
MINUTES TO THE 165TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG

Date:	23 September 2022	
Time:	09:00 – 12:45 13:45 – 15:00	
Venue:	Parc Hotel Schengen II	
Executive:	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
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Marta Bon	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board
Excused:	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
Office:	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Andrea Moser	Finance Projects
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

PART I | ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. WELCOME, PROGRAMME, AND AGENDA

President Wiederer welcomed the Executive Committee (EXEC) members to the autumn meeting held in Luxembourg on the fringes of the 16th EHF Conference of Presidents and the 15th Extraordinary EHF Congress. On behalf of the Luxembourg Handball Federation, Honorary President Jeannot Kaiser, briefly addressed the Executive Committee and wished them a successful working session. Officially opening the meeting, the programme and agenda were reiterated.

2. MINUTES AND FOLLOW-UP

2.1. Executive Committee 06/2022

For the record, the following comments are to be acknowledged.

- Concerning agenda point 3.2. Legal Management, at the time it was stated that the legal motions were to be decided by the EXEC, but after careful internal analysis, it became clear that these motions had to be decided at the 15th Extraordinary EHF Congress. In this regard, the 06/2022 minutes are to be updated.

- To agenda point 4.2.Finance Topics, at the time it was stated that a motion would be submitted to the 15th Extraordinary EHF Congress to decide upon potential index-based increases of entry fees and similar incomes; the EHF opted not to integrate the motion as the situation remains unclear; thus, the topic will return after further analysis.

With no further input, comment or questions, the minutes from the meeting in June were adopted.

2.2. *Circular Decisions of the Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee took note of the exchange of information on three specific topics. Version 1 of the EHF Hygiene Concept for the 2022/2023 European Cup Season was provided only for information, as no decision needed to be taken by the Executive Committee. The two decisions on the awarding of competition places were taken unanimously.

- 25.06.2022: Awarding of the Men's and Women's Champions League Places for the 2022/2023
- 10.07.2022: Awarding of Wild Card for the Group Phase of the Men's European League

3. BUSINESS REPORT

3.1. Business activities

The Executive Committee was furnished with a comprehensive report prior to the meeting; in his verbal report Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner provided additional information to the personnel situation emphasising the situation in the legal department also due to health-related absences. As reflected in the written report, the EHF was faced with a dense number, and intense level, of activities and events; here he mentioned the representation of the EHF at the SPOBIS conference in Düsseldorf, as well as the intense preparatory phases of the upcoming Women's Handball Conference in November, as well as the 'Circle of a Handball Life' project as these activities, and many others, are interconnected and will have an impact on the coming weeks.

- **I&D Negotiations & Consequences:** following intense negotiations and many meetings and communications, a solution for the EHF (Clubs) media and marketing agreement was found. Nonetheless, this will affect the EHF (National Teams) agreement, changes in the contractual situation with DAZN will impact the agreements. Thus, all governance structures (Steering Board, Strategy Committee, etc) will be reformed, alternative technical services will be delivered (i.e. digital interfaces have to be rearranged in a new way) in the future from Infront. However, the agreements can benefit from the new format as cost reductions are foreseen.
- **Respect Your Talent (RYT):** the programme is proceeding; accordingly, 13 activities took place this summer.
- **EHF Inventory:** a directory of activities, tools, and networking information has been collated. Further analysis will be undertaken, and more information on the project will be provided to the Executive Committee in November.

- **European Handball Players of the Year:** the long-awaited project debuted in September and is progressing as foreseen; the awarding event will take place on 26 June 2023.
- **Partners:** all collaborations and partnerships are proceeding as foreseen. An advertising partner is being sought to assume the rights for sleeve advertising (EURO 2022 SMM).
- **Ticketing:** it was acknowledged that the current situation regarding the November EURO could be better; despite all tools being implemented, success is still elusive although it is expected that all home team matches will be sold-out. Regarding EURO 2024 GER, ticket sales are going well.
- **Merchandising:** the EHF will enter into a merchandising agreement with ‘Sportex’, a company that will handle all organisational and set-up aspects. The EHF has secured 15% of the turnover in this no-risk deal that includes a sustainable solution for unsold items.
- **CRM:** to date 400k individual users have been identified; the success of the 2022 YAC events was beneficial to enlarging the fanbase.
- **YAC:** The triumph of the TV production in POR (M20 EURO) saw the event transmitted in 20 markets. This achievement and the good approach lend weight to the decision to enlarge YAC events to 24 teams.
- **Media:** with an encompassing written report at hand, the increase in the digital fields can be followed, specifically the observations of the Nations that are regularly engaging with the sport.
- **IT:** in addition to the extensive list of ongoing projects, the launch of the EHF Activities website, as well as IT engagement in the European Handball Players of the Year project, the formation of the ‘Hall of Fame’ and the election processes thereof, were highlighted to the Executive Committee.

