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## MINUTES TO THE 168<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

**Date:** 28 January 2023  
**Time:** 09:00 – 12:30  
**Venue:** Scandic Grand Central Stockholm | Meeting Room 5

<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
	Francisco V. Blázquez Garcia	Member
	Franjo Bobinac	Member
	Bente Aksnes	Member
	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board (Partly)
	Marta Bon	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board
<b>Excused:</b>	Stefan Lövgren	Member
<b>Office:</b>	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

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### 1. WELCOME, PROGRAMME, AND AGENDA

President Wiederer welcomed the members to the first meeting of the year held on the fringes of the Men’s IHF World Championship Final weekend in Stockholm. Thanking the International Handball Federation and the Swedish Handball Federation for the invitation, he underlined the benefit of holding the meeting within the framework of large events that allows for connecting and networking with larger groups of people.

SHF President Fredrik Rapp welcomed the EHF Executive Committee to Sweden and spoke of the (almost) full halls experienced daily throughout the event as well as expressed his pleasure at the outcome of the event despite the challenges that the large sporting event faced. He underlined that the EHF was welcome back in Sweden, as they were prior to the pandemic, highlighting how both the IHF and EHF kept handball championship events running in the face of global challenges. Presenting gifts to the Executive Committee Members, Rapp wished them a positive meeting with good decisions for handball. Thanking President Rapp for his words,

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Wiederer praised the efforts of the Organising Committee and noted that the EHF would be back in Sweden both in 2026 and 2028, extolling the Federation for their active and high-level efforts in organising events, as well as the picture portrayed to the outside world.

It was briefly mentioned that at short notice Member Lövgren would not attend for personal reasons and Member O’Callaghan would join the meeting at a later point.

## **2. MINUTES AND FOLLOW-UP**

### *2.1. Executive Committee 11/2022*

With no additional input, comment or questions, the minutes from the meeting in November in Ljubljana were adopted.

### *2.2. Interim Executive Committee Meeting 12/2022 (via video call)*

The minutes to the interim meeting were adopted and will be attached to the minutes of the current meeting. (Enclosure 1)

### *2.3. Circular Decisions of the Executive Committee*

Secretary General Hausleitner noted that the EHF Beach Handball ebt Finals 2023 were awarded on 15 December during the interim meeting; this topic was reflected in both documents.

## **3. Finance Delegation 01|2023**

### *3.1. Minutes and Report*

Wiederer opened that the 101<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Finance Delegation was held on 12 January in Katowice, Poland on the fringes of the official opening of the Men’s IHF World Championship. The minutes of the meeting served as a preparatory basis to the current meeting of the Executive Committee providing an overview of the topics on the agenda.

Continuing, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour imparted information on the VAT declaration and the EHF proposal to engage an additional external tax advisor with experience within the Europe-wide network. The Executive Committee were also informed that the EHF had applied for financial support (COVID-19) for the first quarter of 2022.

### *3.2. Status of Accounting 2022*

In preparation of the final accounting for the business year 2022 all necessary adaptations concerning the use, and building up, of reserves were included in the forecast. Turning to income, the reduced ticket share (W-EURO2022) and the re-evaluation of financial investments versus the increase of transfer revenue has reduced the income by EUR 248k to EUR 20,48 Mio in total.

Looking to the expenses, a combination of lower costs for meetings, a reduced build-up of reserves for the new office building due to an existing reserve for Hoffingergasse being re-declared, as well as a reduction in development expenses based on the use of reserves from

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previous years, and the reduction of further expenses led to total expenses of EUR 24,7 Mio. compared to EUR 25,6 Mio. from the November 2022 forecast.

This results in an improvement for the year 2022 of EUR 686k, and thus leads to a surplus of EUR 2,41 Mio. to be seen in relation to the two-year budget. Consequently, this result also increases the result for the period 2021/2022 to a surplus of EUR 1,17 Mio. Compared to the Congress budget this means a reduction of EUR 245k which is backed up by higher costs for the 2022 EUROS and the building up of reserves for the new 'Home of Handball'. As usual, the process of external audit will be finished in time prior to the meeting of the Comptrollers in April 2023 and afterwards the documents will be prepared for the 2023 Congress.

### 3.3. *Budget 2023*

As there have been no adaptations incorporated into the budget 2023, the overview remains unchanged in comparison to the documents presented at the last meeting. The relevant decisions of the Finance Delegation will be incorporated into the document and presented at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in March.

