
MINUTES TO THE 169TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE

Date: 31 March 2023

Time: 08:30 – 12:30

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus | Meeting Room Yasemin

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| Executive: | Michael Wiederer | 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 |
| | Xavier O’Callaghan | Chairman Professional Handball Board |
| | Marta Bon | Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board |
| Excused: | Predrag Bošković | First Vice President |
| | Bente Aksnes | Member |
| | 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 |

1. WELCOME, PROGRAMME, AND AGENDA

Opening the meeting, EHF President Michael Wiederer welcomed the members as well as the representatives of the Turkish Handball Federation to the meeting. Taking the floor, THF President Uğur Kılıç welcomed to EHF delegation to Istanbul and invited the group to enjoy the city during their stay.

President Kılıç stated that since his election to the position 18 months previously, the THF has worked hard to achieve its targets, nonetheless recognises that to continue to improve, the Federation needs the support, experience, and the cooperation of European Handball Federation; thus, the THF embarked on an EHF Masterplan. With the presence EHF leadership, EHF President Wiederer and THF President Kılıç took the opportunity to sign the Masterplan developed by the EHF and THF designed to promote Turkish handball.

Returning to the meeting, President Wiederer noted that some members were unable to attend the meeting, and with no questions, comments, or amendments to the agenda, the meeting continued.

2. MINUTES AND FOLLOW-UP

2.1. Executive Committee 01/2023

With no additional input, the minutes from the meeting in January in Stockholm were adopted.

2.2. Circular Decisions of the Executive Committee

Secretary General Martin Hausleitner reiterated the two unanimous decisions taken in February during the last period; the Executive Committee took note of the information.

- Women's EHF EURO 2024: new organizational structure, change of venues.
- Awarding of the EHL Finals: Women (Graz) and Men (Flensburg).

3. Finance Delegation 01|2023

3.1. Minutes and Report

Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour presented the main topics from the meeting of the Finance Delegation held in Vienna on 17 March. He reported that the status of the transfer income and Federation accounts was given and noted the request from the Handball Federation of Belarus, as well as the open payments had been dealt with. Following a request from UKR, the Federation has received support in the form of beach handball materials; the EHF will also absorb the cost of the daily rates for the participation of the national team in the 2023 YAC beach handball events.

To the final accounting of the Women's EHF EURO 2022, the Finance Delegation has granted funds for the highlight events and promotion as officially foreseen within the Organiser Contract and in accordance with the share as laid out for each hosting Federation. To the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers support for first time participants was approved from the reserve budget. La Cour also stated that the minimum guaranteed payments from Cycle 1 of the Infront/DAZN agreement are safeguarded; however, additional shares arising from Cycle 1 cannot be foreseen at this time. Further topics handled during the meeting included the bankruptcy of MP & Silva, the EHF tax audit and NPO Covid-19 support.

Continuing, EHF CFO Bernhard Binder delivered a short overview on the actual status of the 2022 final accounting. Since the last meeting, the overall result for the 2-year period was reduced by EUR 78k to EUR 1.09 Mio, this was mainly due to the Women's EHF EURO 2022 SMM. The statutory audit by ANA Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH will be finished in the first week of April and this will be followed by the meeting of the EHF Comptrollers on 18/19 April in Vienna. After the finalisation, the Comptrollers' Report will be delivered to the Executive Committee.

3.2. Finances 2023

For the budget 2023 adaptations have been expected following the decisions of the EXEC meeting in January. Costs to be carried by the EHF for Excellence Awards have been foreseen.

In preparation for the Congress an updated version of the budget will be presented at the meeting in June. In September, this will be presented to the stakeholders for information purposes only.

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, Secretary General Hausleitner highlighted the following points:

