24-team event in 2024.

In a follow-up to the 2016 Congress at which the EHF EURO 2024 was not awarded, a technical analysis of the event was undertaken, and the results of which were discussed by the Executive Committee; the outcome of the analysis was valid at the time. Now, because of recent developments, there is a current proposal of the EHF to re-analyse situation and develop a "Master Plan" focusing on this segment of Competitions.

Feedback to the information from the members of the Executive Committee was summarised for the minutes and included, but was not limited to:

- More research and investment is required
- Focus should also be given to club teams that are also developing the players of the future
- Development of teams is to be pushed, not only for developing women's handball, but also teams coming up from emerging nations; growth is also to be seen in coordination with other aspects of competition. Development must not lead to an increased burden on players.
- There is time to develop players via their clubs and federations; this initiative should offer international opportunities and motivate the National Federations.

The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to re-evaluate the situation around the Women's EHF EURO 2024.

5.4.2. Club team competitions

**this item was dealt with at the start of the meeting due to the later absence of G. Butzeck, and documents with supporting information were distributed to the Executive Committee during the meeting.*

EHF Chief Sports Officer (CSO) Markus Glaser described the proposal, including the relevant circumstances (new contractual obligations as of 2020) for the amended playing systems in both the men's and women's club competitions as of 2020/2021. An overview of the changes is reproduced below:

<p>EHF Men's Champions League</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No qualification; 16 teams – 2 groups - Rank 1-2 (both groups): direct to quarterfinals - Rank 3-6 (both groups): to play-offs - Play-off winners: proceed to quarterfinals
<p>EHF Men's European Handball League</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 qualification rounds: 12 teams to group phase - 24 teams: either direct to Group Phase or via qualification - Group Phase (4 x 6); 10 rounds (H/A) - Rank 1-4 in each group: Last 16, followed by quarterfinals, Final 4
<p>Men's / Women's EHF Cup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replaces current Challenge Cup - No further changes, change in name only
<p>EHF Women's Champions League</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 teams, analogous to men's competition
<p>EHF Women's European Handball League</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualification; Group Phase; Quarterfinals; Final4 - 16 teams: either direct to Group Phase or via qualification

Based on feedback, it was underlined that there would be no relegation/promotion system between the CL and the EHL; the system presented is supported by the stakeholders. It is stressed that the men's and women's systems are now akin apart from the number of women's teams in the EHL. **The Executive Committee approved the proposals as presented.**

5.4.3. Competitions in the future

Officiating: President Wiederer updated the Executive Committee on the issue, which is linked to many touch points, and in agreement with the stakeholders from 2020 onwards referees shall be nominated by a professional person (office) and not by an elected person. It was reiterated that the cooperation with the current responsible remains positive as well as the results achieved; the position of the current responsible is to be broadened, and the changes can be implemented within the EHF structure as the Statutes allow for such a change. The Executive Committee were informed on the latest information that resulted from the IHF Inter-Commission meeting and the presentation of the situation in other sports. It was underlined that the issue was not about opting for professional (career) referees, but professionalising the environment. Moreover, the EHF want to use the change process to create a full package that will include improvement of referee recruitment, education, and further education. In spring 2019, a proposal will be submitted to the Executive Committee that will suggest that a professional be recruited to undertake the nomination of referees independent of a political process.

The EXEC members voiced their support for the proposal; the professionalization of the process would also protect the referees. It was noted that with the incoming new media and marketing agreement, professionalism in this area was very important. **The Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposal.**

5.5. International calendar 2020/2021

As with the club competition systems, the EHF also had to work on the international calendar as of 2020/21 due to the new contractual agreement when it enters into force. Wiederer spoke of the impact of the calendar and the involvement of all the stakeholders (a long process that began in Zagreb), as it is not a stand-alone calendar. The earlier preparation of the calendar is of benefit to the stakeholders as it will assist in future organisation. CSO Glaser also provided an overview of the most important changes:

- National Team Week in April; all NT events conclude by the end of April/beginning of May
- WCL F4 at the end of May; MCL F4 at the end of June
- Domestic club season ends: 23.05.2021 (women); 06.06.2021 (men – first full weekend in June)
- Clear holiday/free period for players; F4 players begin holidays one week later
- Playing days: MCL – Wednesday/Thursday; MEHL – Tuesday/Wednesday
- Playing days: all Women’s competitions – weekend; MEHFC - weekend

The Executive Committee took note of the information, and approved the proposal.

