

MINUTES TO THE 156TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prior to the 2021 EHF Congress in Vienna/AUT

Thursday, 22 April 2021 14:00 – 17:00 hrs. Room Europa 6

Executive:	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finance
	Božidar Đurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Jerzy Elias	Chairman Methods Commission
	Ole Jørstad	Chairman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Gabriella Horváth	Member
	Anrijs Brencans	Member
	Gerd Butzeck	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Nodjialem Myaro	Chairwomen Women's Handball Board
Office:	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Andrea Moser	Finance Projects
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President

1. Welcome

President Wiederer welcomed all participants and expressed his gratitude that all the members were able to be present in Vienna and join the meeting personally. He emphasized the special situation of the meeting as it was already clear that Ole Jørstad and Jerzy Elias are not nominated for re-election by their National Federations.

2. EXEC Minutes 03/2021

The minutes were adopted without further comment or question.

3. Reports

3.1. Report from the Finance Delegation

The Secretary General gave a short summary of the topics discussed at the meeting of the Finance Delegation, which took place prior to the meeting of the EXEC. Actual finance questions regarding injury cases out of national team events, additional costs arising from the hygiene protocol in YAC competitions and investments in the IHF/EHF Trophy in Georgia were reviewed. The request of the Croatian Handball Federation for a donation floor was accepted.

In addition to this, CFO Binder brought information forward regarding the situation that banking institutes in Austria are going to charge negative interests for cash deposits, this influences EHF assets as well as deposits by Federations and EHF accounts.

Continuing, President Wiederer reported on the status of the cooperation with Infront & DAZN; talks regarding the financial environment of the cooperation and the future exploitation of marketing rights in the club competitions are ongoing. In this respect, Wiederer emphasized the importance to maintain the competitions to safeguard the EHF and EHF contracts. Referring to the competitions and matches carried out, Wiederer extended his compliments to the EHF staff, clubs, and federations.

For the upcoming season, regulations for the EHF competitions shall be adapted, reflecting the situation in the last season and implementing procedures that will safeguard a proper rundown of the 2021/22 competitions. Hausleitner highlighted situations where the organization of a game is influenced by Covid-19 cases, as well as the necessary adaptations regarding the exploitation of marketing rights in the club competitions, the adaptation of the timeline regarding the registration process for the upcoming season, and the approach of the EHF towards federations and leagues to safeguard a proper information process to uphold the agreement to end the women's and men's seasons. An update to the respective Final4 events was also given.

Additionally, in the upcoming week, a meeting of the EHF Advisory Board is scheduled. The objective is to find a harmonized approach for the men's and women's club competitions regarding the distribution of financial resources resulting from the environment of the F4 tournaments (to be organized without spectators) and the additional expenses. As a consequence, the payments for the F4 will be adapted accordingly and compensated according to the result of EHF after the finalisation of the business year.

3.2. Report from the Secretary General

- **Project EHF House:** several meetings with the project company as well as the architects took place to create a complete picture of the options to construct the office space and the façade, which both have an impact on the final offer. The finance department is working on open financial questions such as financing, the commercial process, and the contractual environment. A short report will be presented at the congress and all necessary information will be submitted to the Executive Committee for a decision to be taken at the meeting in June; illustrations of the possible building were made available to the EXEC members.
- **Gerflor:** the new contract, valid from 2022 to 2026, is ready for signing. Following intensive negotiations, the EHF will receive handball floors for all competitions including

the 2026 EHF EUR events. Additionally, two (2) donation floors in EURO years and one (1) in odd years are offered.

- **Agreement I&D:** on 9 April, a cooperation meeting between the EHF/M, represented by Michael Wiederer, Martin Hausleitner and David Szlezak, with Infront, represented by Philipp Blatter and Julien Ternisien, took place in person in Vienna. Several topics such as the basic understanding of the cooperation, financial questions, as well as the marketing rights of the club competitions were discussed. Further talks will be held to improve processes and reach synergies within the cooperation. In addition, several working group meetings took place to further the development of the EHF EUROs as well as the digital environment.

3.3. Report EHF Marketing GmbH

CFO Binder informed about the status of the ongoing tax audit; remaining questions have to be answered by the finance department. It is expected that the audit can be completed soon.

4. Technical Commissions 04/2021

4.1. Competitions Commission

CC Chairman Božidar Đjurković presented a short review of the electoral period as well as a report on the current competition situation together with an update on the preparatory activities of the 2022 EHF EUROs. Đjurković concluded with an exchange of information regarding the Congress and some organizational topics.

The competitions were running in the last few weeks with only a small number of matches not being played. In general, the number of Covid-19 cases in EHF competitions reduced considerably in 2021; however, some of the governmental restrictions are still creating difficulties. There is a pending legal case resulting from a club that did not appear for two games in the Last 16 round of the DELO EHF Champions League. The issue of the cancelled game in Veszprem vs Nantes in Round 14 of the Men's Champions League is under investigation.

At the national team level, the draws for the Women's WCh Playoff (19 April) and Women's EHF EURO 2022 Qualifiers (26 April) were carried out without issue. Furthermore, the preparations are under way for the large number of YAC Competitions in the summer, including the Men's U19 in Croatia that was installed following the cancellation of all IHF World Championships. However, it remains to be seen if all these events will take place according to schedule.

Activities in the area of referees and delegates still do not include any courses with physical presence of persons. The focus is therefore on online material for further education and the

restructuring of the area in which George Bebetos assumed the role in the EHF office as the Referee Programme Coordinator.

4.2. Methods Commission

Jerzy Eliasz gave a short summary of the topics of the MC meeting that took place prior to the EXEC meeting.

