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## MINUTES TO THE 159<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN TORREVIEJA, SPAIN

**Date:** 24 September 2021  
**Time:** 09:00 – 12:00 | 14:00 – 18:00  
**Venue:** Dña Monse Hotel | Salon I

<b>Executive:</b>	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Francisco V. Blázquez Garcia	Member
	Franjo Bobinac	Member
	Bente Aksnes	Member
	Gerd Butzeck	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Nodjialem Myaro	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board
<b>Office:</b>	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Andrea Moser	Finance Projects
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

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### Official Welcome from Mayor Eduardo Dolón and Sports Council Diana Box from the City of Torrevieja.

Welcoming Mayor Eduardo Dolón and Sports Council Miss Diana Box to the meeting on behalf of the Executive Committee, President Wiederer also expressed his pleasure and extended his thanks not only to the Mayor and Sports Council, but also to EXEC Member Blázquez for the invitation to stay and hold the meeting in Torrevieja, one of the cities that in a few months will set the stage for the Women’s IHF World Handball Championship. With the Executive Committee serving as the highest elected body being responsible for the general decisions for the sport and the current session in September being a regular meeting serving as a basis for the decisions, Wiederer underlined that all members of the Executive Committee were present in Spain and later would have the opportunity to learn about the region.

Member Blázquez spoke of the upcoming event and its proximity to Torrevieja, a city rich in handball tradition, where not only the Spanish Handball Federation, but also the local organisers were working very hard to realise the women’s World Championship.

Mayor Dolón thanked the EHF for accepting the invitation to host the Executive Committee meeting in Torrevieja; he underlined, as both he and the Miss Box are both former players, that handball has been a special sport for the city over the past 50 years – first for men and ever growing for women. Mayor Dolón also highlighted Torrevieja’s multicultural character and added that he looked forward to welcoming the participating nations in December. Concluding his words of welcome, he expressed his thanks to the EHF for choosing the city, and his pleasure of seeing a Spanish Executive Committee Member.

The EHF and the Spanish mayoral delegation exchanged commemorative gifts of appreciation.

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## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome, Programme and Agenda

President Wiederer welcomed all members of the Executive Committee (EXEC) to the third meeting of the current period. The challenge of absorbing the substantial amount of content, which serves as the basis for the decision-making processes for the EXEC, in the short time was acknowledged.

Wiederer praised and expressed his gratitude towards the organisers of the eleven younger age category events that took place over the summer who despite the challenges saw the events through to completion; he also thanked the members of the Executive Committee who served as representatives.

### 2. Executive Committee 06/2021

#### 2.1. Minutes and Follow-up

With no additional comment, the minutes were adopted.

#### 2.2. Circular Decisions

For the sake of completeness, due to the overlap in the competitions and the meeting schedule, several topics were handled via circular decisions; it was underlined that though it is not the norm to take decisions in this way, it was necessary.

Topic	Date	Motion by	Result
Awarding of CL places Men/Women Incl. Vardar & Dortmund	27.06.21	Glaser	Unanimous; abstention Schober reg. Dortmund
EHF House – confirmation of the offer and start of the detailed planning procedure	08.07.21	Hausleitner	Unanimous
Wildcard Men’s EHL	11.07.21	Glaser	Unanimous
HC Vardar change of procedure regarding the handling of the deposit	19.07.21	Wiederer/Brown	Unanimous; No response Schober / holidays
Anti-Doping Agreement IHF	26.07.21	Wiederer/Brown	Unanimous
Hygiene Concept Vs 1	28.07.21	Wiederer/Brown	Unanimous
IHF motion Beach Handball Clothing	01.09.21	Wiederer/Brown	Unanimous; no response Djurkovic, Myaro

The EXEC took note of the overview.

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### 2.3. Minutes to the 2021 Ordinary EHF Congress 04/2021

The Executive Committee took note of the minutes without further comment.

## **3. Finance Delegation 09/2021**

### 3.1. Overall Report

The main points of discussion included the cooperation with Infront & DAZN, current financial questions that included, but not limited to, the accounting of the Men's EHF EURO 2022 Qualifiers where Covid-19 damages were decided, the presentation of referee and delegate costs, as well as the budget status.