- Personnel: amidst the activities of the daily business, the recruitment process is ongoing to fill vacancies in the departments of IT, Business Development & Marketing, and EHF Media & Communications. The restructure of the Legal Management (Monika Flixeder) and EHF EURO Events (Johannes Müller) is complete, and the directors have transitioned into their roles.
- Infront: following the exit of DAZN from the partnership, the first Steering Board meeting took place where topics of media, marketing, sales, digital development, EHFTV, as well as financial conclusion of Cycle 1 were treated. The cooperation is running smoothly, especially with the National Team agreement where Cycle 1 ended successfully for both Infront and the EHF.
- RYT: in cooperation with a new partner, the RYT mobile app is in the final stages of completion and will be offered to all the EHF Member Federations soon.
- EHF Masterplan: the EHF-THF Masterplan agreement signed at the start of the meeting will focus on grassroots topics. The Executive Committee gave its support to conclude a Masterplan agreement with England; recognising that ENG is an associated federation, the strengthening of GBR handball remains the overall target. Interest in further projects has been indicated by the Federations of MNE, MKD, SUI, SLO, LUX, AUT, and GER.
- 2023 EHF Excellence Awards: the EHF is working in close cooperation with the external agency WWP to deliver the show element of the event that will be broadcast. The selection of players & legends to be awarded is in progress. It was acknowledged that the inaugural Excellence Awards is an investment; however, looking to the future, the aim is to monetise the new product.
- EHF Sustainability Strategy: the objective to create and elaborate a sustainability for the EHF framework is ongoing and feedback from the office staff was solicited; this input will create a basis to where the stakeholders can be approached.
- Women's Handball League Convention: through this gathering to be held on the fringes of the 2023 Women's EHF Final4, it is the intent of the EHF to collaborate in creating a

League Board that mirrors that of the structure in the men's field. The project will be presented in September at the Congress in view of a potential implementation of a new structure in 2025 coinciding with the new electoral period.

- Women's EHF EURO Evaluation: the evaluation of the Women's EHF EURO took place on various levels. While the organisational rundown was handled properly, the event still was impacted by Covid-19, the Ukraine crisis, and the FIFA World Cup. TV figures especially decreased on the start weekend of the FIFA World Cup, while the digital figures could be increased.
- TV/Digital figures: referring to the detailed report at hand, the decrease in the international TV figures, as well as the increase in digital platform figures was emphasised.

The Executive Committee took note of the report.

4.2. Legal Management

To the comprehensive report submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, Wiederer highlighted the fact that the activities (agreements, partner contacts, etc.) in this field continue to increase not only in relation to cases; the members took note of the content of the legal report.

4.3. European Anti-Doping Unit (EAU)

Wiederer highlighted that the transparency surrounding this field remains necessary to show that work is being continued at the European level not only in the measures taken, but also in the doping controls undertaken at all EHF competitions both at the club and national team levels. The Executive Committee took note of the report.

4.4. European Handball House

Wiederer informed that the project is in a phase of decision-making processes and details; smaller decisions are being still being taken together with the architect and contractor prior to the commencement of the construction. To this end, the organisation must ensure that the procedures regarding legal and financial activities are transparent. Prior to the meeting, an overall report, with additional information to this end, was submitted to the Executive Committee. Information concerning the financing of the project (loans, risk mitigation, institutions) was given. The EHF had to face an appeal against the building permission from the neighbourhood, which causes a delay of the construction process. Consequently, the finalisation can be foreseen for late autumn 2024 only. Based on the agreements in place, the EHF will benefit from penalty clause in the future. It was mentioned that due to IHF administrative reasons, it was not possible to secure financial assistance in form of a loan from the International Handball Federation for the project.

Finance Delegation | Motion to the Executive Committee

- **Private Limited Company (PLC):** With the start of the construction, the EHF will gain full ownership of the private limited company. The Finance Delegation recommends the installation of the EHF Secretary General as a Managing Director and EHF Chief Finance Officer as the Deputy Managing Director. This action will result in the creation of a second EHF daughter company and with the nominated persons overseeing and the running of the project. The Finance Delegation shall act in the capacity of the Advisory Board to the PLC to have full transparency; the same shall hold true for the involvement of the EHF Comptrollers.

The Executive Committee approved the motion of the Finance Delegation.

5. EHF MARKETING GMBH

5.1. *Report Business Year 2022/2023*

5.2. *Meeting Club Boards/Advisory Board*

Wiederer introduced the point by stating the meetings (mirroring the information procedures within the EHF stakeholder groups and Technical Commissions) also dealt with changes that could possibly impact the competition systems. The motions (see AP 10.3) were partly adapted based upon the recommendations arising from the meetings.

Taking reference to the minutes from the meetings of the 85th EHF Advisory Board, 12th Men's Club Board, and the 29th Women's Club Board, where some members of the Executive Committee were present, Wiederer noted that the shift of responsibility from Infront/DAZN to only Infront was a main topic of discussion.

The Executive Committee took note of the minutes and the verbal report.

