

Minutes to the 144th Executive Committee Meeting in Hamburg, Germany

Date: 25 January 2019
Time: 09:00 – 13:00
Venue: Grand Elysée Hotel – Room Hamburg

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
Gerd Butzeck	Chairman Professional Handball Board
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

Guest: Dr Hassan Moustafa IHF President

1. Welcome, programme and agenda

President Wiederer welcomed the group to the first Executive Committee meeting of 2019 held on the fringes of the IHF Men's World Championship (DEN/GER) in Hamburg. It was noted that the meeting was expected to be short due to the fact that no meetings of the Boards/Commissions were held in the period between the December and January meetings; moreover, the meeting scheduled for April will be more comprehensive as it will deal with the regulations matters. President Wiederer also mentioned EHF Business Report (distributed to the EXEC members); the online version was published in December 2018. The print version will be distributed to federations, stakeholders, partners, and sponsors. It was underlined that it is a proof of the broad activities of the business.

President Wiederer welcomed IHF President, Dr Hassan Moustafa (who joined the meeting at 10:00hrs) and thanked him for the invitation to hold the meeting during the event, as well as to the invitation to view the matches. He noted that the World Championship in DEN/GER was positive for handball as many top publications have referred to the sport, and its background, in a very positive way.

Accepting the congratulations of the EHF President, IHF President Dr Moustafa underlined that the congratulations were not only for the IHF, but also for the global handball family, that works together and moves in the same direction. He also mentioned the positive working relationship with the EHF President, as well as the EHF 1st Vice President in the IHF Council, and extended his gratitude for the cooperation and the work on very important ongoing projects. Referring to the global development of the sport, Dr Moustafa mentioned the importance of the ongoing progress in the areas of beach handball, as well as the development work in the USA. He briefly mentioned discussions held with members of the IOC leadership in this regard.

Underlining the cooperation, President Wiederer added that a public relations initiative is to be started. He stressed that the EHF can, and is ready to, contribute to the development where needed.

2. Executive Committee 12/2018

2.1. Minutes

With no additional remark, the minutes of the meeting in December were adopted. Wiederer also mentioned that the General Assembly of the EHF Marketing GmbH was held on the same day in the presence of EXEC members; though Executive approval of the minutes from this meeting was not required, it was important for the Executive Committee to take note as it is connected to the business of the EXEC.

2.2. Follow up

It was mentioned the various points would be raised during the meeting.

3. Reports and decisions

To the summary at hand that provided an overview of the activities of President Wiederer, no additional comments were added.

3.1. Information on regular business

In addition to the written report of the Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner briefly informed on the meeting with EHF partner 'Kinexon' concerning the iBall and players tracking project. It was noted that the project would need financial investment and would also involve many partners. A comprehensive report is to be given at the meeting in April in Copenhagen.

3.2. Finance Delegation 01/2019

The latest meeting of the Finance Delegation was held in Copenhagen on the occasion of the opening of the IHF Men's World Championship. The minutes to the meeting were distributed to the members of the Executive Committee though certain items reappear on the agenda of the current meeting.

Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour reported on the 2018 accounting; in addition to the notes already provided, he mentioned that the next meeting of the Finance Delegation will take place in March where specific budget items will be discussed. At this time, with invoices from events (EURO FRA) still incoming, the documentation is being prepared for the EHF Comptrollers as well as the external auditor; the external examination of the 2018 accounts will start in February, and the result should be known in March. A detailed report can be expected at the EXEC meeting in April, to be followed by the inspection by the EHF Comptrollers; it was underlined that a positive result is expected. President Wiederer thanked the Vice President Finances La Cour and CFO Moser for the

information, and noted that a mandate for the Executive Committee to confirm the results after the external audit would be necessary.

3.3. Technical Commissions

Wiederer noted that the invitation to the February sessions of the Technical Commissions was distributed, and no meetings were held in the period since the last meeting.

Competitions Commission: Chairman Božidar Djurković mentioned that the EHF EURO 2022 Qualification Phase 1 that took place in January in the form of tournaments in Malta and Luxembourg was successful. The group phase of the Women's EHF Cup started and is proceeding accordingly. An EHF Referee Candidates Seminar is scheduled for March in Drammen (NOR). At the upcoming meeting, an analysis of the Women's EHF EURO in FRA will take place. Further information will be provided under agenda point 4. Competitions.