### 3.2. Status Finances

### 3.3. Timetable Finances

With higher-than-expected entry fees (club competitions) as well as the EHF EURO 2020 additional shares (increased partnership income), total revenues were above budget compared to the figures presented at Congress. The current financial result shows the initial impact of negative interest, and financial support for non-profit organisations has been withdrawn further decreasing the income in the current period.

Expenditure increased due to personnel costs. Virtual/hybrid meetings (including 04/2021 Congress) resulted in reduced costs in the line item 'Meetings'. Office and infrastructure costs increased by approximately EUR 200k, mainly due already agreed upon planning cost for the European Handball House.

The financial aspect of the business is proceeding according to schedule. Completing his report, Vice President Finance, Henrik La Cour thanked the EHF staff for handling the situation in a really good way. President Wiederer reiterated the EHF strategy of not stockpiling income but redistributing it back into the sport via development policies.

## **4. EURO Delegation 09/2021**

With the minutes of the meeting at hand, the major topics from the meeting (EUROs 2022 – HUN/SVK & SLO/MKD/MNE; beach handball, YAC debriefing) were highlighted. It was noted that regarding the EUROs 2026/2028 that some questions with Infront remained unresolved (event set-up, etc.) therefore, no motion concerning the events were to be presented to the Executive Committee.

*For AP5, First Vice President Predrag Bošković assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.*

## **5. Technical Delegation (TD)/ Technical Commissions (TC)**

### 5.1. Technical Delegation

The TD is a coordination body convening under the new constellation with Pedro Sequeira and Gabriella Horvath; the TD also coordinates the activities of the EHF Competence Academy & Network (CAN). Božidar Djurković presented the overall report on behalf of the TD.

## 5.2. Competitions Commission (CC) / Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC)

**General:** the season started well and apart from one withdrawal; all matches so far have been played according to the schedule. A brief overview of the upcoming matches of the EURO Qualifiers as well as the European Qualification to the Men's 2023 World Championship was provided; moreover, information for Covid-19 issues for the Women's EURO Qualifiers distributed to the participating federations.

**Officiating:** Seven pairs of referees successfully graduated from the two EHF Referee Candidates Courses held on the fringes of the YAC events held in LTU and MKD. For the upcoming Men's EHF EURO in HUN/SVK the referee and delegate nominations have been made; the officiating system, orderly reduction over the course of the event, to be implemented mirrors that of last event. Online preparatory activities are planned; a more extensive preparation will take place in Budapest prior to the start of the event. Adding to the report, CSO Glaser spoke of the initiatives surrounding the integrity project such as branding referee shirts and cards with 'Integrity', as well as cooperating with external partners to educate referees on the topic.

It was also mentioned that in view of replacing the outdated referee communication tools that can no longer be serviced, an offer on a new headset model (already successfully tested) is currently under evaluation. Additionally, a tailored training and nutrition programme that will run from October 2021 to December 2022 was initiated by the Competitions Commission for 50 selected referee pairs; one objective of the programme is to reduce the number of injuries. Furthermore, a blanket continuous education and testing programme for all referees and delegates was arranged by the CC and will commence at the end of September; thus, testing will not only take place in the times leading up to competitions.

**Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC):** the Executive Committee approved the recommendation from the Competitions Commission on the composition of the TRC and its members that will serve until the end of the 2022/23 season (incl. 2023 summer events) to allow for the necessary flexibility in this area. The members are as follows: Denis Reibel (FRA) for grassroots, Jutta Ehrmann-Wolf (GER) for female referees, Oyvind Tøgstad (NOR) for elite referees, Zigmars Sondors (LAT) for development. The area of 'Special Tasks' is assigned to the EHF Office as the activities in this area do not need direct refereeing expertise, but partnerships with companies resp. external experts.

**Competitions Commission – Member Women's Competitions:** due to new professional commitments, Liudmila Bodnieva and the Russian Federation informed the CC of her intent to resign the post. The Executive Committee agreed that the Member Federations would be informed and requested to submit candidate nominations to the EHF; the replacement member will be decided by the Executive Committee at the 01/2022 meeting at the latest.

Following the report, the nomination of referees (both genders) and in particular of female referees at top events was questioned, specifically if it was the intention of the EHF to

nominate only female referees to the women's EHF EURO events. In response, President Wiederer intoned that the EHF had managed to take important steps in the last years around officiating and the topic of nominations remains a complex matter that is contextualised in both the theoretical and practical approach; all nominations are dependent on the circumstances and selection is both a technical and strategic issue. Wiederer underlined that the relevant internal bodies responsible for women's handball resp. officiating, would be consulted regarding the future implementation steps.

