
MINUTES TO THE 171ST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Date: 13 September 2023
Time: 14:00 – 17:00
Venue: Mövenpick Basel Hotel | Boardroom Ruby

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
	Bente Aksnes	Member
	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Marta Bon	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board

Excused: Franjo Bobinac Member

Office:	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

PART 1 | EHF BUSINESS

1. WELCOME, PROGRAMME, AND AGENDA

President Wiederer welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the meeting held on the fringes of the 16th Ordinary EHF Congress. He mentioned that there was much information to be imparted, but the agenda remained straightforward. Member Bobinac was excused from the session on medical grounds.

2. EXEC 06/2023 - MINUTES | FOLLOW-UP

With no other input, the minutes from the meeting in June in Vienna (EXEC°170) were adopted, and the Executive Committee took note of the circular decision (Adaptation of the Code of Conduct) taken between sessions.

3. Finance Delegation 09/2023

Supplementing the report at hand, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour mentioned that in addition to the meeting of the Finance Delegation and the cooperation visit with longstanding partner, Gerflor, the first Advisory Board of the EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH also convened, and moving forward, the EHF SI AB will be scheduled parallel to the FD. La Cour then reported on transfer income and the account status of the National Federations as it pertains to the Congress. Among the usual topics such as donation floors, and adaptation of fees (alignment in one competition due to its structure) for referees and delegates, the FD also dealt with several points connected to the Men's EHF EURO 2024 GER e.g. bank guarantees vs. pre-payment of the ticketing share.

Focusing on the 2023 budget, CFO Binder continued by casting light on the increase in revenues by EUR 221k mainly due to more income from club competition entry fees and the better than expected EHFM result. Turning to expenditure, because of staff turnover personnel costs have lowered, and IT costs have increased (digital landscape, higher running costs, additional projects – Digital Asset Management (DAM), replacement of devices, etc.). However, following the purchase of EHF SI, the allocated reserves in the budget are no longer necessary. Binder closed the report by confirming that the expenses are in line with the Congress decisions (and budget), and the result remains balanced, despite being EUR 300k below the previous forecast. **A full financial report is to be given at the Congress.**

4. Business Report

4.1. Report of the Secretary General

With the extensive report at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner mentioned the changes in personnel within the Sport & Game Services department, the activities of the Business Development & Marketing department which included the potential prolongation of the Select partnership until 2028 for balls, glue, and other equipment. Hausleitner referred to the Partner Mapping publication received by the EXEC members which highlights the organisation, its departments, and areas of responsibility of the employees; it was emphasised that the document is meant to be a 'living' online document that can be updated easily when necessary. Finally, after a brief discussion of the current Master Plan applications, the Executive Committee approved the projects of BIH, ISR, and SRB.

4.2. Legal Management

The report from the legal department was distributed prior to the meeting; Wiederer highlighted the following cases:

- Cristina Neagu: decision of 1st instance published.
- Dragan Nachevski: decision by 1st instance taken; at this time, there are no follow-up measures to be taken by the EHF in the light of the ongoing investigation.
- Kolstad, NOR: all relevant documents have been submitted to the legal bodies as no measures could be taken at the EHF Office level.

Additionally, the Executive Committee confirmed the reconfirmation/nomination of the persons on the List of ECA Arbitrators. Finally, the EXEC took note of the report submitted by the Initiator of Proceedings.

4.3. European Anti-Doping Unit (EAU)

Referring to the report at hand, it was noted that there was a case in the YAC that dealt with an exemption; at the club level the testing schedule has begun and is proceeding accordingly. Additionally, at the request of the EAU, the National Federations have been formally requested to nominate a person to assume the AD responsibilities and to act as a liaison to the department.

4.4. EHF Service & Infrastructure GmbH (SI)

Secretary General Hausleitner gave an update on the construction of the new building and reminded the EXEC members that they can follow the progress via live cam. With the building expected to be capped (roofed) by February 2024, the internal construction will move forward; furthermore, decisions concerning the flooring and façade have been made. Naturally, more meetings are scheduled to take place.