Though no adaptations have been made since the last meeting in November, it was mentioned that in relation to the 2023/24 period, prices continue to rise in all areas and the organisation has to act in a conservation manner as it is not known what is to be expected in the future. So far, it has been possible to stay within the budget and fulfil responsibilities. Nonetheless, an intermediate report will be given at the Congress in September 2023.

**The Executive Committee took note of the report.**

## **4. Business Report**

### 4.1. *Business Activities*

With a detailed and comprehensive report made available to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, and with an overview of the personnel structure as well as a comprehensive project outline as part of the Executive Committee documentation, Secretary General Hausleitner highlighted the following points:

- RYT Camp: the event for male players is taking place in Vienna, Austria parallel to the Executive Committee meeting in Sweden; the mobile app will be available in summer 2023.
- Masterplan: the EHF is working with TUR Federation on a project that focuses on Grassroots; the estimated cost is EUR 45k per year. **The Executive Committee approved the project.**
- 'Player of the Year': with the date and location fixed, the EHF is working with an external agency (WWP) to frame the branding of the event. Updates will be given on a regular basis.

- Sustainability: the EHF is collaborating with an external agency to create a workable and future thinking strategy for the organisation. This will be a topic at the upcoming Congress where more information will be provided.
- Women's Handball Conference: held on the fringes of the Final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2022 with over 140 registered participants was praised again for the good organisation and interesting topics which will lead to activities in several fields.
- Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers: a workshop is planned to take place in Spring 2023 for those nations new to the EURO Qualifiers.
- As a follow-up, the EHF calls for a Women's League Convention. Based on the current situation where the Executive Committee nominates women's league (and player) representatives to the stakeholder groups, a push is being made on the side of the EHF to improve the situation as it remains in the best interest of handball that women's leagues are developing.
- I&D Situation: more information to follow under AP5.

#### 4.2. *Legal Management*

To the comprehensive report submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, no additional comment was raised, and the members took note of the content of the legal report.

Additionally, for clarification purposes, the Executive Committee were informed upon the recent meeting of the Initiators of Proceedings (IoP) in Vienna in mid-January. The outcome proved the meeting very effective with the engagement of the parties wherein many ideas/proposals were voiced that would bring the work of the IoP in line with the EHF legal framework and structure; the complexity of the cases treated by the IoP was underlined. With that mentioned and supported by the document submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, President Wiederer entered into a detailed explanation, including history and timeline, of the recently revived (by TV2 DEN) issue of potential 'betting manipulation'.

In the brief ensuing discussion, it was stated that the issue was currently 'on hold' with the IoP until further action on the side of official bodies is taken. In total, three cases are currently with the IoP. The cooperation with Sportradar, specifically how it interacts with handball as it monitors all matches in respect to suspicious betting activities on both the club and national team levels, was reiterated.

Detailed information on the rundown in 2018 and on two occasions (Sportradar report in December, approach by authorities during the Women's EURO took place. Although information was provided – reference in EXEC minutes in 2019), the reported information was deemed useful as not all EXEC members were in function in 2018/19.

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With several contributions of the EXEC members, it was summarised that the EHF took steps on both possible fields: internally with the sporting analysis and the involvement of the legal system and externally by forwarding all available document to the respective authorities.

#### *4.3. European Anti-Doping Unit (EAU)*

Based on the content of the submitted report, with approx. 600 tests taken and extensive preventive activities, it was mentioned that the issue in SWE regarding the lack of testing at the 2022 European Open was due to Swedish law governing minors and parental permissions. The Executive Committee took note of the report.

#### *4.4. European Handball House*

No specific update was given on this occasion as the Executive Committee were last updated in December 2022 on the signing of the contracts; the EHF remains in constant contact with the authorities, and it hoped that the bureaucratic administration will be completed by the end of February. At this time, internal infrastructure matters are also being dealt with.

### **5. EHF MARKETING GMBH**

As in the last meeting, the topic was placed prior to the topics of EHF Marketing GmbH; this is to show that the agreements overlap, EHF (NT) and EHFM (Clubs).

#### *5.1. I&D Situation*

In accord with the information sent to the EHF Executive Committee prior to the meeting, Wiederer reiterated the details of the situation that led to the amendment of the media and marketing agreements with Infront, DAZN, EHF, and EHFM. In all, four documents were signed and included the overall release of the rights from DAZN to Infront and the adaptation of the agreements of EHF and EHFM with Infront. Thus, moving forward, Infront will bear full responsibility for finances and services. With the matter concluded after an intensive two-year process, Wiederer expressed his appreciation for all the persons who upheld the confidentiality of the matter.