3.2. Legal Management

It was acknowledged that due to the personnel situation within the department, some cases were not closed; in order to have the respective panels completing the decision-making processes, the internal administration has to be at full strength. Concerning the RUS/BLR/UKR situation, the complexity of the cases was reiterated and there has been much input from all parties.

Following an in-depth analysis of the EHF Membership of RUS and BLR, there is no legal reason to suspend the memberships of the National Federations; thus, an invitation was sent to both Federations to attend the 15th Extraordinary EHF Congress. In direct contact, both RUS and BLR informed the EHF that they would not be in attendance due to visa resp. organisational challenges.

Nonetheless, the EHF continues to stand by the decisions taken in this situation; Wiederer underlined the need to maintain the dialogue with the Federations, as the current enforceable ban pertains to all activities and not the status of membership respectively the cooperation. **The Executive Committee took note of the report.**

3.3. European Anti-doping Unit

EAU activities were carried out according to the set schedule; however, through the execution of activities, it became apparent that more education on anti-doping (AD) topics was necessary as it was clear that many Federations are not prepared especially in this area of youth and junior players. The EAU submitted a request to take appropriate action in due course in order to be prepared for the 2023 summer events. It was underlined that there must be full transparency between obligatory and self-determined AD activities. The report was submitted prior to the meeting, and with no additional comment, **the Executive Committee acknowledged the report.**

3.4. Masterplan

Prior to the meeting, a detailed report was submitted to the Executive Committee; Secretary General Hausleitner added that the cooperation with SCO and CRO was very thorough e.g. Croatia will focus on grassroots activities as it provides a great opportunity to work with a Federation that so far has no basis in area. **The Executive Committee took note of the report and confirmed the signing of EHF Masterplan agreements with Croatia and Scotland on the fringes of the 16th Conference of Presidents.**

3.5. European Players of the Year

Wiederer underlined the intricacies of the project and referred to the detailed report available; and with an additional impact on processes completed by the IT services, the project will not only produce significant content for the handball digital environment, but also allow to really connect with the players and other stakeholders as well as fans and journalists, especially in June 2023. **The Executive Committee acknowledged the report.**

3.6. European Handball House

The Executive Committee members were informed that additional meetings, site visits, and several other steps have been taken since the last meeting. Respective information was delivered at the meeting of the Finance Delegation. It was reiterated that two contracts (land ownership and construction) are to be signed. The process to acquire the construction permit is ongoing; regarding the architectural plans, decisions were taken concerning, heating, storage, and room planning. Moreover, a small piece of non-working space was returned, thus in turn lowering the costs, but having no major impact on the project.

CFO Bernhard Binder referenced the detailed ‘next steps’ timeline of the project submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. The financing of the project and additional requests was reviewed; it was emphasised that it remains in line with the decision of the Executive Committee in June. At this time, the EHF awaits the signature on the Share Purchase Agreement. The next steps will include preparatory work on the tender process for the construction of the building to be carried out by the development company, as well as a review of the situation with bank partners, as the current global economic situation has had a negative impact on credit conditions. However, as the organisation does not need this financing line until the end of 2023, there remains time to negotiate. Furthermore, contact has been established with the relevant Austrian authorities to discuss sustainability funding, and incentives for businesses bases in Vienna.

Wiederer added that the project is entering an interesting phase with the selection of a General Contractor, as well as looking at increasing costs of raw materials; it was therefore imperative

to secure a fixed price. The General Contractor/construction agreement will contain an opt-out clause, where the EHF can take over the project (and the ownership of the plans); and a maximum of EUR 2.4 million will be held to cover additional costs and costs for the land. Should this be the case, the EHF will have the choice to use independent contractors. It was noted that the Finance Delegation would be the first point of contact on pricing matters to ensure the project remains in the financial framework, and principal decisions would be submitted to the Executive Committee.

In the brief discussion that followed it was stated that the timing of the project poses a risk, and subsequently questioned of how the EHF intends to mitigate risk, as well as suggested that the EHF work on scenarios that diminish risk. In response, it was stated that current risks were clearly time related, and that many areas such as raw material pricing and how it fits into the pricing structure following the tender process and potential supply chain issues (impacted by the current RUS/UKR situation), as well as potential price reductions have the organisation in a 'wait and see' position. Furthermore, not discounting a slight improvement in the situation, if there are no fixed price offers, there still remain different ways to proceed with the construction. Wiederer stated that the ultimate risk is the project not being concluded, which will turn out in the first half of 2023 at the latest. **The Executive Committee took note of the report.**

4. EHF MARKETING GMBH (EHFM)

4.1. Report Business Year 2022/2023

4.2. Advisory Board / Club Boards 09/2022

Opening agenda point 4, the President in his function as Chairman of the Advisory Board noted that it was not only basic information to be provided as the topics encompassed EHFM, the daughter company, but also the EHF as it involves the competitions system overall via the finance keys to the clubs. Here it is the EHF that provides the regulations that present the basic conditions for the clubs (participation), and this is essential not only for the clubs and EHFM, but also for the EHF. Furthermore, EHFM finances and financial results have an impact on the EHF budget.