### 5.3. Methods Commission

With a comprehensive report at hand, MC Chairman Sequeira provided a brief overview of the activities; the motions to the Executive Committee would follow at the end of the report. To the EHF Master Plan, the MC submitted input covering areas of 'The Game', 'Grassroots', and 'Strengthening Network'; details are laid down in the MC 08/2021 minutes.

**Methods & Coaching:** qualitative analyses will be published in the future; the 2021 YAC analyses are on track to be completed as scheduled. To the planned YAC Injury Analysis, a summary will be produced when all reports have been submitted; moreover, a comparison between senior and YAC events will be made. Additionally, the MC recommended that the Kinexon/University Alicante cooperation regarding the scientific usage of the data received be continued; the EHF EURO 2020 referee data available as of end of September.

**Education & Training:** GEO was accepted as "RINCK Convention" signatory on level 3; the signing procedure for the agreement is to be defined. The first and third modules of the 2022 EHF Master Coach course will take place on the fringes of the EHF EUROs in Hungary (01/2022) and Slovenia (12/2022); the schedule of the second module is to be defined. The "Handball Online" webinars covering a range of topics proved successful and will be continued. To keep an overview on the status of coaches, the MC recommended the technical realization of the coaches licensing database; initial contact with EHF IT has taken place.

**Youth, School & Non-competitive sports:** No further EHF Young Coaches Workshops will be organized; A manual will be written informing on the philosophy and organization of "Young Coaches Workshops" on national level. Member Federations will have the possibility to request EHF Lecturers for National Young Coaches Workshops. In cooperation with the IHF, it was recommended that the 2022 World & European Wheelchair Handball Championship be organised in November 2022. Furthermore, since the number of referees and delegates for wheelchair handball is small, no age limit should apply at this time, and a limit should only be introduced at a later point when more referees and delegates become available.

At the request of the MC, the EHF IT department is currently searching for technical solutions for a handball coaching application targeted at teachers and educators. Relevant information was distributed to the Member Federations concerning the EHF partnership with the EU European Week of Sport (23.-30.09.2021); the latest edition focuses on social media.

Additionally, the MC members contemplated cooperation with external partners already running handball programmes with the aim of producing a handball manual for children with learning disabilities; a manual will also be prepared that targets ‘Kindergarten Handball’ in cooperation with the EHF office. In response to questions, it was underlined that the manual would instruct elementary teachers how to use ball games for children up to 4 years old; a common approach will be shared with the Member Federations. Street handball was also briefly mentioned, and the Executive Committee were informed that the GOALCHA projects are still ongoing.

**Development:** the complete EHF development system shall be revised; support (material/knowledge transfer) shall be offered on various levels encompassing topics of organisational structure, education system, media & communication, competition structure, etc.; projects will be guided by EHF counsellors.

**Additional topics:** the MC currently considers the overhaul of the EHF Lecturers and Scientific Network Members; the profile, as well as guidelines for application are to be defined and a proposal will be submitted to the Executive Committee in 11/2021. The 2021 EHF Scientific Conference will be organized as a video conference on 04. - 05.11.2021 due to the ongoing pandemic. A new concept for the ‘Activities’ website providing information to different target groups (e.g., players, coaches, officials, managers, lecturers, volunteers, etc.) was confirmed and shall be realized as soon as possible.

The MC recommends the formulation of an EHF gaming and eSport philosophy to aid the stakeholders in a first step with a focus on education to have e.g. coaches and clubs know how eSports are working. In the brief discussion that followed, the branding, financial perspective, and how to get people from eSports into handball, were mentioned.

**The MC submitted the following motions to the Executive Committee to request:**

- I. Prolongation of the cooperation with University Alicante/Kinexon on a scientific basis.
- II. Approval of hosting a 2022 World & European Wheelchair Handball Championship.
- III. Transition period age limit for EHF Wheelchair Handball Referees and Delegates.
- IV. Approval of the organization of a “EHF & Special Olympics European Handball Week”.

**The Executive Committee approved MC motions 1 to 4 as written.**

- V. Approval and signing of membership with Global Sport Innovations Centre (GSIC).