#### *5.2. Advisory Board 11/2022*

#### *5.3. Business Year 2022/2023*

With the minutes to the meeting at hand, and with some of the EXEC members present at the meeting in Ljubljana, Wiederer highlighted specific points from the business report. The finalisation of the accounts for business year 2022/23 has been concluded. The positive EHFM result and the subsequent income to the EHF thereof allows for the budgetary responsibilities to be fulfilled by the organisation.

CFO Binder added that the in-depth tax audit covering the period 2014 to 2020 is nearing its conclusion; the information received is that the position of EHFM is upheld and no withholding taxes have to be paid. Though a few questions remain open, EHFM is confident that the matter can be settled by the end of February 2023.

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Wiederer thanked the persons involved for the ongoing work/cooperation over the past four years that this particular matter has been open.

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

## **6. TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS | COMMITTEES | BOARDS**

### *6.1. Technical Commissions*

#### *6.1.1. Competitions Commission*

No meetings of the Technical Commissions have taken place since the last meeting in November, therefore, CC Chairman Božidar Djurković reported on the most recent activities and highlighted the following areas:

- Club Competitions: the current season is proceeding according to schedule with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg of the Men's European Cup (R3) between Vojvodina Novi Sad (SRB) and Krems (AUT); due to spectator incidents in the 1<sup>st</sup> Leg match and the subsequent events, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg was not played. These matches and the incidents as the match of Famagusta in December in the Men's European Cup (R3) resulted in legal proceedings.
- Men's and Women's National Team Competitions – Qualifications: The qualification tournaments for the MU21 WCh 2023 in GRE/GER took place in January 2023 in Chieti/ITA; CRO and POL will take the last two remaining places. One tournament for the EHF EURO 2026 Qualification Phase 1 was carried out in Baku/AZE in January with four teams; GBR won the tournament and is therefore qualified for the Relegation/Promotion Round. All other NT competitions will resume in March 2023.
- 2023 YAC events: All events are awarded, and preparatory activities are taking place accordingly. The issue of playing halls for the W19 in ROU is still open; communication between the EHF and ROU is ongoing.
- Officiating: no special report; it was noted that many nominations are coming up in March and April. The Referee Candidates' Course, in addition to several other YR activities, is planned to take place within the framework of the 2023 YAC season. A seminar for new delegates is planned for April 2023; with the registration process complete, further details will be distributed to the participants in February. The next meeting of the CC and the TRC will take place at the end of February 2023 where the topic of referee performance at the EHF EURO 2022 SMM, in addition to other topics will be treated.

#### *6.1.2. Methods Commission*

Chairman Pedro Sequeira informed the Executive Committee on the recent activities of the Methods Commission as follows:

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### ***Methods & Coaching:***

- the manuals on nutrition and mental coaching are in the final stage of production (layout/language revision) and will be published in due course.
- Education & Training: module 3 of the 2022 EHF Master Coach Course was concluded in Ljubljana on 12 November; the report will be distributed upon completion.
- The webinars continue to prove popular i.e., “Faroe Islands Success and the Way from a Challenge Trophy to the EHF EURO” and “Wheelchair Handball (4-a-side & 6-a-side)” had more than 200 registrations. The 2023 webinar programme is prepared. The first webinar in 2023 was held on 17 January 2023: “Q&A: Integration & Affirmation of Young Players in Elite teams” with Talant Dujšebaev; more than 340 persons registered for this webinar.
- The invitation for the RINCK Convention Seminar for signatories (Vienna / AUT on 23/24 February 2023) was sent to the signatories.

### ***Youth, Schools, and Non-Competitive Sports:***

- 2022 World & European Wheelchair (six-a-side) Handball Championship in Portugal: the teams of CRO, ESP, HUN, IND, NED, NOR, PAK, POR, and ROU participated and, with the event report at hand, it was highlighted that over 660k persons watched the Final on TV. To expound the positive impact of this event, it was reiterated that the M20 EURO in POR received 1 million TV views for the Final.  
Again, it was underlined that with more than 100 people using wheelchairs, the organisational and logistical aspects proved challenging especially with the airlines (cost of transporting sport wheelchairs); the area is to be explored further in view of removing some of the obstacles for the future events  
Due to the change of rhythm by the IHF, European Wheelchair Handball Championships would now be organised in odd years, meaning that the next European Championship (6-a-side) would already take place in 2023.
- Kindergarten handball manual: the manual was published in December 2022.
- GSIC (Global Sport Innovations Centre): call for an innovation day (initiated by the BG Business Development & Marketing) regarding the connection of spectators to the EHF online platforms, was published in coordination with the GSIC on 11 January 2023.