CFO Binder continued and provided information on the completion of the of the EHF Services & Infrastructure (EHF SI) purchase in June, the first General Assembly of the Public Limited Company (GmbH), as well as the confirmation of the Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure for the Managing Directors, and the authorisation of control systems (i.e. Advisory Board, Comptrollers). These documents will be available to the Executive Committee members upon translation from German to English.

The costs for the project are still in line with the previous estimations with an additional EUR 2 million for infrastructure incidentals. To the financing of the project, the payment plans have been agreed, with the first transfers being made. In October, the project will make first use of the bank loan, and in relation to state funding contact has been established.

4.5. EHF Marketing GmbH

With the EHF business year complete, the final step in the accounting process is the confirmation by the external auditors. It was highlighted that a guaranteed amount of EUR 12.9 million has been allocated to the clubs, and EUR 3.23 million to the EHF. The surplus means that in addition to the guaranteed amounts, EHF can expect EUR 3.41 million on top, and an extra EUR 860k can be distributed to the EHF. According to the agreement with the Club representatives, the open referee costs are to be covered out of their additional share prior to the distribution of the excess.

Taking reference to the media and marketing partnership, a meeting of the Strategy Committee (EHF/EHF/Clubs/NF representatives) took place in early September where the past, current, and future finances after 2026 were in focus. The content of this meeting will be used in the discussion process with the Clubs at the beginning of October (Brainstorming Workshop).

EHF sees the importance of holding such discussions as early as possible for the benefit of the budget and competitions.

As a side note, it was mentioned that the current status of EHF is visible in the 'Partner Mapping' publication.

5. Boards & Stakeholder Groups

In the light of the upcoming meetings in October, preparations for the upcoming meetings are in the process of being finalised. Following the delivery of the protocols from the General Assemblies of the MFCH, WFCH, and EHPU, only the report from EHLB is outstanding; there have been no further updates from the stakeholder groups.

Transition of the WHB Chair: at the mid-point of the electoral period, the chair of the Women's Handball Board changes to another member who will then take a seat in the Executive Committee. Current WHB Chairwoman, Marta Bon used the opportunity of her last meeting to thank the EXEC for their collaboration, cooperation, and support of the WHB as she remarked on the progress of the body through the initiation of various projects. The WHB Chair will pass to Leonor Mallozzi with the meeting in October.

6. International Partners

Briefly mentioning the online IHF Congress (01-02.11.2023) with the Council members present in Basel, Wiederer noted that for the Council this will mark the second in-person meeting in the past years. The EXEC members were reminded of recent Council topics dealt with in Croatia: the awarding of the WU18 World Championship to CHN, the proposal of the introduction of a WU17 World Championship and the potential impact on continental YAC events (specifically in Europe), the launch of an IHF TV platform and App, player eligibility, and a new beach handball working group and expert group, and lastly, the possibility of the 2025 IHF Congress being held in Egypt and as an in-person event. The minutes from the latest Council meeting were distributed accordingly and provide a more overall picture.

7. Technical Commission - Minutes & Report

7.1. Technical Delegation

MC Chairman Sequeira delivered the report of the TD, noting that the group focused on the common topics that were treated also within the individual meetings (see reports); points of discussion included, but were not limited to:

- Coaches Challenge
- Seminars & webinars, YRP & candidate courses, European Handball Manager (English session)
- Game development: evaluations of the test phases during the YAC EURO events
- EHF Excellence Awards

- New initiatives: identification of the area of the benches (focus: common strategy); 5th position for ‘Official’ on the match report.

The TD also emphasised the topic of licensing and the upcoming changes in the 2024/2025 season with the head coach obligatory being licensed.