**The Executive Committee approved motion 5, with the addendum that the membership should be entered into for one year only following a careful evaluation of the agreement (e.g., follow-up costs, data transfer, GDPR).**

#### 5.4. Beach Handball Commission

With a comprehensive report at hand, BC Chairwoman Horvath highlighted the success of the summer tournaments that took place in Torrox (ESP) and Varna (BUL) including the positive media figures. The awarding of the YAC 16 BH EURO was postponed until November as the

bid process is to be re-opened due to the organiser situation; the bidding process for the senior BH EUROS 2023 is to be initiated following a revision to account for the media interest.

To the upcoming 2023 EOC EU Games, the contract to include beach handball was signed by the EHF. In a next step, the qualification process on the YAC/senior level is to be developed. Concerning the beach handball Olympic Games aspiration, it was confirmed that the BC is aiming for inclusion at the 2028 edition of the Games; it was underlined that the 2023 EU Games is an important step in attaining the target, and the recent ‘drama’ around the clothing regulations was not conducive to the situation.

An update was given to the progress being undertaken concerning beach handball uniforms at the EHF and IHF levels; the EHF responded to communication from the IHF concerning a solitary option for uniforms. Later, following discussion clarifying the situation and potential responses, BC Chairwoman Horvath presented an alternative solution to the clothing issue suggesting the presentation of a maximum length that would allow for flexibility within the teams to which the Executive Committee agreed.

The Executive Committee also discussed at length the fallout of the situation instigated and perpetuated by the President Lio of the Norwegian Handball Federation. The damage to the beach handball cause through the media statements and ignoring the responsibility of the IHF for these regulations, undermining both regulations and congress decisions, were emphatically stated.

It was clearly stated that, going forward, the Executive Committee would continue to support the work of the Beach handball commission in this respect.

*Following the conclusion of AP5, the Chairmanship of the meeting returned to the President.*

## **6. Competitions**

### **6.1. Organization of Events**

With the extensive report at hand, additional commentary was afforded to certain points; the meeting of the EURO Delegation focused on the evaluation of the younger age category events, specifically promotion and relegation. The EXEC agreed to a thorough analysis of the YAC events on the level of the Competition Commission; this will be followed by submission to the EXEC and subsequently tabled at the next edition of the Conference for Secretaries General.

The 2022 edition of the EHF Masters Championship will take place in Granollers (ESP) with full support both at the local and national (RFEBM) level. Furthermore, the Executive Committee confirmed that the BH EHF EUROS must be concluded by the end of May 2023 to ensure a correct qualification to the 2023 EOC EU Games. The preparation for the EHF EUROS in 2022 continues to proceed accordingly, the positive cooperation with the Organisers (HUN/SVK & SLO/MKD/MNE) was underlined. The men’s event will see 100% spectator capacity under defined conditions; the women’s event will see its ‘ONE YEAR TO GO’

countdown event take place on 10.11.2021. For the future EURO events in 2024, inspections and cooperation visits have taken place, and starting points have been set. The bids for the 2026 & 2028 events will be presented and awarded at the Extraordinary EHF Congress in November; Wiederer underlined that top events must be held in top venues and therefore the bid conditions have to be fulfilled for an admission to the awarding at the Extraordinary EHF Congress.

## 6.2. National Team Competitions

The bid registrations for the 2022 YAC events were presented to the Executive Committee, and information on the background was provided. The Executive confirmed the following organisers:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Awarded to</b>
M20 EHF EURO	7. - 17.07.2022	POR
M20 EHF European Championship	7. - 17.07.2022	No Applicants
M18 EHF EURO	4. - 14.08.2022	MNE
M18 EHF European Championship	4. - 14.08.2022	ISR, UKR, LAT

Pre-emptive contact to potential organisers is ongoing; if a Federation confirms its willingness to organise a M20 Championship, the approval of the Executive Committee would be sought via a circular decision or at the meeting in November.

## 6.3. Club Competitions

The Executive Committee was provided with additional information on the withdrawal of a KOS club team as well as the ‘Moscow-Metz’ match that had to be postponed due to a myriad of causes; the complexity of the situation was outlined. It was, once more, confirmed that the playing of matches is of core importance and that all necessary measures have to be taken to secure the competition inventory

## 6.4. Competition Related Activities

CSO Glaser provided a short report on the ‘Hygiene Concept for Club Competitions’; an updated version was released prior to the start of the current season. It was noted that the document would be continually revised as procedure was already adapted around individual matches.