## **MC MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- ***MC Motion I: 2023 European Wheelchair Handball Championship – Organisation.***  
The Methods Commission requests the approval to hold a 2023 European Wheelchair Handball Championship (six-a-side) following adapted regulations (reduced costs for EHF, “income” for EHF via participation fee) under the conditions as written in the motion presented.

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- **MC Motion II: RINCK Convention Panel.**

The compilation of the panel was adapted and former members, having been on the list due to their function, were removed from the list. The Methods Commission requests the approval of the adapted list.

The Executive Committee approved MC Motion I & II as written in the motions presented.

### 6.1.3. Beach Handball Commission

Chairwoman Gabriella Horvath summarised the activities of the Beach Handball Commission since the last meeting in November as follows:

- EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023: The event period is fixed for 24.-28.05.2023; the draw will be live streamed from Nazaré on 15 February. The event serves as the qualification tournament to the European Games. The registration process for the qualified teams (16 teams per gender) concluded on 27 January 2023.
- EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023: in Izmir from 29.06.-07.07.2023. With the site visit and the second workshop complete (23.-25.01.2023), the registration process will commence in February.
- EHF ebt Finals 2023: in Antalya/TUR from 08.-11.06.2023; the first workshop and site visit were conducted (23.-25.01.2023), the registration process will commence in February.
- BH Education: parallel to the events in summer 2023, corresponding education courses for referees, delegates, and coaches will also take place.
- European Games 2023 / Preparation: 21.-23.06.2023 in Krakow/POL. The first online workshop was held in December, and the site visit is planned for the beginning of March.
- EHF Beach Handball Competitions 2023: an overview of the six events was presented to the Executive Committee.

Following the conclusion of the report, Wiederer stated that with so many activities on the various levels and including IHF and other institutions, the organisation has to be careful to create a calendar which allows the National Federations to conduct their activities; thus, the plan is to create, together with the IHF an international beach handball calendar. **With no additional input/comment, the Executive Committee took note of the reports of the Technical Commissions.**

### 6.2. Nations Committees | Nations Board | Professional/Women's Handball Board

In preparation of the Spring session of the stakeholder meetings, encapsulating an intense week of meetings from 13.-17.03.2023, all the topics discussed during the Executive Committee session will be reported to the Boards and Committees. With no major activities in



the previous month, NB Chairman, Mark Schober gave a brief comment to the topics to return to the agenda of the nations' stakeholder groups; PHB Chairman O'Callaghan added that the group would ensure that the topic of Players' Agents, International Calendars, as well as match-fixing were discussed. WHB Chairwoman Bon reiterated the success of the Women's Handball Conference and the subsequent follow-up.

To the corresponding documents submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, Wiederer briefly spoke of the meeting between the EHF and the EHAA (European Handball Agents' Association) and intoned that this group is not viewed as a stakeholder in the original sense. However, the EHF was open to a discussion with the group as it does have some involvement in the business. The EHF position was made clear and reiterated to the EXEC that the EHAA must clarify their position with the Clubs (FCH) and Players (EHPU) before the EHF will take a stance.

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*During AP6, the EHF Executive Committee, led by President Wiederer officially welcomed the President of the International Handball Federation, Dr Hassan Moustafa, Madame General Director, Amal Khalifa.*

Wiederer thanked President Moustafa and General Director Khalifa for their presence at the meeting of the Executive Committee and reiterated his thanks, as he had to the SHF President Rapp earlier, that it was a positive aspect to hold such meetings within the framework of major events.

Introducing the General Director, President Moustafa expressed his pleasure to have the EHF Executive Committee in Sweden and highlighted the beneficial meetings between the IHF and EHF. Moustafa also congratulated the event, underlining that it was not only an IHF event, but a handball event. Taking reference to the event banner of 'Stick Together', Moustafa mentioned the cooperation with the National Federations including new ones such as Belgium with the view of the Federation hosting a major event in the future.

President Moustafa extended his gratitude to President Wiederer for the constructive contact and hoped that it would continue not only as the sport is very attractive and important, but also in the view of reaching new heights, and he underlined for that to be achieved handball had to 'stick together' and work together to overcome its challenges. To this end, Moustafa briefly mentioned the contact of the IHF with the IOC and highlighted that on this level, the IHF is working in close cooperation with the Olympic governing body.