7.2. Competitions Commission / TRC

With reference to the meetings of the Competitions Commission and the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) that took place in August, CC Chairman Djurković highlighted the following:

- **Club Competitions** | the 2023/2024 season opened successfully and is proceeding according to schedule and no major issues have arisen so far. The club workshops for the Champions Leagues took place and discussion focused on the implementation of the Video Replay and the Buzzer in both Champions Leagues. The Men’s European League will be played with 32 teams in the Group Phase for the first time and a new playing system in general. The newly introduced qualification way for teams from lower ranked Federations was disappointing as there were only three registrations. The reasons will be clarified, and possible amendments are to be resubmitted to the EXEC for approval.
- **National Team Competitions** | preparations for the Women’s EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers in October are ongoing; these have proven challenging due to the withdrawal of GBR, leaving 31 teams in the competitions, as well as the needs of the lower ranked nations entering at this level. The next men’s national team event will be the World Championship Qualification Europe towards the end of the year.
Chairman Djurkovic noted the successful execution of the six YAC events, as well as the additional event supported by the EHF (European Open, EYOF and EUSA Games), which produced a huge workload, but without major issues. The analysis and evaluation of the summer events are underway. It was noted that with the M20 and M18 EURO transitioning to a 24-team event as of 2024, more personnel resources will be required to accommodate the additional workload.
- **Officiating** | as with the end of each season, a number of referees and delegates have ended their careers; the numbers are comparable to previous years. This has been compensated with the certification of 10 new referee pairs from the two candidate courses (LTU, ESP). Concerning the use of Instant Video Replay (Champions Leagues), training has also taken place online.
- **Coaches Challenge** | based on the feedback from the community, the implementation was postponed until further notice, as the work continues on the project.
- **TRC** | currently operating without an active Chairman, the topics continue to be worked on in preparation for the EHF EURO 2024 GER.

7.3. Methods Commission

In addition to the minutes (08/2023), MC Chairman Sequeira provided a brief report, and highlighted the following:

- **Methods & Coaching** | concerning the ‘Coaches Challenge’, MC inputs forwarded to CC included the recommendation to form a group of specialists (coaches, referees, delegates, etc.) to define the further strategy.

- **Education & Training** | 24 webinars were organized since July 2022 with 8.560 registered participants from 91 different countries worldwide, held by 45 experts. The “Fast Lane for Coaches” concept was confirmed by MC.
Following the successful completion of the RINCK Convention with more than 20 (ROU) coaches participating in HUN, it was revealed that the certification was not accepted by the ROU Federation. With no response to the initial contact concerning the matter, the EXEC agreed that another letter will be sent to the ROU Federation outlining its obligations to the RINCK Convention and consequences of non-compliance.
Sequeira outlined the upcoming activities in this area: schedule of the 2024 EHF Master Coach Courses (tbc); EHF Goalkeeper Conference (53 registrations).

- **Youth, School & Non-competitive sports** | following a survey of active wheelchair handball nations, it was determined that those European nations answering are more interested in six-a-side (national and international events) but also ready to participate in international four-a-side events. In relation to the EHF ID Handball Week and following a visit of MC Chairman Sequeira to the Special Olympics Headquarters in Berlin, a video meeting was held with SOEE regarding future working fields.

- **EHF Experts** | the renewal of the EHF Experts’ List is planned for February 2024.

- **Other** | with the publication of the updated handball glossary, Chairman Sequeira encouraged the further promotion/distribution of the document and made the appeal that the handball family use the new and correct terminology.

MOTIONS OF THE METHODS COMMISSION

With the documentation made available to the EXEC prior to the meeting and as the three motions are interrelated, the Executive Committee engaged in a concentrated discussion covering all the main aspects; the outcome was as follows:

Motion I | Future of Wheelchair Handball: “The European Handball Federation remains committed to upholding the sport within the EHF repertoire of activities”.

Motion II | European Wheelchair Handball Championship | Six-a-Side: the MC will provide the EXEC with a comprehensive and detailed motion pertaining to the Six-a-Side concept; this will return to the agenda at the next meeting in December 2023 for decision.