Upon conclusion of AP5, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour, assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

6. TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS | COMMITTEES | BOARDS

6.1. *Technical Delegation (TD)*

Not wishing to reiterate the in-depth information found in the respective protocols, BC Chairwoman Horvath highlighted a few selected topics discussed in the TD meeting:

- Resin Free Ball: the first report from the IHF established working group was received.
- New/developing technologies: Coach's Challenge, Buzzer, Instant Replay (Referees), Dartfish-Huddle/XPS evaluation (data/statistics).
- EHF Activities: Excellence Awards, Women's Handball Conference, Masterplan...
- Education: Webinars, RINCK Convention, Coaching licensing system, Scientific Conference, European Handball Manager.

- National Team Coaches' Seminar: positive experience and the seminar is foreseen to take place in the future within the framework of men's and women's EHF EURO events.

Adding to the area of technical developments it was also mentioned that the organisation continued to source new options that could prove beneficial to the sport. Currently, a new video tagging system was evaluated and a cooperation with XPS Sideline together with handball AI is considered. The system shall serve various purposes such as the supervision of the referee development, it should also serve the legal department, but also the game analyses development, and the creation of a players' performance index, which then also shall enrich the storytelling in the media world. It will be introduced during the summer 2023 events, and eventually the EHF EURO 2024; this technology can be expanded via the digital platforms e.g. the EHF show on 'twitch' which will in turn make elements of the sport more visible.

6.2. *Competitions Commission / Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC)*

CC Chairman Božidar Djurković reported that the meeting of the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) took place in February followed by the meeting of the Competitions Commission. With the minutes from both meetings at hand, he moved directly into his report and noted that all competitions are running according to schedule and there are no major issues to report; the draw for the first of the Final events in Graz/AUT took place last Tuesday. Concerning the motions relation to club competitions, please see AP 10.3. In relations to the 2023 club Final and Final4 events, legal proceedings in first instance will be treated by the EHF Court of Handball as an ad hoc body.

As the senior national team competition events continue across Europe, Djurković mentioned that Rounds 5 and 6 of the Men's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers will commence at the end of April. The 2023 Women's IHF World Handball Championship Qualification Europe will be played in a home/away format beginning next week. Moreover, following the withdrawal of team GBR from the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers, the EHF office is looking at various options to resolve the matter. Looking to the 2023 YAC events, site inspections are currently taking place and the EHF office is in close contact with the organisers; all the draws for all six events took place in February. Nonetheless, there are issues that are being clarified now: the withdrawal of GRE due to finances from the Championship in AZE, risk of withdrawal of team ISR (travel costs), and the request for inclusion from team UKR despite not having registered for the event.

Giving focus to the area of refereeing, the ongoing issues concerning travel due to the various airport strikes have led to numerous last-minute changes and re-booking. The next referee candidates' course will be held during the YAC W17 European Championship in Lithuania. Currently, there are some referees unavailable for duty due to personal reasons (pregnancy, injury, career end); despite this, several Young Referee Programme activities are scheduled to take place as in previous years. The next seminar for new EHF delegates is scheduled to take place in April with about 30 participants. The most recent testing period was concluded in the week prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee; at this time, there are approximately 20 delegates who have either not taken the test or failed on both occasions. Furthermore, it is

planned to revoke the EHF status for several delegates (despite not reaching the age limit); this action will serve to improve the general performance level and reduce the average age of all delegates.

Taking reference to the important topic of the professionalisation of the EHF officiating system, Wiederer added that the CC Chairman Djurković, and both the EHF President and Secretary General partly joined the meeting of the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) to directly communicate with the technical experts on the matter that has been part of all the commissions to make the objectives of the EHF transparent. Comprehensive information was delivered, and constructive input was received. Overall, the communication resulted in positive statements and understanding.

Closing the report, CC Chairman Djurković mentioned that due to the adapted schedule, the next CC meeting will take place at the end of August.

6.3. *Methods Commission (MC)*

Chairman Pedro Sequeira informed the Executive Committee on the recent activities. The qualitative analysis of the Women's EHF EURO 2022 SMM as well as the Food and Nutrition manual were published in March; the Mentally Fit in Handball manual is in English revision. The MC has called for a 'Circle of a Handball Life' publication focused on preparing content for Kindergarten Handball eLearning to be prepared. Various possible amendments regarding the Coach's Challenge concept, such as not linking the challenge to the team timeout and allowing the challenge during the complete playing period, were discussed.