The Executive Committee discussed the ongoing ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic; looking to the current vaccination efforts and the validity thereof, the EHF was asked to bear in mind that policies that exceed government issued regulations should not be set less it cause additional problems for teams. Moreover, the EXEC also looked at the matter of children (under 12) attending matches; it was deemed that this would be handled according to local policies.



## **7. Business Report**

### **7.1. Offices EHF and EHFEM: 2021 – 2024**

The Executive Committee are informed on the relocation of EHF Marketing from Hoffingergasse to Euro Plaza for the next three years resp. the completion of the new house; the finance department was resituated in Hoffingergasse on the first floor. Considering the current developments, it is to be determined what is to be done with the EHF base in Sonnergasse.

### **7.2. Personnel EHF**

With the report at hand, a brief overview of personnel activities that included the contract renewal of the Secretary General, the upcoming retirement of P. Sichelschmidt (Senior Director National Teams) that will initiate changes at the level of the Management Board with the heads of IT and Media being added to the structure, as well as personnel hires in the media, business development, IT, and competition departments. The recruitment process for two departments is still ongoing, and a protocol for 'Home Office' was approved and initiated.

The Executive Committee approved the prolongation of the agreement with Martin Hausleitner upon proposal of the President and recommendation of the Finance Delegation. The excellent work, and trustful cooperation, was underlined.

### **7.3. Business Activities**

A comprehensive report was submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting; Hausleitner mentioned the successful introduction of the 'Respect Your Talent' programme at the men's YAC events during the summer, the feedback received will lead to some changes to the future editions i.e. number of players in sessions, education of coaches, etc. The EXEC agreed that the Member Federations should be encouraged to start their own initiatives and showed its support for RYT noting that from the business perspective, RYT should be seen as a marketing asset important for promoting brand image/loyalty.

At the level of daily business, Hausleitner spoke of the launch of the EHF app and the implementation of the accreditation tool at the summer events, as well as the upcoming IHF-EHF calendar conference that will deal with the issue of the events and national team weeks on 7 October. Furthermore, the Executive Committee also confirmed the prolongation of the cooperation with the ticketing agency 'eventim' that will improve conditions for organisers of future events (EUROs 2026/28); the single point-of-sale and a central database for all ticket holders was highlighted.

### **7.4. Masterplan**

A status report was presented; with the internal departments continuously working on the various aspects of the Masterplan, the next status update will be given at the Extraordinary EHF Congress in November.

## 7.5. Digital Strategy

The Directors of the Information Technology, Media, and Business Development departments joined the Executive Committee in form of video presentations to provide a status update on the EHF digital landscape in terms of development whilst endeavouring to keep and uphold the integrity of the sport and progressing with modern advancements. Since the activation of the media and marketing agreements, the digital environment has changed; the EHF had to assume new responsibilities in various fields, which consequently impacted strategy i.e. integration of new external partners and reenvisioning cooperation with existing partners.

Leading the report, Christoph Gamper (IT) presented the IT landscape by providing an overview of partners and services. Two major points that cover the spectrum of digital strategy from the IT point of view are the business process combined with competition administration and the fan experience coupled with customer data collection. The requirements and strategy thereof cover ten key elements, which include primarily, the EHF as the data owner, GDPR compliance, splitting workload via singular inputs with multiple outputs, etc.

The ‘EHF Enterprise Layer’ (5 essential aspects emanating from a central server, database, and storage farm) as well as the service landscape - how the aspects are interwoven and relate to each other, and how it is delivered to the (25) different service partners - were described via two visual examples, highlighting how the same data can be reused for different purposes. To emphasise the scope of the task, and the challenges of running many projects (new and existing) in parallel, Gamper stated that the Women’s EHF EURO 2020 saw 500GB of raw data exchanged during the event, and in a club competition week over 700 persons make use of 50 applications and services provided by 15 partners.

JJ Rowland (Business Development and Marketing) underlined the objective of growing the community (fans/stakeholders) through the digital marketing strategy and laid out the plans for targeted growth by 2027. Using the visual aid of the digital marketing funnel, the steps of attracting, identifying, and engaging the fan/stakeholder was elaborated. Targeting the building of stakeholder communities, he continued by providing specific examples of actions to be taken in relation to specific groups (players, referees/coaches, and clubs). The ‘Technology Stack’ was a visual aid that showed the intricacies involved with marketing to the fans.