- **Kinexon:** in a next step the KINEXON data, collected at the previous EUROs, is to be analysed in cooperation with University of Alicante. All parameters have been filtered, interpreted and made available for the participating nations in several categories and split into offensive and defensive actions.
- **RINCK Convention:** Annual reports still missing from BUL, LTU and SVK. The next RINCK Convention Seminar (digital) is scheduled for 16-18 June 2021.
- **Master Coach Courses:** seven national courses currently taking place (GER, POL, SRB, CRO, POR, RUS, GRE); two courses are complete (DEN, BLR) and the official documentation is awaited. Two more federations informed the EHF about the organization of a License Renewal Course (NED, SVK).
- **Grassroots Activities:** the EU movement *#BeActiveAtHome* has been prolonged until 5 April 2021. With regard to all top clubs playing in the EHF Champions League and the European League, top players were asked to present and record home training tips/exercises as well as some challenges for people to try at home; 63 videos were submitted and are regularly posted on the EHF Activities' social media. Depending on the quality, the videos were/will be published either as a separate clip or included in the final compilation of all material provided. The final compilation will be uploaded on the EHF Activities YouTube channel. The EHF asked the National Federations to nominate a contact person responsible for grassroots topics.
- **SMART programme:** ALB was informed that the support requested does not fulfil the guidelines and can therefore not be granted within the EHF development programmes. ALB provided basic information regarding a possible SMART programme instead which will be handled after the EHF Congress. A programme with MDA will be signed during the Congress.
- **Wheelchair Handball:** POR will provide feedback on possibility to organize the 2021 World & European Wheelchair Handball Championship by mid-May.

- **Special Handball:** Maida Arslanagic (CRO) will be contacted for further information on projects regarding special handball. A meeting will be held with Hummel and the organizers of the Danish “Lykke Liga” regarding a European-wide initiative for children with special needs.
- **EHF CAN:** the 9th edition of the EHF Club/Federation Management Seminar will be organized as a webinar under the title “Learning from Others – Best Practice”; the invitation letter will be sent by end of April.

MC Motion:

The MC recommended the prolongation of the cooperation with the EU regarding the **#BeActive** European Week of Sports (EWOS) initiative.

President Wiederer thanked Chairman Jerzy Eliaz for his professional engagement over the last eight years.

4.3. Beach Handball Commission

Presenting a brief overview of the topics discussed at the most recent meeting, BC Chairman Ole Jørstad mentioned that several requests for educational material and lecturers were supported, and the online testing tool was evaluated and will be ready for the new period of testing from 3 to 16 May. Other information provided covered the following topics:

- The next edition of the beach handball book is in production and on schedule and will include teaching and promotional videos. A photo and video shoot will be organized at the end of May.
- The registration and licensing project is in development and will be submitted to the IHF for evaluation upon completion.
- Currently, ten ebt tournaments are registered in the system and 47 teams will participate in the various competitions. The Final tournament will take place in Torrox (ESP), the inspection took place and an optimal event environment is assured by the organizer; the organization contract with the Spanish Handball Federation is ready to be signed within the framework of the Congress.
- To the EHF Beach Handball EURO and the respective YAC competition, 18 female and 19 male teams have registered for the senior competition, and 18 male plus 18 female teams will participate in the YAC tournament; the contract will be signed during the Congress. The preliminary nominations for the event officials was distributed after the inspection and will be adapted following the Congress.

- The 5th edition of the EUSA Games planned to take place in Belgrade, with indoor and beach handball among the disciplines, is cancelled.

Finally, Jørstad mentioned the BC Congress presentation summarizing the activities from 2016–2021.

President Wiederer thanked Jørstad for his contribution to the positive development of Beach Handball working in his function as chairman of the Beach Handball Commission over the last two election periods.

5. Organisation of Events – Update

- With the written report at hand, Hausleitner provided information on the successful conclusion to the final accounting of the EHF EURO 2020 in DEN(NOR).
- The European Open and Partille Cup were cancelled at short notice in accordance with the current government restrictions in Sweden.
- President Wiederer reported about the initiative to present a fair play award to the Netherlands for their attitude during the EHF EURO 2020 in Denmark by accepting a postponement of their opening game without any negative comment.

6. Other topics – EHF Master Plan

JJ Rowland is set to report on the current status of the EHF Master Plan at the Congress; having received the inputs from Federations and stakeholder groups, defined goals are to be treated further after the Congress in reference groups together with the responsible Commissions; a printed booklet will be provided to all participants.

7. Congress Preparations

Programme/Agenda/Task Distribution: having received permission from the Executive Committee to organize the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress in Vienna, a venue was found and a relevant hygiene protocol was created at short notice; all preparation work was completed within the timeline. All documents have been provided to all participants; 41 Federations are registered to take part in person, nine Federations have requested a remote participation. The two associated federations will take part remotely as well. The EHF Congress offers proper conditions in a personal environment for an election congress.

The task distribution to chair the Congress and present various topics and motions was given to the persons concerned; various aspects regarding gender equality in the election process,

gender aspects in refereeing as well as the topic of uniforms in beach handball have been discussed and statements have been prepared.

Congress Follow-Up: meetings of the newly elected Boards and Commissions, as well as the EXEC are scheduled immediately after the congress; information on further procedure and the upcoming meeting schedule will be given.

8. Acknowledgement

At the end of the meeting, President Wiederer expressed his gratitude for the openminded approach to the EHF business and the personal contribution of the EXEC members. Special thanks for their personal engagement was expressed towards those who are not going to be re-elected.

Vienna, 27.04.2021/mh