In the area of Education & Training, the popularity of the webinars continues to grow with the latest talks "Defence Systems Philosophy" and "Benefits of Being Coached by Women" received 800 and 200 registrations, respectively. The first EHF Goalkeepers' Conference is scheduled for October 2023 and the invitation will be distributed in April. The schedule of the 2024 EHF Master Coach sessions is planned and yet to be confirmed. Concerning coaches' licensing, the timeframe as approved by the Executive Committee was communicated during the EHF 'RINCK' Convention that took place on 23/24 March. The coaches' licensing structure will be included in the regulations and will be communicated to the National Federations and Clubs. Based on the feedback out of the 'RINCK' Convention, it has showed that the 'Circle of a Handball Life' is making an impact as there is more engagement from the National Federations.

Turning to Youth, School & Non-competitive sports, Sequeira spoke of the current situation with the organisation of the 2023 Wheelchair Handball Championship; reference has to be taken to MC Motion I. To enlarge the group of Wheelchair Handball referees and delegates, a second course (eLearning) for 'EHF Wheelchair Handball Referee' and 'EHF Wheelchair Handball Delegate' candidates will be organised and announced in April 2023.

Turning to other matters, a proposal was sent by "Special Olympics Europe / Eurasia" (SOEE) to organise an "ID Handball Week" including a tournament that would run parallel to the World

Championship in Denmark. Since the EHF cannot be active during the World Championship it was recommended to SOEE to address the IHF instead. Concluding his report, Sequeira mentioned that a meeting was held with Sportradar on 7 March regarding the “FIFA Football at School” app that was realised by Sportradar. The structure of the app is basically the same as planned for the EHF Coaching App. An outlook regarding timeframe and budget in case of a cooperation will be provided by Sportradar.

MC MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ***MC Motion I: 2023 European Wheelchair Handball Championship – Adaptations.***

After discussing the decision of the IHF to focus on wheelchair handball “four-a-side” only, as well as the feedback of European teams, the uncertain future regarding the Paralympic Games as and the significant differences between wheelchair handball “six-a-side” and “four-a-side”, etc. the EHF MC wishes to continue hosting European Wheelchair Handball Championships (six-a-side). However, to enable the European teams to participate in the Wheelchair Handball World Championships (four-a-side), a qualification tournament should be organised parallel to the 2023 European Wheelchair Handball Championship. Both, teams out of the participants of the Championship as well as other interested teams should be able to attend the qualification tournament. Adaptations will have to be made regarding playing time, room bookings, playing schedule, etc. Therefore, the MC recommends the hosting of a qualification tournament ‘Four-a-Side’ parallel to the “2023 European Wheelchair Handball Championship Six-a-Side”.

The Executive Committee approved MC Motion I as written in the motion presented.

6.4. 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 is scheduled for May 2023 in Nazaré (POR). The preparation of the event is ongoing following the planned schedule and the conditions in Nazaré are very promising for a high standard international event. Immediately after the earthquake, where Türkiye had to mourn the loss of their Men’s team captain and the impact on several players, TUR withdrew the national teams (M/W) from the Beach Handball EURO. In the Men’s competition, SUI will be the substitute team. In the Women’s competition, MKD will be the substitute team.

Due to the special circumstances, it was decided that the withdrawal of TUR would not be sanctioned, and all entry fees paid would to be refunded to the THF. Furthermore, the Executive Committee agreed to approach the Social Fund to disburse finances to THF for the specific development of handball following the natural disaster.

- EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023: the event will be held in Izmir (TUR) from 29 June to 2 July; the second workshop and the site visit were held in January. The

nomination of the EHF Officials, as well as the number of participating teams in each category, is already confirmed.

- EHF ebt Finals 2023: the event will take place in Antalya (TUR) in June 2023. The nomination of the EHF Officials and the number of participating teams in each category is already confirmed. Parallel to the event, education courses for Referees, Delegates and Coaches will be organized. It is foreseen that 4 new EHF Beach Handball Referee pairs and 4 new EHF Beach Handball Delegates are going to be trained during the course, and they will be officiating the event as well.
- European Games 2023: the beach handball tournament is planned for 20-22 June in Krakow (POL). The EHF is responsible for the technical management of the tournament which includes the provision of materials (goals, line system and balls), the nomination of the officials, and the creation of the playing schedule. The preparation of the event is ongoing with a regular exchange of information with the EOC; the site visit is planned for the early April 2023.
- Further development: the BC is working in cooperation with the Business Development & Marketing department within the EHF office with the view to create a marketing presentation for beach handball; it has been deemed imperative to find the right approach to improve beach handball as a product to encourage partnerships and sponsorship. The Executive Committee will be kept informed on the progress.