Thomas Schöneich (Media and Communications) reiterated the main objectives – to be the most attractive indoor team sport in Europe and community growth – from the EHF Media standpoint; with the status currently at 1.5m digital followers, the aim is to increase the number to 2.5m by 2025. It was underlined that the objectives are marred by social climate uncertainties; however, the growth strategies of ‘consolidate-develop-innovate’ i.e. twitch, and audience-monitoring-consent-strategy are geared towards growth and success. The

‘Home of Handball’ lies at the core of the media strategy, and each competition has presence with its own ‘face’; it was noted that the media plan is influenced by the EHF Master Plan.

Thanking the departmental directors for the presentation, the Executive Committee briefly discussed and gave feedback to the information received that included increasing ‘entry points’ for fans by linking the projects with the National Federations and the Clubs. It was also suggested to consider the use of LinkedIn (deep dive and act accordingly) to promote major events; the current use of LinkedIn covers Method & Development topics – the usage is slow, but consistent.

#### 7.6. Legal Report

With the report at hand, the Executive Committee was additionally informed on the progress of the dealings with WADA, as well as the legal cases that had reached resolution i.e. Dortmund (damage claims ongoing) and Benidorm. The EXEC was also informed on the suspension of 7 players by their Federation who are suspected of betting on their own game (YAC tournament); the EHF awaits more information when at such a time further steps will be taken as necessary.

#### **The Legal Delegation submitted the following proposal for approval:**

- I. Amendment of Annex 2 ‘III Role of the Initiator of Procedure - and Procedure’ to enable the functionality of the Initiator of Proceedings Substitute (IoPS).

**The amendment was deemed necessary as a consequence of the Congress decision and regulates the procedures respectively; the Executive Committee approved the proposal as written.**

#### 7.7. EAU Report

The EHF anti-doping activities were re-started following the signing of an agreement with the IHF; the EHF anti-doping unit (EAU) will have full access to the ADAMS system, the finance and budget topics are settled, and the first coordination meetings have taken place.

#### 7.8. European Handball House

Supplementing the report at hand, Hausleitner expanded on the evaluation process concerning the financing and construct of the project, and according to the external expertise sought, the creation of a limited liability company (LLC) would be highly beneficial to the EHF from the taxation viewpoint, reducing real estate taxes by approx. EUR 1.3m. The creation of an LLC possibly posing a risk to the NPO status of the EHF, and the financial impact of operating two organisations was noted and therefore all legal aspects are to be considered; conversely, the benefits of creating an LLC were outlined. It was emphasised that there exists no time pressure to close the contracts with the developer in the current business year. The matter continues to be treated on the level of the Finance Delegation, and more information is required prior to the instigation of the decision-making process; nonetheless, the situation must be concluded in 2022 at the latest.

At the request of the Executive Committee, it was agreed that the EXEC would immediately receive updates when new information is available; the next status report will be given at the Extraordinary EHF Congress in November.

## **8. EHF Marketing GmbH**

### 8.1. Overall Report

#### 8.1.1. Business Year 2019/2020

The previous business year can be regarded as a success due to the efforts undertaken by all involved, including those within the EHF working at the club level, to complete and comply with the original budgets; all monies to the clubs and the EHF have been paid. The finalisation of the accounts is ongoing and is being conducted by the external auditor resp. the Comptrollers' Council in October; the result will be presented in November at the General Assembly.

#### 8.1.2. Business Year 2021/2022

The current business year is proceeding as expected; the contract is in place and the finances are secured.

### 8.2. General Assembly 09/2021

### 8.3. Club Boards 09/2021 / Advisory Board 09/2021

No specific report: the minutes to the meetings were made available to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting.