Motion III | European Wheelchair Handball Championship | Four-a-Side: the motion is carried as it is in line with the agreed collaboration with, and commitment to, the IHF World Championship and its Qualification Europe.

7.4. Beach Handball Commission (BC)

BC Chairwoman Horvath recapped the start of a busy summer around beach handball:

- **EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023 | Izmir, TUR:** NED claimed the women's title, and HUN won the men's competition; 15 teams per gender registered for the competitions.
- **EUSA Beach Handball 2023 | Torrox Malaga, ESP:** in late September, 9 Women's and 11 Men's teams will take part in the University competition. The EHF has nominated two delegates to oversee the technical part of the event and supplied materials (goals, line systems, and balls). The officials will also be supported remotely prior to and during the event.
- **EHF Champions Cup 2023 | Porto Santo, POR:** this is the second event for the local organiser, and 16 teams per gender have registered for the event in mid-October.
- **Beach Handball Competitions 2024 |** the application process for hosting the various events will commence at the end of the month. The BC recommends the YAC EUROS and senior EUROS be hosted in the same location.
A draft of the event calendar was made available to the EXEC and will be presented during the Congress.
It was reiterated that at the Olympic Games in Paris an IHF Beach Handball showcase event is planned for July 2024.
- **EHF Excellence Awards |** Asun Batista (ESP) was awarded as the best beach handball female player of the year, while Gabriel Conceicao (POR) received the men's title. The players were nominated based on points earned being part of the 'All-Star' Team of the beach handball competitions of the year.
- **EHF Beach Handball Officials |** the first education course of 2023 saw 4 delegates and 8 referees successfully conclude the course. The second course will be organized parallel to the EHF Champions Cup 2023 with 4 delegates and 4 referee pairs as selected candidates. Currently, there are 67 active delegates from 29 nations, and 96 active referees from 22 Member Federations.
- **Publications |** several beach handball studies are on-going and will be published in the upcoming months. The covered topics are goalkeeping, physical preparation, and differences between men and women in beach handball.

MOTIONS OF THE BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

Motion I | European Beach Handball Tour (ebt) 2023-2024: a revision of the regulations took place with a focus on the promotion and stimulating and regulating the practise of mini beach handball. After the presentation of the topics and based on the documentation submitted by the BC, the motion was approved as written and submitted to the Executive Committee.

Motion II | ebt Finals 2024 / Event Awarding: based on the recommendation of the BC and the documents presented, the event was awarded to the French Handball Federation in collaboration with the Lacanau Océhand handball club.

8. Organisation of Events

8.1. Overall Report

The usual overall report informing on actual events and providing organisational details of the events to come within the next years was made available to the EXEC members prior to the meeting.

8.2. EHF EURO Events

- **Men's EHF EURO 2024 GER** | with the opening event nearly sold out, ticketing remains a major topic of interest. Remaining tickets are released for sale using a staggered stratagem. The organisation of many side events including the EHF Grassroots Convention, the 'Leaders' Round Table', as well as various meetings continues. In a next step the information on nominations, timetables, etc. will follow.
- **Women's EHF EURO 2024 AHS** | the opening of the new 'Home of Handball', the EHF Excellence Awards 2024, as well as the 17th Conference of Presidents and the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress (EHF EURO Awarding) have been scheduled to coincide with the Final weekend of the event.
- **Women's EHF EURO 2026** | the event is to be awarded by the Executive Committee during the Final weekend of EHF EURO 2024 GER; with the deadline for applicants approaching (24.10.2023), three solo organisation bids and 1 joint bid have been submitted to date.
- **Men's EHF EURO 2026 DSN** | preparation on the event has started and the organisers are already engaged in discussion concerning the basic set-up of the event, venues, and the arrangement of the daily business.
- **EHF EUROs 2030 & 2032 Awarding** | for the 2030 event, no financial changes are foreseen in the bid process due to the contractual agreements in place. However, a modernisation and different approach to venues will be taken. These adaptations will be

finalised by mid-October to be confirmed by the Executive Committee and to be ready for the November distribution of the Bid Book.