Thus, the EHFM Advisory Board is the platform to discuss the best options for all relevant stakeholders who have an interest in the performance of EHFM where, above all, there is a common understanding when speaking about the overall interest of the competitions. The necessity of the information exchange and a carefully balanced decision-making process between the Clubs, EHFM, and EHF was underlined.

The minutes from the 09/2022 session of the EHFM Advisory Board (and the related Club Boards) provides a summary of the topics discussed and was distributed to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. Overall, EHFM Managing Director, David Szlezak reported in the meeting that the payments to the clubs and the EHF (80:20 share) were the best so far in the history of EHFM; this proved that the EHFM budget was carefully handled as to what concerns costs and, despite difficulties (RUS situation) the result is very positive. The 2021/2022 EHFM financial result is scheduled to be confirmed at the EHFM General Assembly in November.

4.3. I&D Agreement - Update

The Executive Committee are duly informed that the EHFM advertising agreement with Infront was updated as consensus was found with the Clubs. It is clear that this will impact the 2023/24 season as the organisational structures will have to be re-envisioned. Thus, EHFM is establishing a new business department that will focus solely on 'sponsoring sales, and to this end, the recently signed agreement with Machineseecker and Gorenje helped considerably.

Generally, and taking into consideration the challenges faced by EHFM over the past 18 months, the business situation remains under control and is running smoothly. A more detailed report will be given at the EHFM GA in November. As there were no decisions to be taken, the members of the Executive Committee acknowledged the report given by President Wiederer, and in closing, the good cooperation was underlined by Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour and PHB Chairman, Xavier O'Callaghan who is as well as member in the Club Boards.

5. FINANCE DELEGATION 09/2022

5.1. Minutes and Report

With the minutes at hand, it was noted that the intense meeting schedule (EHFM AB and Boards, EURO Del, FD, TC, etc.) made for an interesting working period as many undertakings commenced within a short time parallel to the competition activities. To the minutes, specific topics need confirmation, and, to that end, additional reports are to be given.

5.2. Finance Topics

At the Finance Delegation meeting held in Zadar, Croatia on the fringes of the SEHA Final 4, a number of topics were treated. A detailed report is recorded in the minutes of the meeting, and a summary of the topics follows.

- **EHF Marketing GmbH:** various reports on the EHFM final accounting as well as the external tax audit were submitted; the positive result of EHFM was highlighted and resulted in a significant contribution to the EHF budget. The shared service agreement (EHF-EHFM) was adapted, and the FD informed accordingly.
- **Transfers:** the FD were informed on the ongoing development within the area of transfer fees.
- **Federation Accounts:** despite minor issues, all accounts were settled prior to the 15th Extraordinary EHF Congress in accordance with the Statutes.
- **Economy:** the FD were informed on the termination of negative interest rates charged by EHF banking partners.
- **YAC Events:** the FD were informed on the outcome of the summer events and were briefed on the support to UKR teams. **Reflecting on the approval given at the EXEC meeting in 03/2022 confirming support to UKR national teams, the Executive Committee duly noted the information and re-confirmed its commitment to the support measures including beach handball.**

- **EHF EUROS:** based on the successful partnership with Sportex, the merchandising agreement was extended to the Women's EHF EURO 2022 (SMM) and will continue through to the conclusion of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 (HSA).

5.3. Budget / Accounting 2022 – Update

- **Revenues** increased by EUR 345k to EUR 20.5 Mio., areas that influenced the increased income included Entry Fees, Partnership Contracts, and Other Partnerships. Income from transfers stand at EUR 1,6 Mio. and a further increase is to be expected by the year's end. Fines and other incomes increased slightly, but the improved financial result is due largely to the impressive EHF dividend and the end of negative interest.
- **Expenses** remain unchanged at EUR 25,362 Mio. compared to the previous forecast; cost reductions have been seen in the areas of personnel, meetings (↓EUR 63k), development (↓EUR 68k), and depreciation. Expense increases were recorded in the areas of Office & Infrastructure (↑EUR 45k), Commission Activities, Competitions (↑EUR 361k). The areas of anti-doping and media & communications held stable in the last quarter; support payments to Federations for YAC participation remained in line with budget. Finally, with slight adaptation of the accruals/deferrals, the total result for 2022 delivers a surplus of EUR 1,730 Mio (↑+EUR 344k). Thus, for the 2-year period, the total result is to date recorded at EUR 482K.

5.4. Finances 2023

The timetable for the finance and accounting procedure in 2023 was adapted and reflects the postponement of the Ordinary EHF Congress to be held in Basel; this document was submitted to the Executive Committee.