### 8.4. Contractual Situation I & D

President Wiederer delivered a comprehensive verbal report on the current situation with the media and marketing partners, Infront & DAZN (I&D) that covered the period 28 June to 24 September and refers to the agreements of the EHFM (club activities) and EHF (National Teams). Wiederer spoke of the meetings held at the level of the Steering Board/Strategy Committee, as well as important communications received from I&D representatives and agents. It was underlined that the EHF and EHFM remain(ed) committed to upholding the integrity and reputation of the sport and its governing bodies. The agreements are upheld as the EHF/EHFM continue to deliver on contractual obligations. In the coming days, another cooperation summit will be held with the lead representatives from all four parties – EHF/EHFM and Infront/DAZN and the respective bodies, the EHFM Advisory Board and EHF Finance Delegation will be informed accordingly.

## **9. Boards and Stakeholder Groups**

### 9.1. Overall Report

### 9.2. Preview Meetings 10/2021

To the upcoming stakeholder meetings, the President spoke briefly of the new rundown (with the addition of the new Committees for men and women), and how the efficient scheduling allows sufficient time for the core business. The Men's and Women's Forum Club Handball

(M/WFCH) has announced its 2022 timeline; the EHF was involved in the scheduling of the European Handball League Board (EHLB) and though not much is known about the European Handball Players' Union (EHPU), the organisation strives towards balance in this area.

PHB Chairman Gerd Butzeck announced his departure from the Professional Handball Board, and consequently, the seat on the Executive Committee. He thanked the Executive Committee for the cooperation over the past years and hoped that his contribution was seen in the spirit intended - doing his very best for the sport. He expressed that he appreciated his time in the Executive Committee and it was doing a very good job, feeling secure despite being in difficult times. He will continue in his function as the Managing Director of the stakeholder group, Forum Club Handball.

WHB Chairwoman Nodjialem Myaro announced her possible departure from Executive Committee due to extensive personal and professional commitments; in the current electoral period it is her intent to serve the Women's Handball Board only as a member. She also thanked her colleagues in the Executive Committee for the good cooperation over the past years.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, President Wiederer formally thanked Members Butzeck and Myaro for their service and contributions to the sport of handball, as well as enhancing the Executive Committee through their presence transporting information in both directions.

## **10. International Partners**

### **10.1. International Handball Federation / IHF Congress**

The organisation of the upcoming IHF Congress is open, and the possibility of an online Congress remains. The IHF Council meeting of 15 July was followed by a meeting of the European Federations. The presence of President Wiederer in Tokyo facilitated various short meetings. The EHF delegation also attended a working group treating the topic of transfers on 13 September having used the opportunity of their presence in Basel to have another contact with the IHF. At the latest IHF Council meeting that took place online on 22 September, a written report covering the summer activities on the continent Europe was presented by the EHF delegation.

### **10.2. Other Institutions**

Wiederer mentioned his participation at a virtual meeting hosted for the ambassadors of the European (EU) nations for sport, delivering a presentation of the EHF structure and the experience gained for the Slovenian EU Presidency drawn to the governance structure in respect to a European Model of Sport. The model of sport currently in discussion is to be handled in November to reach an overall position on the ESM intended to reach across the political spectrum.

The EHF is in contact with UEFA concerning the matter of private leagues – three clubs are still requesting the right to organise a private league. In the knowledge that handball has faced its own challenges over the past 18 years, it was underlined that it is paramount to keep handball together.

## **11. Upcoming Conferences**

### **11.1. Extraordinary EHF Congress / 30 Years EHF Jubilee 11/2021**

In the ongoing preparatory phase for the event, the ‘Info 1’ was distributed, and travel arrangements were settled. Upon question, Wiederer informed that it was not foreseen to invite all newly elected commission members, as the current environment does not allow for large number.

### **11.2. EHF Conference of Presidents 09/2022**

No special report: contact with the organiser LUX was established

### **11.3. Ordinary EHF Congress 06/2023**

With the initial site visit report available, Wiederer added that the venue is a mere 300 metres from the seat of the International Handball Federation; the preparation for the event will continue following the Extraordinary EHF Congress in November.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

### **12.1. Meeting Schedule 2022**

It was requested that those serving in a function reserve the dates; no additional special input was added. The schedule will be published together with the minutes in order to grant transparency, but as well to create understanding for the rundown of the decision-making process.

### **12.2. Other Topics**

The initial draft proposal for representation at the Men’s EHF EURO 2022 was distributed to the Executive Committee and feedback was requested as to availability.

Thanking the Executive Committee for their presence in Torrevieja as well as the input to the various topics, President Wiederer closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: M. Wiederer/M. Brown

Vienna, 1 October 2021