BC MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ***BC Motion I: Electronic Team Timeout System (Buzzer) for Beach Handball Competitions***

The BC recommends the implementation of an electronic team timeout system (buzzer) to be used at the EHF Beach Handball Competitions (instead of using the team timeout “green” cards). The protocol already in use for indoor handball was adapted for beach handball. It is foreseen that the system will be tested on the fringes of the ebt Finals 2023 in Antalya. If successful, the Electronic Team Timeout System is proposed to be implemented in all the future EHF beach handball events, and the corresponding regulations are to be updated accordingly and implementation is planned for the 2024/2025 season.

The Executive Committee approved the testing of the buzzer during the ebt Finals but postponed the motion as further clarification is requested concerning the financial responsibility. At such time the clarification is presented, the motion will return to the agenda.

With no additional input/comment, the Executive Committee took note of the reports of the Technical Commissions.

7. Committees and Boards

For detailed information, please refer to the individual protocols of the Nations Committee Men, Nations Committee Women, Nations Board, European Handball League Board, Professional Handball Board, and the Women's Handball Board.

Introducing the agenda point, President Wiederer noted that the Spring session of the stakeholder meetings, encapsulated an intense week of meetings in mid-March, all the topics discussed during the Executive Committee session of January were reported to the Boards and Committees, and the resulting subsequent documents were submitted to the Executive members prior to the meeting.

Wiederer briefly spoke of the founding and construction of the bodies underlining that the Club Representatives viewed the National Federations as the only voice within the structure. This ultimately resulted in more involvement of the stakeholders beginning with the foundation of the Professional Handball Board, an inclusive platform of the National Federations, the Clubs, the Leagues, and the Players. The natural progression also saw the development of the women's stakeholder groups, though there more work is be done. Through the restructure of the National Team Committees (into the Nations Committees Men and Women – NCM/BCW), placing them under the umbrella of the Nations Board (NB), it was clear that the EHF stakeholder system started to work as envisioned.

He continued that the common meeting allows for a comprehensive presentation of information on the side of the EHF; however, the engagement of the groups in the topics see them more prepared to give feedback (in the common and individual meetings) and this has proven beneficial to the EHF and for the overall further development of the sport as this moves the discussion forward.

It was underlined that the (complex) system encourages feedback and gives the different bodies the chance to have their input and provide new ideas. The exchange of information leads to concrete results through a proper process and underpins good governance. The organisation of the common meeting where much information is provided leads to more efficient meetings as more time is given for the stakeholders to focus on specific topics.

7.1. Nations Committees Men and Women | Nations Board

Due to the absence of Chairman Schober, Hausleitner highlighted a few of the topics discussed at the meetings:

- EHF EURO Qualifiers: preparation, organisation, and outlook
- NCW: proposed that regular meetings of the women's leagues representatives be organised with the EHLB to exchange knowledge and experiences with the view to ensuring progression in women's leagues.
- Resin Free Ball: information exchange, and objections, on the use of a resin free voice.

- RUS/BLR: information on current situation and opinion on participation of RUS/BLR teams.
- YAC: preparation, organisation, and outlook
- Integrity: match-fixing, an opinion exchange

It was noted that all topics within the groups of the Nations Stakeholders were mirrored in the meetings of the Professional Handball Board and Women's Handball Board.

7.2. *European Handball League Board (EHLB)*

No special report; please refer to the minutes of the meeting.

7.3. *Professional Handball Board (PHB)*

Chairman O'Callaghan highlighted the open communication and noted that most of the topics discussed were common among all the stakeholder groups open communication; areas treated by the PHB included, but were not limited to:

- Hall Capacity/Spectators: it was agreed that it was not the time to impose mandated numbers, but to explore ways to encourage an increase in the numbers.
- Officiating and game development in terms of the Video Replay (referees), TTO Buzzer, Coach's Challenge
- Integrity: the current situation of cases, the EHF response, transparency, and potential future measures.
- RUS/BLR: the PHB are not in favour of participation of national teams, neither under a neutral banner.
- Cooperation: the FCH informed that a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan was signed. The USA handball organisation is seeking a new CEO; the FCH raised concern about how long persons are staying in the position.
- IHF Superglobe: the PHB again voiced concern about the schedule in relation to the competition calendar.
- Resin Free Ball: the PHB agreed that a resin free ball has no place in professional handball.