Wiederer thanked President Moustafa for his kind words and for the invitation to be present in Sweden at the Final weekend of the IHF World Championship.

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*Upon conclusion of AP 6, the Chairmanship of the meeting reverted to the EHF President.*

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## 7. NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS | EVENTS

### 7.1. *Organisation of Events*

The comprehensive written report submitted prior to the EXEC meeting provides detailed information to all current and upcoming events.

**Men's EHF EURO 2024 GER:** the organisation of the event continues at a high level and there is much demand for tickets, in particular, the opening in Düsseldorf. A sustainability concept will encapsulate the event that is poised to have many framework events. The draw event is planned for May 2023 in Düsseldorf. The detailed plan will be presented to the EXEC at the meeting in March. The final two qualification rounds, which will be completed in March, will be followed with a highly visible promotional tour.

**Women's EHF EURO 2024 HSA:** the EHF were made aware of a potential issue in Hungary within the organisational framework of the event in November 2022. Following communication with the three organisers a meeting will be held in the week following the Executive Committee meeting. The EHF underlined the point that it is not foreseen that once a bid is accepted, a bid nation withdraws from the agreement respective contractual parts are laid down in the overall agreement.

### 7.2. *EHF EURO 2022 – Follow up*

The organisational success of the event was highlighted as the event environment was viewed as being on a high level; the cooperation with the Organising Committee was excellent. The concern revolved around the spectators in some venues and at some phases as this had both an economic and visual impact on the EURO. Nonetheless, the EHF is dedicated to creating a better fan attendance for future events. The EHF thanked the Organising Committee for the execution of a 'normal' event following the challenge of the pandemic. On an administrative level, the final accounting of the event is in progress. To the event, a comprehensive report was prepared and submitted; the full report contains much interesting data, which will result in follow-up measures.

### 7.3. *Qualifications*

EHF EURO 2024: based on the number of registrations, the event will start with the EHF EURO Qualifiers, as a 'Phase 1' is not necessary. Though, due to the current situation, RUS and BLR are not participating in the qualifications to the upcoming EHF EURO events, it was reiterated that cautious contact with the Federations is to be maintained, and the dialogue must continue on the level of the EHF, as there will come a time in the future, and in the interest of the players and other protagonists, when solutions for probable reintegration are to be found and it will not be possible to "start from Zero".

### 7.4. *Various Topics | Motions*

The 2024/2025 competition calendar was approved by the Executive Committee.

#### 7.5. *EXEC Nominations to EHF Events*

The Executive Committee took note of the nominations; following the input from Member Blázquez, the summer nomination will be adapted accordingly. To the 2023 official meeting calendar, it was noted that the second meeting of the year will take place in Istanbul, TUR on 31 March.

#### 7.6. *Officiating*

In 2019, the EHF opted for a new structure around officiating and, due to time constraints and in addition to subsequent pandemic, some parts of the new structure were not implemented. Now, the organisation is on the way to conclude what can, and what has to, be done; to this end, the Executive Committee will be informed in the June meeting, and after different processes on a technical and organisational level, what can be submitted before Congress in this regard. Due to the complex nature of the topic, and following an internal meeting, the Competitions Department has been working step-by-step on a list of tasks comprising of several structural issues. Parallel to this, the EHF has also been working on the HUN motion in cooperation with the Federation. Thus, the EHF is working on the “complete package”.

At this time, it is the wish of the competitions department to move forward in two specific areas:

- the amendment to the process of evaluation of top-level referee with the introduction of video assessment; a test phase will be introduced in February.
  
- and conceptualising the possible implementation of a competition feature entitled the ‘Coach’s Challenge’ where once per game each coach will have the possibility to challenge a decision of the referees and limited to the team time out regulation.

Thus, CSO Glaser requested a mandate from the Executive Committee to continue working on an EHF internal level on both concepts. From the brief discussion, it was suggested that the department garner some feedback from active coaches in the view of making this element a part of the education for coaches. **The Executive Committee granted the mandate as written.**

## 8. CLUB COMPETITIONS

### 8.1. *Season 2022/2023 Update*

As described under AP6.1.1., all matches with the exception of one have been played according to schedule. In the MCL, there is the ongoing issue of finances regarding a charter flight paid in advance by the EHF and the subsequent repayment by the Club concerned. The club competitions will resume in 10 days following the conclusion of the World Championship.