6. Boards and Stakeholder Groups

6.1. Nations Board (Men)

The minutes of the Nations Board meeting held in Vienna in October were made available to the Executive Committee shortly thereafter. No questions or comments were raised.

6.2. Professional Handball Board (Men)

President Wiederer chaired the previous meeting of the Professional Handball Board and for the benefit of the Executive Committee members gave a short overview of the meeting. A detailed explanation was given on the election process for the Chairman (G. Butzeck - MFCH) and Vice Chairman (N. Larsson – EHLB). The next meeting of the PHB will take place in March. From the brief discussion, it was noted that the PHB and WHB are fundamentally different in particular an interest representation on the side of men’s handball, whereas the WHB target the improvement and

development of women's handball. However, after 2021; the structures will be analogous and then the task will also change.

6.3. Women's Handball Board

With the minutes of the latest WHB meeting at hand, Chairwoman Myaro highlighted the recent Women's Handball Convention that took place a day prior to the Executive Committee meeting. The meeting that focused on innovation and technology, also held a workshop. Myaro commented that the WHB had the potential to be more active. In the short discussion that followed, it was suggested that a 'master plan' be formulated and evaluated for affordability.

6.4. Stakeholder M/WFCH, EHLB, EHPU

M/WFCH: It was reported that the EHF Secretary General attended the General Assemblies of the Men's and Women's Forum Club Handball held in Mallorca; information was exchanged and topics of relevance were discussed.

EHLB: the members of the group are actively engaged making contact with the leagues and league representatives and bringing the ideas of the EHLB forward; the new board is working on a common position and is in close cooperation with the EHF.

EHPU: a report to the ongoing SMART project was submitted; the EHPU continued to approach Federations (ROU – negotiations complete; AUT – in progress) and hold meetings with players. The EHPU also visited various conferences. The next meeting of the EHPU will be in Cologne in June 2019.

7. Future marketing contract

7.1. Overall information on I/D contract

7.2. Structural issues

Wiederer underlined that a comprehensive status report will be given at the Conference of Presidents in Cologne. With the notes from the meetings at hand, he spoke of the collaborations that had taken place on the various subject matters task distribution, staffing, etc. The working procedures continue on a professional level, though open questions remain where interests differ.

At the next meeting of the Finance Delegation, an overview to the finance issues will be discussed in order to create a general picture; the way to deal with the financial distribution within the EHF system will be discussed by the Executive Committee. Clarification is sought by April prior to the Conference of Presidents.

7.3. Business related questions

No questions were raised.

8. Events 2019/2020/2021

- ◆ **EHF Conference for Secretaries General 04/2019 & EHF Conference of Presidents 06/2019:** a 'Save the Date' notification for both events was distributed towards the end of November. The organisation of both events is proceeding according to the normal rundown.
- ◆ **IHF Congress 07/2019:** the event will take place in Sweden within the framework of the Partille Cup.
- ◆ **EHF Conference of Presidents / e.o. EHF Congress 01/2020:** based on input from Austrian authorities, in 2020 a formal confirmation for the prolongation of the mandate is required. Furthermore, the 2021 budget is to be adopted. This event will take place in Stockholm at

the end of the EHF EURO; it was underlined that the extraordinary Congress would be a short session dealing only with the two specific matters.

- ◆ **EHF Congress 04/2021:** the first venue inspection was carried out in mid-November; the report at hand indicates that the required infrastructure is available and the OC is working in a positive direction.
- ◆ **30 Years of EHF 11/2021:** the Executive Committee was informed that ideas for the celebration have to be formulated.

9. Other issues

- ◆ Nominations for 2019: with the document at hand, the members to note of the information.
- ◆ Update 2019 Meeting CAL: since the last meeting, a slight adjustment was made to the dates of the meetings.

Closing the meeting, President Wiederer thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their participation in the meeting and looking forward to the New Year ahead, he also thanked them for their contribution throughout 2018. Wishing the members of the Executive Committee a pleasant remainder of their stay in Paris at the Women's EHF EURO, as well as imparting season's greetings, he closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: M Brown
Vienna, 19 December 2018