Wiederer added the MFCH met in Stockholm in January; he expressed that the stakeholder group is thoroughly engaged in the topics that influence the daily business, which is positive for cooperation. The minutes of the MFCH meeting were also made available to the Executive Committee.

7.4. *Women's Handball Board (WHB)*

WHB Chairwoman Marta Bon listed the topics treated at the most recent meeting of the Women's Handball Board.

- **Anti-Harassment:** the POR campaign was presented and received well; the WHB deem it important to prioritise the message (through education) across all EHF bodies and stakeholder groups.
- **Female Commentators:** the WHB praised the media strategy and the positive impact of the campaign.
- **Club Income Distribution:** as of the 2024/25 season the income split for men's and women's clubs will be amended to 70:30.
- **Spectator interest:** the WHB raised concerns about the level of spectators during the Women's EHF EURO 2022 SMM; and discussed the topic.
- **Women's Handball Conference (WHC):** based on the success of the event, a new structure is proposed to increase the efficacy of the event.
- **Women's Handball Strategic Planning 2022 – 2025:** incorporation of sustainable approaches in respect to the Masterplan.
- **Other topics discussed** included Players' Agents, Officiating, Rules of the Game concerning playing kits, specifically colours of supportive clothing i.e., compression shorts and head coverings to ensure that they do not compromise or breach the safety of the players.

Upon conclusion of AP 7, the Chairmanship of the meeting reverted to the EHF President.

8. NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS | EVENTS

8.1. *Organisation of Events*

8.2. *EHF EURO 2024 – Update Report*

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

- **Women's EHF EURO 2024 AHS:** following the adaptation of the hosting configuration with the reduced involvement of Hungary, the changes including the amended playing schedule was confirmed by the Executive Committee. The Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers draw event will take place in Zurich on 20 April.
- **Men's EHF EURO 2024 GER:** the Qualifiers are in progress and nearing conclusion. The preparation of the EHF EURO Final Tournament draw event (10 May 2023, Düsseldorf) is ongoing and within the framework of the event, workshops are planned. Ticket sales continue to be promising as the opening game is nearly sold out.

- **2023 YAC events:** concerning the European Open, Brazil has registered to participate in the competition in 2023, which is appreciated by the EHF; open debts towards the EHF dating back to 2009 will be handled with the new leadership. A new set-up has been defined with ROU in relation to the W19 EHF EURO.
- **EHF EURO 2030 and beyond:** due to the contractual situation (up to and including the 2030 EHF EURO events), no development of the financial environment for beyond 2030 has taken place. This leads the EHF to determine whether to award only the 2030 event according to schedule or award both events in the knowledge that different organisers have different needs and this will lead to a situation where circumstances will be unknown at the time of the awarding. The EHF will continue to examine possible solutions.

At the end of the event report, Member Bobinac - as a member of the Women's EHF EURO 2022 SMM Organising Committee - addressed the Executive Committee. He reiterated his pleasure of Slovenia being awarded to host the event, as it was the biggest women's sporting event hosted in Slovenia to date. He lamented that it was not an easy task considering the challenges of the pandemic, etc. which impacted aspects of the organisation including the spectator figures but did however mention the positive impact that the event had on women's handball as seen through the great media coverage, the final tournament draw event, the closing ceremony, as well as the gala dinner. In closing, Bobinac stated that Slovenia would fully appreciate an open financial discussion regarding additional funding due to the special circumstances, as well as a further discussion with the EHF EURO Events teams, and it was hoped that a 'wrap-up' meeting could take place in April where the financial elements would be finalised.

Upon comment of the Chairman that the input is not to be considered as an Executive internal declaration, the Executive Committee took note of the statement.

8.3. Various Topics and Motions

BG NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS | MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BGNT Motion I: Awarding of the YAC Summer Events 2024

Based on the documented information submitted to the Executive Committee, the following events were awarded:

- 2024 Men's 20 EHF EURO – Slovenia
- 2024 Men's 18 EHF EURO – Montenegro

It was underlined once again that the awarding of the 2024 YAC European Championship events can only be awarded following the conclusion of the registration process.