Methods Commission: Chairman Jerzy Eliaz noted the final report of the 3rd European Wheelchair Handball Nations Tournament was published via the EHF Activities website; the 4th edition of the event will be defined by April 2019 in order to be confirmed by the Executive Committee. The documentation of the EHF Master Coach Course (3rd module) & Licence Renewal Course were also published. The 3rd Module of the German National Master Coach Course and the Licence Renewal Course successfully took place in Siegburg/Bonn. Eliaz also mentioned the next "RINCK" Convention for signatory and non-signatory nation representatives is scheduled for February where one of the key topics will be the expansion of the requirements regarding the Coaches Licensing (EHF Master Coach and PRO Licence) as of 2020. Furthermore, the certification of the Academic EHF Master Coach Programme will take place on 23 February 2019 in the EHF Office in Vienna/AUT. The extension of the cooperation with the University of Cologne until 2020, which was signed against the backdrop of the World Championship, was highlighted; the university is ready to develop programmes (German/English) with the EHF. PHB Chairman Butzeck added that the cooperation is also looking at a two-year programme designed for players at the end of their career and underlined the importance for sustainability and the future; EHF Member Federations will be requested to send participants (ages 25-35 years). Concluding his report, Eliaz reiterated the resignation of EHF MC Member Sjors Röttger responsible for 'Methods and Coaching'. An external replacement was deemed unnecessary; the additional MC Member Marta Bon, together with MC Chairman Eliaz will permanently assume the tasks and duties of the departing Röttger for the remainder of the mandate.

Beach Handball Commission: Chairman Ole R. Jørstad mentioned that the workshop to the 2019 ebt Finals (awarded in December 2018) will take place in Baia Mare (ROU) on 14 February. The organisation of the 2019 YAC (17) and senior M/W Beach Handball EUROs in Poland are proceeding accordingly; there are 29 teams registered for the YAC event and 36 teams in the senior event. Cooperation with Infront remains positive; it is hoped that the event will attain the same figures as the previous event. In relation to the 2019 EUSA-EHF European Universities Beach Handball Championship, the workshop with the local organiser took place on 19 January; no major issues are foreseen in terms of organisation. Speaking of the BH Strategic Plan 2019/20, a summary of the tasks were given and it was confirmed that the BH department is in contact with SWE concerning a promotional activity at the Partille Cup. It was mentioned that comments received from the Executive Committee were adapted into the overall concept. Concerning the motion of the Beach

Handball Commission (starter packages and mentoring programme), the Executive Committee **unanimously supported the motion**. It was underlined that this information has to be published to the National Federations in a visible form.

3.4. Legal management

With the written report at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner highlighted specific points of overall interest such as the fewer number of legal cases were dealt with during EHF EURO 2018 FRA, as well as the University of Las Palmas Gran Canaria (UPLGC) to repay its debt to the EHF according to the schedule agreed with the organisation. Additionally the application of Johannes Ranke to serve as an arbitrator to the ECA is supported by the Executive Committee; the proposal will be submitted to the ECA. Mr Ranke will be contacted by the ECA office in order to complete his application. For the benefit of the Executive Committee, the ECA nomination process was reiterated.

Furthermore, in response to the Irish Olympic Handball Association motion presented at the 2016 Congress, the EHF has made contact with an external company that will define the process for 'whistleblowing'. It is expected that the system will be functional within one month.

Concerning the current legal cases, the dispute over the use of the domain name ehf.com is still open; however, the case with the US based National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regarding its opposition to the trademark 'EHF Champions League Final 4 has been settled. The resolution of this major case was a big step forward for the EHF who will own (retain) the name and safeguard the future of the event. The agreement was signed on 15 January 2019. An extract from the coexistence agreement is reproduced below:

"The EHF shall undertake its best efforts not to use the term "Final Four" in a stand-alone format and in letters."

The Executive Committee were also informed on the status of illegal betting activities. The agreement with partner 'Sportradar' and the function of the 'Integrity Officer' position was reiterated. Concerning the two potential cases that came to the attention of the EHF towards the end of 2018, it was explained that one was handled directly by Sportradar, and to the other (suspicious betting activity in France during the EHF EURO 2018) all documentation was provided to the relevant authorities. The EHF initiated the internal step of alerting the Initiator of Proceedings who started to analyse and evaluate the situation at the beginning of January 2019.

In response to the information provided EXEC Member Butzeck stated that he was in agreement with the steps taken by the EHF, but his opinion differed from that of the Initiator of Proceedings; he stressed that such situations pose a serious threat to handball and are to be handled carefully. Vice President Finances La Cour stated that the organisation had to be careful on how the situation was phrased, as no cases have been made. First Vice President Bošković underlined that the organisation holds a zero tolerance policy for such behaviours, and if proven will result in persons having no more involvement in the sport. Closing the topic, President Wiederer emphasised that the EHF/Executive Committee continued to take all necessary steps in the scope of its responsibility to clarify issues and remain proactive as to what concerns the future. The objective to have a clean sports environment

ensures that structures are in place, and that the organisation is ready to cooperate should a case arise.