Upon conclusion of agenda point five, First Vice President, Predrag Bošković, assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

6. TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS / BOARDS – MINUTES, REPORT, AND MOTIONS

6.1. Technical Delegation

Prior to the meetings of the Technical Commissions (08/2022), the members of the Technical Delegation (TD) met to discuss matters of common interest; points on the agenda treated included, but were not limited to, the analysis of the 2022 YAC events highlighting the excellent organisation in POR, the competitions calendar, and the synchronisation re. harmonisation with the IHF international calendar. The revision of the YAC events (enlargement: 16 → 24 teams) was examined further. Looking to the Masterplan, the TD also discussed the initiation of CRO and SCO.

6.2. Competitions Commission

With a detailed report at hand, CC Chairman Božidar Djurković highlighted the following topics:

- **Club Competitions:** the current season began at the end of August; all matches have been played according to the schedule, and no Covid-19 issues have been reported, to date. In the first two rounds of the women's Champions League produced some matches where the final result indicated large goal differences; this is not positive for the overall level of the competition, and the issue will be further observed.

- **Men's and Women's National Team Competitions Qualifications:** the Men's EHF EURO Qualifiers will commence in October; an increase in media coverage has been planned. The first phase of the 2023 Women's IHF World Championship will take place in November; this is to be followed by the draw for the play-offs in Ljubljana. The qualification tournaments for the remaining two places at the MU21 WCh 2023 in GRE and GER will take place in January 2023 with a total of 7 teams, the venues are still to be defined.
- **National Team Competitions – YAC Tournaments Summer 2022:** all events were carried out according to plan with no major incidents; there was a small number of Covid-19 issues concerning a few delegates and referees. The various efforts, especially for the M20 EURO in POR, paid off with a great media distribution and also onsite, the event witnessed full halls during the final weekend and with the games of the home team. Though the M18 EURO in MNE experienced a high level of competition, as well as organisation, the spectator figures were not satisfactory. The other events were also on a high level, e.g. the Championship in ISR where the host went to the final and produced a great attendance for this level of competition. The implementation of the new rules did not produce too many difficulties at any of the organised YAC events.

A detailed evaluation of all activities is currently in progress as quite a large number of topics need to be checked and possibly improved for future events. In the commentary that followed, the success of ESP was highlighted, and specifically referring to the event in POR, it was stated that the overall picture of the event was positive for the sport. Satisfaction with the performance of the teams as well as the high number of quality players was voiced noting that it proves significant for the EHF and the future of the sport.

Based on the outcome of the events, it was deemed that having 24 teams is reasonable for this level of competition. With a fast style of play, good handball from these generations in the coming years can be expected. Moreover, no major injuries were reported. An EXEC member commented on the style of the medals and the differences in the medals across the events. In response, it was stated that it was a strategic operational question, and that with the reorganisation of the events, the comments will be considered. It was agreed to investigate the matter further to find a resolution that co-opted a standard across the events.

- **Refereeing:** two candidates courses were held over the summer which produced new EHF pairs with one pair failing to achieve the EHF status. The EURO kick-off meeting with physical presence of all referees and delegates was held at the end of August in Vienna focusing on the procedures and regulations preparation for the EURO including all additional topics such as physical preparation, an integrity presentation, and issues of the mental preparations for the EURO. At the time of the meeting questions around the physical condition of some of the referees were resolved. Physical evaluations that had to be rescheduled are taking place in the coming weeks in time for the event. All EHF referees received new headsets and Hummel equipment for the current season.

In a September a coordination meeting with the representative of the Hungarian Handball Federation presented a topic concerning the status of the 'EHF Officiating Structure' (approved in 2019). Reference was made to the HHF motion presented at the 2021 Congress and the plan to eventually reformat and resubmit a motion before the Ordinary

EHF Congress in 2023. The intent behind the action taken by the HHF is to further develop the area of officiating, bridging the gap “between the level of professional handball and refereeing performance”, as well as ensuring transparency by having the area of ‘Refereeing’ removed from the political realm and “placed in the hands of experts”. It was acknowledged that further work on the topic was to be undertaken.

6.3. Methods Commission

With a detailed report at hand, MC Chairman Pedro Sequeira highlighted the following topics:

- **Methods & Coaching:** following the analysis of all YAC events, a teaching tool for coaches based on the data will be produced; additionally, three manuals (nutrition, mental coaching, injury prevention), all intricately linked to the ‘Circle of a Handball Life, are currently in production. Subsequently, for educational purposes only, the MC proposed to make all video materials available to the EHF analysts and to the National Federations.
- **Education & Training:** an updated glossary of handball terms and expressions has been produced and distributed. It was emphasised that the handball community use the correct terminology in all circumstances, and it be supported on an internal and external level. The next EHF Experts’ webinar will take place on 05/06 October 2022. The ‘EURO Coaches’ Workshop’ is planned for 25 October 2022 for the head coaches of the participating teams. Also, the third and final module of the 2022 EHF Master Coach Course commences in November on the fringes of the EHF EURO in Ljubljana. Several workshops, seminars, and webinars are planned for 2023 answering a question. It was underlined that all webinar content is available up to six months following the talks via the EHF Activities platform.