BG EHF EURO Events | MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion I: EHF EURO Regulations - Amendments

Based on a comprehensive review of the EHF EURO Regulations, the EHF EURO Events department recommends the amendment of the following points. It is to be noted that the points listed below are a summation of the information contained in the motion.

- Art. 9: Fair Play Ranking.
- Footnote concerning conditions for events with 16 teams to be deleted.
- Art. 10.7. and 18.43.: change of welcome medals.
- Art. 13.1.: 'Preliminary Delegation List' to be removed.
- Art. 14.1.: extend the number of required team kits from two to three.
- Art. 18.7.: add 'cube' in addition to 'screen'.
- Art. 18.19.: fan vote to be included as an option to define the player of the match.
- Art. 18.30.: explicitly include the distribution via electronic means.
- Art. 18.34.: deletion of sentence concerning the All-Star Team Announcement.
- Art. 18.38.: Vice champion and third ranked trophy to be explicitly included.
- Art. 18.42.: Banquet or similar event to be organized on the rest day of the final weekend.
- Art. 23.13./23.14.: extension of support table; and precise seating arrangements.
- Art. 23.25.: Training schedule completion three months prior to the event.
- Art. 26.22.: Replace Daily Bulletin with Electronic Bulletin.
- Art. 33.17.: Data rights to be specifically described; Coaches Challenge to be added.

The Executive Committee approved the recommended amendments to the EHF EURO Regulations as written in the motion submitted.

9. CLUB COMPETITIONS

9.1. *Season 2022/2023 Update*

9.2. *Season 2023/2024 – Preview*

With the current season proceeding accordingly and with no major issues, and the preparations of the coming season in progress, no special report was delivered.

10. Competition Related Topics

10.1. Officiating System in the Future

With a detailed report and presentation at hand, President Wiederer recapitulated the chronicle of events that led to a thorough review of the officiating system. With reference to the information provided in 2019, it was mentioned that some elements of the restructure in this area were activated, where others (also due to the Covid-19 pandemic) were not. The EHF office continued to work on overhauling the system and will further the development in the coming seasons; the aim of professionalising the officiating system has found the support of the stakeholders as they have been consistently updated with the activities. The objective of the activities in this area is aimed at defining the position of the EHF for the 2023 Congress with the view to full implementation as of 2025 with the start of the next EHF electoral 4-year period.

10.2. Integrity Issues

In addition to the information already provided to the Executive Committee (and the handball stakeholders), Wiederer added that to the case currently under scrutiny, next steps are foreseen. Following a workshop with Sportradar and in close coordination with the specialised police authorities, work on the current theoretical cases should be undertaken in a more proactive way. He also emphasised that the EHF is not purposely withholding information regarding individuals in such cases from the stakeholders/public, rather it is bound by data protection law and especially the recommendations of the specialists in order to enable investigation processes, respectively.

The Executive Committee took note of the report and confirmed the procedures as it was the case on the different stakeholder levels.

10.3. Motions

BG COMPETITIONS | MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BGC Motions I - X: EHF Competition Regulations

The EHF Competitions Department submitted a package of ten motions that directly related to the 2023/2024 Regulations for EHF Club Competitions. The motions are summarised as follows by the individual titles and short phrasing for brevity:

- Incidents with Spectators / Responsibility Guest Team: enlarging the responsibility of the teams for the behaviour of the spectators, particularly those of the guest team for the behaviour of their supporters (all competitions).
- Postponing of the minimum capacity for 2 seasons “Full Venue” initiative: Due to the pandemic and as a result of various elaborations in the different stakeholder meetings it is proposed to postpone the raise of these limits by two seasons (23/24 and 24/25). It would therefore be valid for the 25/26 season. Activities are to be initiated to put more responsibility on the clubs to raise the number of spectators at their home games (M/WCL).
- One upgrade each for MCL and WCL to be awarded via a “Wild Card” and not via the criteria procedure: The EHF has the possibility, but not the duty, to award a maximum of one place in the Men’s Champions League resp. the Women’s Champions League with a “Wild Card” instead of via the criteria procedure. The awarding of the “Wild Card” is to be proposed by the Evaluation Group and to be confirmed by the Executive Committee. This awarding can only go to a club that has requested an upgrade to the Champions League.
- Possibility for a Federation to submit two upgrade requests to the Women’s Champions League: All Federations will have the possibility to request two Women’s Champions League upgrades except the Federation that has two granted places already. This Federation will have the possibility to request one additional upgrade.
- Statement/confirmation about financial situation of clubs: During the registration process each club of the Men’s and Women’s Champions will have the duty to sign a document

confirming that there no major open payments from the season that has just ended and that the club has the necessary funds available to fulfil all necessary basic financial obligations for the new season. This document is part of the overall registration which needs to be confirmed by the National Federation.