Following the success model of organising Final4 events, there is an ongoing discussion between the EHF and its (relevant) partners to find (neutral ground) hosts for the EHL F4 events. Since the start of the season, the EHF has been exploring options. At this time, contact with a potential host city (Graz/AUT) for the WEHL F4 has been established with EHF M. Due to the nature of such events, it is important for the organisation to know early where the Final event will be taking place as it has proven difficult to find host cities late in the season.

Regarding the MEHL F4 event, it is/was not possible to secure a neutral host city to take the event in 2023. Communication with two Clubs is ongoing and the event will be awarded based on the economic framework as both host options fulfil all basic requirements. The EHF will continue in its endeavours to secure a long-term host venue for the EHL from 2024 onwards.

### 8.2. Season 2023/2024 – Preview

No special report as the basic decisions regarding the 23/24 season were already taken. The EXEC was provided with an overview of the MEHL playing system and reminded of some of the more pertinent aspects such as country protection in the draw procedure. Some smaller topics remain open; they will be presented at the March meeting for approval.

### 8.3. Motions

#### **BG COMPETITIONS | MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- ***BGC Motion I: European League Men Regulations – Elimination of the EUR 20,000 Deposit.***

The Club Competitions Unit requests the Elimination of the EUR 20,000 Deposit under the conditions as written in the motion presented.

**From the ensuing discussion, a complete elimination was deemed unfavourable due to organisational reasons, and it was recommended that the deposit be significantly reduced from EUR 20k to EUR 5k. The Executive Committee approved the reduction of the deposit to EUR 5k.**

- ***BGC Motion II: European League Men Regulations – Defending Champion.***

In case of a free spot due to an EHF decision, the defending champion (Club) should be eligible to participate resp. its National Federation should receive an additional place.

**The Executive Committee approved the motion as written.**

## **9. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES | PARTNERS**

**IHF** | The notes from the meeting with the IHF leadership were made available to the EXEC prior to the session, and with many topics still being a “work in progress”, the matters of the OG Qualification as well as the resin-free ball were tabled. Concerning the resin-free ball project, the EHF delivered the inputs from the relevant stakeholders to the IHF. The project will move ahead in with the next test phase being the 2023 MU19 WCH. With the concerns raised, it was made clear that there is no timeline for the product in top competitions; the EHF will continue to monitor the situation and work with the IHF on the topic which may have an immense impact on handball on various levels.

**EUSA** | The EHF used the opportunity of being in Slovenia (EURO 2022) to have an exchange of information. The importance of having a handball programme for European universities, as well as increasing the number of teams (especially in beach handball) on this level, was emphasised. The next edition of the EUSA Beach Handball Championship will take place in Malaga in September 2023. With Malaga hosting the event for the next three years, time is of the essence. The next indoor event will be in July 2023 in Podgorica.

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**USPE** | European handball was represented at the 40<sup>th</sup> USPE Congress by Member Blazquez, and the welcome words were given the EHF President Wiederer. The USPE Congress followed normal procedure i.e. the respective reports were given, and an overview of future activities were also presented and is available. Furthermore elections took place and resulted in new leadership.

**EOC** | The European Handball Federation sent a letter to the EOC to clarify the open questions in relation to the upcoming European Games in Poland and the EYOF in Maribor/SLO and specifically concerning the extent of the role of the EHF as beach handball will be on the list of disciplines for the first time.

#### **10. 16<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY EHF CONGRESS 2023**

The preparations for the event in September are ongoing. There has been an inspection of the venue in Basel; this was followed by an online meeting with the LOC where organisational details were clarified. It was mentioned that there will be the involvement of the International Handball Federation (a possible visit to the IHF Headquarters and an official dinner). The EHF Congress will be a one-day event and the first Congress held only in English since the motion on the official language was approved in 2022.

Currently the Office is working on the topics to be tabled, and at this time it can be envisaged that this will encompass – legal statutes, officiating, sustainability, reports from the Commissions, as well as the finance reports. Naturally, the Congress will deal with motions submitted by the National Federations. The administrative timeline of the Congress was reiterated.

#### **11. MISCELLANEOUS**

- Upon question, it was mentioned that the topic of ‘Gender in Handball’ currently lies with the IHF, and the situation continues to be observed.
  
- The next IHF Congress, according to IHF information, will take place on 01.-02.11.2023 in Poland.

With thanks for the contributions to the topics, President Wiederer closed the meeting.

Vienna, 31 January 2023  
For the Minutes: M. Brown