Moreover, a goalkeeper conference will be organised in October 2023 addressed to indoor and beach handball goalkeepers, with theoretical lessons as well as roundtable discussions, the event is open to all interested participants. The University of Porto confirmed the possibility of organizing the Scientific Conference in November 2023; the exact date is to be defined.

- **Youth, School & Non-competitive sports:** an education (blended learning) for Kindergarten Handball and Mini Handball will be offered in the future. The consequences for the adaptation of the higher education (level I-II, EHF Master Coach, EHF Pro License) needs a further follow-up. In the area of wheelchair handball, seven European teams - POR, NED, HUN, CRO, ESP, ROU, NOR - are registered for the 2022 European Wheelchair Handball Championship in Portugal. Two European teams (NED and SLO) are participating in the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt from 18-25 September.

In the brief discussion that followed, it was noted that the events are two different competitions with four-a-side vs. six-a-side. The matter of the resin free ball was also mentioned. Following the conclusion of the competitions, with the common goal being part of the Paralympics, coordination is necessary to discuss the alignment of the format, with one defined format being played in Europe.

Regarding the implementation of the resin-free ball in international summer competitions, no report holding the outcome of the usage (i.e. data, analysis) is available to date. It was agreed that this information would be useful for future discussions.

6.4. Beach Handball Commission

The report from the BC meeting in August was submitted to the Executive Committee in advance of the autumn session. In a brief verbal report, Chairwoman Horvath highlighted specific activities.

- **EHF YAC16 Beach Handball EURO | Beach Handball Championships 2022:** the events took place in July in Prague. The atmosphere surrounding the events, as well as the support shown by the senior players towards the younger players, was good. 178 matches were played across four courts. In the YAC events, 14 men's and 15 women's teams participated, and 11 men's and 12 women's national teams played the senior Championships which serves as a qualification for 2023 and for the not already qualified teams.
- **EHF Champions Cup 2022:** the club team event is taking place in Porto Santo, Madeira from 20-23 October 2022 and the final preparations are reaching their conclusion. It is noted that 16 teams per gender are registered, and a new branded trophy will be awarded. The report from the site visit in September was made available to the EXEC; it was mentioned that the conditions are very promising for an international event.
- **EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023:** the event is to be played in Izmir, Türkiye in July; preparations are ongoing and the first site visit, to be combined with a workshop, is to be scheduled.
- **Beach Handball Book:** "Beach Handball for Beginners" was published in cooperation with the Sport University of Cologne. The book will provide newcomers with a comprehensive introduction to beach handball with a holistic teaching approach in order to demonstrate the advantages of the sport for beginners. National Federation representatives will be issued with a copy of the book during the Conference of Presidents in Luxembourg.
- **Calendar & Cooperation:** reflecting on the need for the coordination of a long-term beach handball calendar, a short period with some overlap was reiterated. It was suggested that the yearly meeting with the IHF BH Working Group be reinstated as such a cooperation would be to the benefit of the beach handball sport.
- **EHF Beach Handball Education Courses 2023:** at the BC meeting in August, it was recommended to return to the process of hosting education courses on the fringes of beach handball club team events.
- **EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023:** the report from the site visit to Nazaré in July was made available to the EXEC. The event is scheduled to take place in May 2023 and will serve as a qualification to the European Games (EOC/POL). The event in Portugal is supported with optimal conditions due to a permanent beach sports arena.

BC Motion I | EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023 & Draw Procedure: in keeping with the objective to harmonise beach handball with indoor handball processes and standards, the BC recommends the implementation of a final tournament draw event to define the groups of the event in the host city, Nazaré. **The Executive Committee approved BC motion I as written.**

BC Motion II | EHF Beach Handball Education Courses 2023 & Course structure: the recommendation is to host beach handball education courses alongside beach handball club team events (i.e. ebt Finals and Champions Cup). The list of officials will be divided equally between experienced and new officials participating in the courses; to ensure a good officiating level, the entry criteria will be reinforced. **The Executive Committee approved BC motion II as written.**

Upon conclusion of AP6.4., the EHF Executive Committee approved the minutes resulting from the meetings of the Technical Commissions.

6.5. Update Boards

The invitations and the agendas to the stakeholder meetings in the autumn session were distributed; information resulting from the various sessions will be submitted to the Executive Committee for possible decisions. Member Bon informed on the upcoming meeting of the Women's Handball Board (WHB), as well as the Women's Handball Conference in November in Ljubljana.