In comment to the written report at hand, Member Lövgren requested further clarification on the ten legal cases related to 'advertising set-up'. Hausleitner explained that the organisation was obligated to protect its sponsorship agreements and wanted to make clear that breaches of the regulations must be sanctioned; such action sends a clear message to the National Federations. However, Hausleitner did highlight the fact that the overall presentation of the event was very positive; three of the cases described could be classified as major and the other seven cases focused on following the regulations.

3.5. Other reports

WHB Chairwoman Myro briefly mentioned the success of the Women's Handball Convention held on the fringes of the EHF EURO 2018 FRA. Topics of the convention included iBall, maxi-grip, "this girl can" campaign and the WHB 2019 initiative (mentoring, etc.); the importance of the ongoing development in the area of women's handball was underlined. In relation to the document at hand, the Executive Committee unanimously supported the project. President Wiederer underlined the great presentation on digital development by DAZN. It was stated that the presentation is to be revised accordingly to be presented at the Conference of Presidents in Cologne. The Executive Committee also took note of the WFCH General Assembly notes at hand. To close the agenda point, and to supplement the report at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner mentioned the resignation of EAU anti-doping officer, Adrienn Öri effective 31 January 2018; Nadja Lacina will assume this role as of 1 February, this will coincide with new initiatives and a renewed focus on anti-doping education.

4. Competitions - reports and decisions

4.1. Organization of events – overall report

The report at hand presented an overall look at the status of all events to which there were no comments or questions raised.

4.2. EURO 2018 FRA – status follow up

With the evaluation and the final accounting process ongoing, there was no specific report. The Executive Committee noted the success of the event.

4.3. EURO 2020 SAN

Leading into the upcoming event in 2020, Secretary General Hausleitner noted that the organisation had to learn from the EUROS in Croatia and France, as this event was one of many firsts (three hosts / three countries, 24 teams); in order to prepare and make the necessary adaptations - either in April or at the latest, in June - the conclusions from the previous EUROS have more importance. Therefore, on a technical and organisational level, conclusions will be drawn and integrated into a concept for January 2020. As a result of the internal event debrief, the organisation is aware that it has a new timeline; the Heads of Delegation seminar will take place in June 2019 on the occasion of the draw. Thus, a rethink of the regulations and the corresponding motions for the event in 2020 has to be undertaken. Moreover, in view to event promotion (three hosts / three countries, 24 teams), a project team within the office will be set up to deal with the expected increased workload, which will

in turn see the EHF EURO department supported by all other departments connected to the EURO in the office.

4.4. EURO 2024 Women

Wiederer reiterated that the Executive Committee discussed the enlargement of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in December 2018; it was determined that the process would be started. Referring to the document supporting the agenda point (Information on current status and further steps), Wiederer stated that it was the understanding that in April a formal decision to start the awarding process would be taken; at this time there is a potential organiser to hold the event in 2024 (three-nation host). Following the meeting in December, CSO Glaser listed the points to be scrutinised in order for the Executive Committee to have all relevant information to take the decision in April 2019. Due to the fact that this evaluation will be undertaken through various working sessions/EHF bodies, it was proposed to have a member of the Executive Committee as a fixed part of the process. The Executive Committee unanimously supported the nomination of Gabriella Horvath to this role.

4.5. Competition related issues

4.5.1. Adaptation of the Women's EHF EURO Qualifiers Regulations

CSO Glaser introduced the agenda point noting that looking ahead to the Women's EHF EURO 2020 Qualifiers it is necessary that the regulations are updated and correct prior to the start of the matches. The motion proposes updates to the regulations based on the Men's EHF EURO 2020 Qualifiers adapted accordingly for the women's event. The importance of the implementation of the changes into the regulations prior to the upcoming draw in April 2019 was highlighted. The adaptations to the Women's EHF EURO 2020 Qualifiers Regulations correspond to the following areas:

Motion 1 - Match dates/throw-off times; Motion 2 - Sleeve advertising; Motion 3 - Post-match procedures; Motion 4 - Responsibilities of the Member Federations; Motion 5 - Match Report; Motion 6 – Basic set-up; Motion 7 – Flag presentation; Motion 8 – Advertising / Sponsoring Rights; Motion 9 – Special Regulations