8.3. Other Competitions – Information / Decisions

Based on the bid documents and the information at hand, the Executive Committee awarded the organisation of the 2024 Masters' Handball Championships for Men and Women to the Portuguese Handball Federation; the event will take place in the city of Paredes; the applicant will be informed of the decision accordingly.

9. National Teams / Club Competitions

Taking reference to the report of the CC Chairman, no additional special report was given at this point.

10. Other Issues

- **Meetings 2024:** the Members of the Executive Committee were provided with a draft of meeting calendar, which will be finalised based on the individual feedback; the invitation of the Norwegian Handball Federation to host an Executive Committee Meeting in Norway is to be evaluated. Moreover, at the request of the Methods Commission, alternative dates for the meetings are to be checked.
- **'Respect Your Talent' (RYT):** supporting the report at hand, a brief verbal report was given to the 'Respect Your Talent' programme. At the latest event, the test version of the RYT App (including all the topics and digital Ambassador sessions) was launched and the young players were able to register. The final version of the App will be released in December. With over 300 young persons reached, as well as extremely engaged ambassadors, 30 players have been nominated to the 'All-Star' Camp. Member Lövgren added that ever more National Federations are aware of the programme through the feedback of the participants, and it has now become a topic prior to the events.
- **EHF Code of Conduct | Update:** following an update of the document; the Executive Committee signed the document anew.

PART 2 | CONGRESS PREPARATIONS

11. Congress Programme

With the detailed programme at hand, the Executive Committee were provided with latest information. It was underlined that in relation to the registered participants, the Congress would be executed in line with a normal procedure and rundown. A total of 48 Member Federations with voting rights (excl. LIE, MLT), and two Associated Federations (ENG, SCO) without voting rights, registered for the Congress in accordance with the EHF Statutes.

In order to avoid misinterpretation and misrepresentation, a comprehensive explanation to the current situation regarding the EHF Membership of Russia and Belarus was given by President Wiederer and will follow at the Congress together with the Roll Call. The statement submitted to the Congress by Ukraine could be mentioned under a general point but would not be treated as a motion.

The Executive discussed the general situation based on information received from the sports world and on the basis of legal expertise. As a conclusion, it was said that contact to all federation with membership has to be maintained and possible decisions of the EXEC may impact the activities. Resulting from this, the principal participation of the Federations RUS and BLR at the Congress is not to be questioned and at the same time, the voting/speaking right is to be limited. The EXEC unanimously confirmed the procedure.

A rundown of the framework activities (meetings; visit to IHF Office, accreditation, transportations) were also reiterated.

12. Congress Agenda / Task Distribution

No questions or comments were raised to the documents at hand.

13. Decisions on Congress Matters (if necessary)

The motions to be presented were discussed in brief with focus given to Motion 1, Motion 6, and Motion 7; it was noted that, if necessary, it would be possible to amend a motion during the Congress. Motion 15, submitted by Member Federation Norway, was resubmitted as in its original form could not serve as a motion; a motion for admission (simple majority) will precede the main motion.

14. Open Questions

Following the delivery of the Sustainability presentation, the EHF will select a diverse group of persons to form the 'EHF Sustainability Strategy Board' that is aimed at driving the planned measures forward.