Additionally, the WHB was issued with an invitation by the Bowling Federation to have the EHF WHB representative to deliver a presentation on 'Gender Equality Best Practice'. It was noted that the invitation provided the opportunity to speak on strategy and development. Both Bon and Wiederer referred to the progress of women's handball within the EHF over the past decade and spoke of a 2011 conference in Aarhus where matters such of clothing, competition, and sport-political structure, etc. have found workable and lasting solutions.

7. NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS | EVENTS

7.1. Organization of Events

The comprehensive written report submitted prior to the EXEC meeting provides much information to events covering the period 2022 to 2028. Secretary General Hausleitner provided a brief verbal report.

With the event commencing in November, the Women's EHF EUR 2022 SMM have reached the final phase of preparation. The adaptation of the Final match (new start time 20:30hrs), caused by the opening match of the FIFA World Cup and requested by the TV stations, was mentioned; it was noted that other options were considered and ruled out, and the change was coordinated with Infront. In the areas of media and marketing, all TV markets are covered; the event will be transmitted on 80 stations, new technology (virtual overlays for advertisements that cannot be show in specific geo-locations) will be activated; this will be initiated at the test match on 6 October.

Other aspects of the preparations comprise an attractive framework programme that includes the meetings of the EHF Finance Delegation and Executive Committee, as well as, but not limited to, the Women's Handball Conference. Member Bobinac elaborated on the business conference organised by the Slovenian Handball Federation that seeks to bring the realm of sport, business, politics, and media together to discuss a host of topics that include sustainability, the empowerment of women in sport, the energy crisis, as well as other themes currently in development. Representatives from the main event sponsor will be in attendance, as well as bringing together the most important businesspersons, politicians, event ambassadors, and top EHF representatives.

In 2023, much focus will be on beach handball activities such as the EHF EURO in POR and the European Games (EOC) in POL. The organisation of the Men's EHF EURO 2024 (awarded to GER) forges ahead especially, since the draw event in Düsseldorf, the set-up and transformation of a football stadium into a handball stadium to which a digital animation was received. The opening match is touted to be a highlight of the handball world. The EHF is working in close cooperation with the GER Federation; the marketing of the event is proceeding according to the known schedule with regular promotional activities and positive ticket sales 18 months prior to the event; the first of the EURO Qualifiers/EHF EURO Cup matches will commence in October 2022.

The organisation of the Women's EHF EURO 2026 (awarded to RUS) poses a major question for the EXEC. The developments in the region continue to be carefully observed. The matter will return to the agenda. Turning to other competitions, the cooperation with external sports institutions i.e. EOC, EUSA, have strengthened over the past years. This has meant an increase in the involvement of the EHF both a sport-political and technical level. Moreover, the demands on EHF resources have risen. The EHF will establish contact with these organisations to redefine the role of the EHF in these external events.

Awarding of the 2023 YAC Events:

It was underlined that the number of applicants to potentially host an event remains limited and constricts choice in the awarding process. Therefore, on this occasion, with six events and six applicants, the Executive Committee awarded the events as recommended:

- Women's 19 EHF EURO: tbd, ROU
- Women's 19 EHF Championship: Klaipeda, LTU
- Women's 19 EHF Championship: Pristina, KOS
- Women's 17 EHF EURO: Podgorica, MNE
- Women's 17 EHF Championship: Baku, AZE
- Women's 17 EHF Championship: Ankara, TUR

7.2. EURO Delegation 09/2022

Resulting from the meeting held in Zadar, Croatia (to which the basis was the event report, see AP 7.1.), it agreed that contact was to be established with the organisations and institutions where there is a working overlap (EUSA, EYOF, Partille/EO, IHF (wheelchair handball), etc) to redefine the position and role of the EHF in the respective activities.

In addition to the normal EHF EURO topics, the group gave focus to events covering 2026 and beyond. At the Conference of Presidents, presentations of the 2022 and 2024 events are foreseen; to date, work has not commenced on the events of 2026, and what concerns the women's event (awarded to RUS), the period until summer 2023 was set as a final date to clarify the organisational situation. The events of 2028 are granted. As to the events of 2030, the work towards the bidding process will commence in 2023. To the events in 2032, the development has to be handled carefully as there are at this time no bidding conditions due to there currently being no media and marketing agreements in place for the 2032 event period.

The Executive Committee took note of the information.