Motion: The recommendation to change the respective aspects in the Women's EHF EURO Qualifiers Regulations is now tabled to the EXEC for approval. The exact wording will be formulated in cooperation with the legal department and then implemented into all Women's EHF EURO Qualifiers Regulations. **The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motions as submitted in written form.**

4.5.2. Change of the venue for the W17 Championship in ITA 2019

CSO Glaser briefly reiterated that the event was originally awarded to the region of Pescara, but due to the current political situation, support from the local government for the event was no longer guaranteed. To safeguard the event and based on the handball experience (EYOF, Masters), it is proposed to move the venue of the W17 Championship to Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA) in the period 3 to 11 August 2019. **The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion to change venue as submitted in written form.**

4.5.3. Information and preview on an initiative for a restructuring of EHF officiating

President Wiederer recapped the decision of the Executive Committee from December 2018 to professionalise the refereeing business as of 1 July 2019. It was mentioned that nominations is a relevant part of the situation and decisions have already been taken; however, it would be a mistake not to revise the entire system as it has an impact on various fields such a recruiting, education, and further education, and even the area of technical delegates. To underline the need to modernise the system for it to fit to the sport of today – on the basis of a document provided by the office, and the collection of information from other sports and internal documentation / preparation, carrying out matches in the proper way, evaluation and feedback, etc.; the whole system is to be strengthened (analysis-evaluation-conclusion). The situation is to be discussed on the level of the technical commissions and boards to elicit concrete proposals to deal with the officiating in the future prior to the Executive Committee meeting in April ready for implementation on 1 July 2019. **The Executive Committee members expressed their support and took note of the information provided.**

4.5.4. Information on current status and issues related to EHF Delegates

CSO Glaser provided a written overview on the situation; this included a list of all current delegates with their ages, gender, and last season of active duty. Glaser also provided information on those delegates who are ending their careers or currently inactive due to various reasons, proposals for new delegates, as well as the new EHF eLearning programme for delegates, etc. **The Executive Committee agreed to the proposal supplied by the CSO and, as well, took note of the information provided.**

5. 2019 Conference of Presidents

5.1. Organizational status

To supplement the document at hand, a brief overview on the organisational status (proceeding according to schedule) of the 14th Conference of Presidents to take place in Cologne on 1 June 2019 was provided. In addition to the 'Save the Date' notification, Info 1 was also distributed to the federations before the meeting.

5.2. Content / Agenda

Written information was provided to the Executive Committee giving an outline of the proposed agenda and topics to be presented. President Wiederer added that the organisation would develop the issue of the Younger Age Category competitions in order to have a sound basis at the events at the meeting; the first qualitative discussion with the National Federations will be at the Conference for Secretaries General in April in Copenhagen. The procedural timeline of actions to be taken concerning the YAC in the future, submitted by CSO Glaser, was confirmed by the Executive Committee. The documentation thereof will first have to be prepared for this meeting before bringing it to the political level in Cologne. Hausleitner informed on the intention to create a working group to look at the potential for competition (between the EUROS) for those nations currently not participating regularly, and stated that it should have members from the stakeholder groups; thus the nomination of Ingo Meckes (SUI/NB), Leonor Mallozzi (POR/WHB), and representing the EXEC Stefan Lövgren was unanimously approved.

Closing the point, Wiederer noted that what concerns the tender process/media and marketing agreement will also be on the agenda. A session with Infront/DAZN on 1 April will finalise all

remaining open issues. Following this meeting a full report will be given to the Executive Committee prior the comprehensive report to be delivered at the Conference of Presidents on June 1.

5.3. Other issues

No other issues.

6. Miscellaneous

Member Butzeck commented on the positive press, not only in Germany, but across Europe surrounding the World Championship. He also mentioned the criticism raised in the press about the playing schedule specifically rest days (3 matches in 4 days). President Wiederer underlined that safeguarding the health of players and exacting fairness amongst the teams was a priority, and it was noted that with the upcoming changes to the playing systems (i.e. EURO 2020 and World Championship 2021) the playing schedules would be different. Thus, in this respect, steps have already been taken on an international level.

Secretary General Hausleitner mentioned that on the occasion of the draw event and during the Conference for Secretaries General, a workshop will be held for those National Federations taking part in the Women's EHF EURO 2020 Qualifications. The workshop topics will reflect those of the Conference.

First Vice President Bošković spoke briefly of the list of nominations for summer 2019; the list will be provided to the members of the Executive Committee once again, and will be updated accordingly based on feedback. The 2019 meeting list saw small amendment made to a few dates (MCB/AB moved from February to March); this list will also be sent following the meeting.

President Wiederer thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their participation and closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: M Brown
Vienna, 28 January 2019