- EHF Champions League Men - Possibility to play selected matches on weekend: Selected matches of the EHF Champions League Men can be played on the weekend (Saturday or Sunday).
- EHF Champions League Women – Regulations: It is proposed to add Saturday, 20.00 hrs. CET as well as Sunday, 18.00 hrs. CET as an additional throw-off time to the Women’s Champions League resp. the Women’s European League. Furthermore, it is proposed to add Tuesday, 17.00 hrs. CET to the throw-off times of the Men’s European League.
- Technical innovations | Video replay / Buzzer / Coaches Challenge, it is proposed:
 - to implement a Video replay for all matches in the EHF Champions League Men and Women starting from the 2023/24 season.
 - to have the Electronic Team Time-Out (Buzzer) for EHF Champions League Men and Women as well as for the EHF European League Men and Women starting with the group phase of the 2023/24 season.
 - to have the Coaches Challenge in the EHF Champions League Men and Women starting from the 2023/24 season with the option to already use it at the Final4 events 2023.
- Official players shirts for promotional purposes - free of charge: Upon request a maximum of five official players shirts per club and per season of the Men’s and Women’s Champions League and Men’s and Women’s European League (maximum of three shirts) as well as Men’s and Women’s European Cup (maximum of three shirts) are to be made available free of charge to the EHF/M for promotional purposes.
- Adaptation of guaranteed disbursements: Payments of the guaranteed disbursements to the clubs on the basis of the current season were adapted according to the keys 70 : 30 (Men : Women) resp. within the genders 75 : 20 : 5 (CL : EL : EC) and therefore need to be confirmed.

Following a brief discussion and additional clarification where necessary, the Executive Committee unanimously approved all ten motions as written.

10.4. IOC Statement

On behalf of the European Handball Federation, the Executive Committee took note of the IOC statement issued on 28 March 2023 regarding the non-participation of clubs and national team in competitions; the EHF will act in accordance with the statement and stay with the decision to not admit RUS/BLR teams and officials to competitions and sportive activities but will keep them in the communication and decision-making processes.

11. Meetings | Conferences | Congresses

11.1. Executive Committee 06/2023

Due to the framework activities, the invitation to Vienna is extended to the partners of the Executive Committee members; further coordination will be conducted by Vesna Lazić, PA to the President.

11.2. EHF Excellence Awards

The preparation of the event, in cooperation with an external agency is ongoing; please refer to AP 4.1.

11.3. 16th Ordinary EHF Congress 2023

In view of the upcoming Congress, information was distributed to the National Federations and the relevant stakeholders that encapsulated the comprehensive timeline of the event as well as the programme for the meetings of the EHF Commissions.

Wiederer placed emphasis on the upcoming revision of the EHF Statutes, providing background information on analysis of the Statutes in terms of definitions, finances, and the legal aspects in connection with administrative law. The EHF has focused on 15 topics that are primed for revision and this includes, but not limited to, tax obligations, organisation of competitions, safeguarding a decision-making process under force majeure, commitment to a sport system of promotion and relegation, commitment to distribute and share income, and define ethical standards and implement good governance procedures.

The Executive Committee granted the mandate for the EHF Office to continue its work on formulating the topics into motions to be presented at the 16th Ordinary EHF Congress in September 2023.

11.4. 39th Ordinary IHF Congress 2023

The next IHF Congress, according to IHF information, will take place on 01.-02.11.2023 in Poland. The EHF noted the timeline of the event and instructed the National Federations of Europe to submit their motions where applicable.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- Due to minor adaptations, the 2023 meeting calendar was presented once again for the sake of completeness.

- Following the conclusion of the EHF tax audit that has taken two years to complete, Andrea Moser (Special Finance Projects) will step back from the (part-time) role within the EHF; the meeting in Istanbul will be her final meeting with the Executive Committee. She was praised by the EHF leadership for her commitment and dedication to the European Handball Federation and for her decades of service.

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