7.3. National Team Competitions – Actual Status

CSO Markus Glaser informed that Qualification Phase 1 of the Men’s EHF EURO 2026 will commence in January 2023, to be followed by the EURO 2026 Qualifiers at a later date. Relating to the topic, the continuing issue of the national teams of RUS and BLR remains. The qualification systems to the EHF EUROs are interconnected, and the teams mentioned are not included in the EURO 2024 Qualifiers; thus, it is to be questioned if the teams are to be included in the EURO 2026 Qualifiers. It was underlined that should the teams be included it would have to be from the beginning of the process, as it would not be possible to re-integrate the teams at a later point. A more detailed analysis will follow, and a potential proposal submitted to the EXEC for approval **The Executive Committee took note of the information.**

7.4. Younger Age Category System

The future of the Younger Age Category (YAC) events, its competition systems, and structures has been the focus of discussion and development for an extended period of time. The expansion of the YAC EHF EUROs from 16 to 24 teams for the Men’s 18 and Women’s 17 age categories was approved by the EXEC in June. For the autumn session, the matter returned to the agenda with motions seeking to harmonise the Men’s 20 and Women’s 19 YAC events in the same years, 2024 and 2025 respectively. With this harmonisation, the subsequent adaptations of the corresponding qualification and playing systems, as well as an adaptation of the European Open age categories goes hand in hand. The objective of the change is to ensure that each generation of YAC participants have enough competition to enhance their skills. **Based on the document presented and the expansive explanation, the Executive Committee approved the motions as written. The system will be presented at the 16th EHF Conference of Presidents**

8. CLUB COMPETITIONS

8.1. Season 2022/2023

The current club competition season commenced according to the foreseen schedule. With the exception of some difficulties with transportation, no other issues have been reported.

8.2. Competition system in the future

Leading into the motions, the President provided a comprehensive recapitulation concerning the development of the club competitions in the future. This information was given in support of the motions presented by the Competitions Commission that would result in the division of ranking for the men’s and women’s Champions League and European League, as well as a new place distribution for the 2023/24 season, and the expansion of the men’s European League. Due to the complex nature of the topic, the relevant stakeholders were informed on the intent of the Competitions Commission, where it got the support, which led to a more detailed elaboration of the motions. **Basing its decision on the documents presented as well as the additional explanatory information, the Executive Committee approved the motion (all parts) as written. This included the separation of the ranking list, the new system with 32 teams and one qualification round as well as the system of qualification with granted spaces for clubs coming from lower ranked leagues; this is valid for men’s competition only.**

Finally, concluding the agenda point the EXEC approved the following cross-border leagues based on the information provided by the respective leagues:

Name	Region	Number of Clubs
SEHA League(men)	CRO, HUN, MKD, SRB, SVK	8
Baltic League(men)	EST, LAT, LTU	12
BENE League (men)	BEL, NED	12
MOL Liga (women)	CZE, SVK	12

It was also informed, according to information provided, that a match system will be installed between clubs from RUS and BLR. **The EXEC confirmed the cross-border leagues and took note of the information.**

9. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

9.1. International Handball Federation

Wiederer gave a brief overview of the topics that have been discussed at the international level; a summary was provided to the EXEC prior to the meeting.

- **New rules/interpretation:** following the introduction of the new rules and the implementation thereof, it was reported that, to date, no issues have come to light.
- **Resin-free ball:** the new equipment was implemented during the summer events; as yet, no end analysis is available. For information purposes, the EHF will request a copy of the report.
- **Wheelchair Handball:** after the conclusion of the upcoming IHF (09/2022 Cairo, EGY) and IHF/EHF (11/2022 Leiria, POR) events, the EHF will request a meeting to discuss further clarification and procedures for the future in view of the Paralympic Games.
- **IHF Council:** the next meeting is scheduled for 7 October 2022, the invitation to the online meeting was received. The Council meeting will take place after the session of the IHF Executive Committee, and prior to the meeting with IHF Member Nations (all of them online).
- **IHF Super Globe | Dammam, RSA | 18. – 23.10.2022:** with the event expanded to 12 participants, a total of four European teams are able to participate; the schedule of the competitions was mentioned.
- **IHF Congress:** the 39th IHF Ordinary Congress will take place in Katowice, Poland from 03.-05.11.2022

The EHF EXEC took note of the information.

9.2. Other Partners | Contracts

As previously mentioned, it is the intention of the EHF to re-establish contact with other international sports institutions and reframe the position (determining future involvement and duties/responsibilities) of the EHF. Additionally, to the most recent meeting of the European Team Sports Association (ETS), it was agreed that the groups would meeting on a quarterly basis to discuss matters of common interest i.e. calendars, hygiene concepts, as well as MESGO, where the EHF continues to contribute to the academic programme MESGO together with other ETS members.

PART 2 | EVENTS ACTIVITIES 2022/2023

Opening the second part of the meeting, information was provided on the framework activities including the meeting of the EHF Social Fund and social gatherings

10. 16TH EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

10.1. Rundown

10.2. Presentations | Task Distribution

It was reiterated that the Conference of Presidents serves as an important information exchange with the National Federations. Following the Conference's agenda point 2, 'Overall Report', the respective EHF and Technical Commission representatives would deliver key presentations:

- **Younger Age Category Events:** the new system
- **Circle of a Handball Life:** the new 'EHF Activities' website was live and accessible via the QR code on project giveaway; the compilation of the information was praised, and the project contributors were thanked.
- **Beach Handball on the Move:** activities report
- **EHF EURO Events:** review of HUN|SVK and previews of 2022 SMM, 2024 GER and HAS
- **Masterplan:** followed by the signing of new agreements with CRO and SCO

11. 15TH EXTRAORDINARY EHF CONGRESS

11.1. Organisation

11.2. Motions | Task distribution

On the eve of the event, a brief summary of the final rundown was given; emphasis was placed on the importance of the success of 'Motion 0: Congress Language' as a 2/3 majority was necessary to conduct the congress in the foreseen way.