With no additional topics, President Wiederer thanked the Executive Committee for their contributions and feedback and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 20 September 2023

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2024 EHF MEETINGS

(Status 19.09.2023)

Congresses / Conferences / Events

20./21.03.	14th EHF Conf. for Sec. General	Copenhagen/DEN (Draw EHF M-EURO 2026)
14.12.	17th EHF Conf. of Presidents	Vienna/AUT (FW EHF W-EURO AHS)
14.12.	16th E.o. EHF Congress	Vienna/AUT (FW EHF W-EURO AHS)
14.12.	EHF Excellence Awards (EX AW)	Vienna/AUT (FW EHF W-EURO AHS)
15.12.	Inauguration Handball House	Vienna/AUT (FW EHF W-EURO AHS)

Draw Events

21.03.	EHF M-EURO 2026 Qual	Copenhagen/DEN (Conf. SG)
18.04.	EHF W-EURO 2024	Vienna/AUT (EXEC)
27.06.	M/W CL	Vienna/AUT
16.07.	M/W EL/EC	Vienna/AUT
15.12.	W-WCh PO	Vienna/AUT FW EHF W-EURO AHS)

Executive Committee (EXEC)

26./27.01.	EXEC	Cologne/GER (EHF M-EURO GER)
19.04	EXEC	Vienna/AUT (Draw EHF W-EURO AHS)
21.06.	EXEC	tbd
20.09.	EXEC	tbd
13.12.	EXEC (CoP / E.o. Congress)	Vienna/AUT (EHF FW W-EURO AHS)

Finance/ Service & Infrastructure Delegation (FD/SID)

10.01.	FD/SID	Düsseldorf/GER (Opening EHF M-EURO GER)
21.03.	FD/SID	Copenhagen/DEN (Draw EHF M-EURO/SG Conf.)
06./07.06.	FD/SID (ED)	Cologne/GER (M F4)
29./30.08	FD/SID (AB/MCB/WCB)	Vienna/AUT
26.11.	FD/SID	Vienna/AUT (EHF W-EURO AHS)

EURO Delegation (ED)

06./07.06. ED (FD/SID)

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

29.02./01.03.	TD/CC/MC/BC (TRC)	Vienna/AUT
29./30.08.	TD/CC/MC/BC (TRC)	Vienna/AUT

Competitions Commission Committees (TRC)

29.02.	TRC (TD/CC/MC/BC)	Vienna/AUT
29.08.	TRC (TD/CC/MC/BC)	Vienna/AUT

Comptrollers (COMPT)

17./18.04. COMPT Vienna/AUT (Draw/EXEC)

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

16.05.	Legal Delegation	Vienna/AUT
16./17.05.	CoH/CoA/ECC	Vienna/AUT

Social Fund (SF)

15.12. SF Vienna/AUT (FW EHF W-EURO AHS)

2024 Professional Handball Board / Stakeholders Men's Handball

PHB

25./26.03. PHB (NB/EHLB/WHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

14./15.10. PHB (NB/EHLB/WHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

2024 Women's Handball Board / Stakeholders Women's Handball

WHB

25./26.03. WHB (NB/EHLB/PHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

14./15.10. WHB (NB/EHLB/PHB/NCM/NCW) Vienna/AUT

2024 National Team Committees / Nations Board Men / Women

Nations Committee Men

25./26.03. NCM (NCW/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

14./15.10. NCM (NCW/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

Nations Committee Women

25./26.03. NCW (NCM/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

14./15.10. NCW (NCM/NB/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

Nations Board (Men/Women)

25./26.03. NB (NCM/NCW/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

14./15.10. NB (NCM/NCW/EHLB/PHB/WHB) Vienna/AUT

2024 EHF M MEETINGS

General Assembly

13.12. GA Vienna/AUT (EHF W-EURO AHS)

EHFM Advisory Board

18./19.03. AB (MCB/WCB) Vienna/AUT

31.05. AB Budapest/HUN (W F4)

29./30.08. AB (MCB/WCB/FD) Vienna/AUT

13.12. AB (GA) - optional Vienna/AUT (EHF W-EURO AHS)

EHFM Club Boards

MCB

18./19.03. MCB (AB/WCB) Vienna/AUT

29./30.08. MCB (AB/WCB/FD) Vienna/AUT

WCB

18./19.03. WCB (AB/MCB) Vienna/AUT

29./30.08. WCB (AB/MCB/FD) Vienna/AUT

EHFM Comptrollers Council

05./06.11. COMPT Vienna/AUT