11.3. Other

Looking to 2023, and with the competition and meeting calendars confirmed, Wiederer spoke of the high density of activities, which led to the postponement of the next Ordinary Congress, originally scheduled 06/2023 to 09/2023. With the event to be hosted in Basel, the Swiss Handball Federation was consulted to the respective organisational aspects and come up with a date of 14/15 September. It was underlined that the shift in date does not influence the term of office as no elections are to be held.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

Following the awarding of the 2023 YAC events (AP 7.1.), the amendments to the EHF European League (AP 8.2.), and the information to the 2023 Ordinary EHF Congress (AP 11.3.), the respective competitions calendar and the meeting calendar will be updated and distributed accordingly.

With no additional topics, only giving a brief rundown of the afternoons' activities, President Wiederer closed the meeting.

Vienna, 28 September 2022

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2023 EHF MEETINGS

Status 12.09.2022

Congresses / Conferences

14./15.09.	16th Ordinary EHF Congress	Basel/SUI
03./04.11.	38th Ordinary IHF Congress	Katowice/POL

Executive Committee (EXEC)

28.01.	EXEC	Stockholm/SWE (IHF WCh)
30.03.	EXEC	tbd.
26.06.	EXEC	Vienna/AUT (POTY Gala)
13.09.	EXEC	Basel/SUI (EHF Congress)
16.12.	EXEC	Herning/DEN (IHF WCh)

Finance Delegation (FD)

12.01.	FD	Katowice/POL (IHF WCh)
17.03.	FD (AB/MCB/WCB)	Vienna/AUT
16.06	FD	Cologne/GER (MF4)
02.09.	FD (AB/ED)	tbd
02.11.	FD	Katowice/POL (IHF Congr.)

EURO Delegation (ED)

11.05.	ED	Düsseldorf/GER (Draw EURO 2024)
01.09.	ED (FD)	tbd

Competitions (CC)/ Methods (MC)/ Beach Handball (BC) Commission and Technical Delegation / CAN

23./24.02.	TD/CC/BC (TRC)	Vienna/AUT
22./23.03.	MC	Vienna/AUT
24./25.08.	TD/CC/MC/BC (TRC)	Vienna/AUT
13.09.	CC/MC/BC	Basel/SUI (EHF Congr.)

Competitions Commission Committees (TRC)

23.02.	TRC (TD/CC/BC)	Vienna/AUT
23.08.	TRC (TD/CC/MC/BC)	Vienna/AUT

Comptrollers (COMPT)

18./19.04.	COMPT	Vienna/AUT
14.09.	COMPT	Basel/SUI (EHF Congr.)

Court of Handball(CoH), Court of Appeal(CoA) and European Court of Arbitration Council(ECC)

21.04.	Legal Delegation	Vienna/AUT
13./14.09.	CoH, CoA, ECC	Basel/SUI (EHF Congr.)

Social Fund (SF)

14.09.	SF	Basel/SUI (EHF Congr.)
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2023 Professional Handball Board / Stakeholders Men's Handball

PHB

14.03.	PHB (NB/EHLB/WHB/NCM/NCW)	Vienna/AUT
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17.10. PHB (NB/EHLB/WHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

2023 Women's Handball Board / Stakeholders Women's Handball

WHB

14.03. WHB (NB/EHLB/PHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

17.10. WHB (NB/EHLB/PHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

2023 National Team Committees / Nations Board Men / Women

Nations Committee Men

13.03. NCM (NCW/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

16.10. NCM (NCW/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

Nations Committee Women

13.03. NCW (NCM/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

16.10. NCW (NCM/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

Nations Board (Men/Women)

13.03. NB (NCM/NCW/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

16.10. NB (NCM/NCW/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

2023 EHF M MEETINGS

General Assembly

16.12. GA (EXEC) Herning/DEN (IHF WCh)

EHF M Advisory Board

16.03. AB (MCB/WCB/FD) Vienna/AUT

02.06. AB Budapest/HUN (WF4)

31.08. AB (MCB/WCB) Vienna/AUT

15.12. AB (optional) Herning/DEN (IHF WCh)

EHF M Club Boards

MCB

16.03. MCB (AB/WCB) Vienna/AUT

31.08. MCB (AB/WCB) Vienna/AUT

WCB

16.03. WCB (AB/MCB) Vienna/AUT

31.08. WCB (AB/MCB) Vienna/AUT

EHF M Comptrollers Council

07./08.11. COMPT Vienna/AUT

