
MINUTES TO THE 179TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

Date • Time: 14 June 2026 • 09:00 – 12:30
Venue: Radisson Blu • Meeting Room Botega

Executive:

Michael Wiederer	President	F. V. Blázquez Garcia	Member
Predrag Bošković	First Vice President	Bente Aksnes	Member
Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances	Mark Schober	Chairman NB
Božidar Djurković	Chairman CC	Xavier O'Callaghan	Chairman PHB
Pedro Sequeira	Chairman MC	Leonor Mallozzi	Chairwoman WHB
Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman BC		
Stefan Lövgren	Member		

Office:

Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General	Danuta Kluz	Executive Assistant
Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes
Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer		

Excused:

Franjo Bobinac	Member
Vesna Lazić	PA to the President

1. Welcome, Program, Agenda

President Wiederer welcomed the Executive Committee (EXEC) to the meeting traditionally set to finish the current season and to prepare for the next. Moreover, it was noted that it was the last full meeting towards the end of the current mandate. As mentioned in the previous meeting in April, Member Bobinac was excused due to a personal commitment.

2. Minutes and Review Meetings / Conferences

2.1. Executive Committee 04/2025

For order of the record, the corrected text to the protocol EXEC°178 (04/2025), page 12 is reproduced below:

- **Motion 5 | M European League only** | special path – 2nd ranked team
- **Motion 6 | M/W Champions League only** | Minimum capacity and four tribunes in the playing venue – the decision was taken not to implement it in 2025/26 and until further notice.

The Executive Committee took note of the correction and approved the minutes without additional comment.

3. Business Reports

3.1. Secretary General

From the written report submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner reiterated the pertinent points.

Personnel | onboarding is actively taking place to ensure readiness for upcoming summer competitions. The current personnel status is reported as stable, indicating no significant turnover or disruptions. Preparations are focused on the YAC events, highlighting the importance of staffing for successful event execution. The EHF is continuously working to fill all open positions.

Activities & Events | the period from April to June focused on the preparation of YAC events and cooperation tournaments (EYOF, EUSA). Ahead of summer's end, sessions are planned with the Technical Commissions, Technical Delegation, the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC), and Infront (Steering Board and Strategy Committee). Respect Your Talent activities remain integrated into YAC events, with preparations underway for the December RYT Camp.

To the Master Plan, the Executive Committee received an update noting 23 signed cooperation agreements, with five Member Federations showing interest through questionnaires and collaboration proposals. The goal remains to finalise these agreements (incl. signing procedure) by the September meeting.

Concerning the Learn Handball App, following an extensive review across content, financial law, and technical rights, and in coordination with the MC Chairman and Finance Delegation, the EHF is set to make an offer to acquire a 33% stake in the Norwegian company through a mix of cash and services.

Recent partnerships feature Josera (sleeve sponsor for M/W EHF EURO 2026), aiming to strengthen brand engagement and DEKRA where the agreement ensures referee sponsorship across all competitions until 2030 and sustainability services starting with the Men's Champions League 2024/25 and Men's EHF EURO 2026. Cooperation with Lidl deepened following a strategic visit to the Schwarz Group (Lidl, PreZero, Schwarz Digital), enhancing services and alignment surrounding the events.

The Executive Committee is also updated on ongoing challenges with Sportradar. A legal consultation is underway to safeguard the EHF's interests. Nonetheless, to expand internal expertise and reduce financial risk, recruitment within IT is being prioritised. In conclusion, Hausleitner referred to the detailed accompanying report.

3.2. Legal Management

Wiederer referred to the extensive report, where he highlighted the efforts undertaken by the legal department to close the season swiftly. All cases are listed in the report which the EXEC members received beforehand. In the case of HC Alkaloid vs AEK Athens in the European Cup competition, the Court of Handball awarded the title to the North Macedonian team. Given the complexity of the situation, related proceedings continue, with the EHF aiming to ease tensions and protect the handball product while acknowledging possible strong consequences across the handball stakeholder landscape. Furthermore, the role of the Initiator of Proceedings was noted, and reference was taken to the report that offers insight into the anonymous submissions.

3.3. European Anti-Doping Unit

The Executive Committee took note of the report available; the open questions with the IHF were mentioned, and the EHF made headway to receiving clarification to which a formal information exchange took place as a first step. Further clarification will follow on the level of the specialists.

3.4. Sustainability Board 06/2025

Within the framework of the Executive Committee, the Sustainability Board held their meeting on 12 June; due to the absence of Member Bobinac, the meeting was chaired on this occasion by Member Christopher Jahns. A key point of the meeting was the information on the 'Ocean Tool' launch in Brussels to assess event and office sustainability which is soon to be adopted by the EHF; collaboration with DEKRA and PreZero will support these efforts, alongside effecting sustainability opportunities within the EHF House. The Board's direction, which reflects a strong commitment to environmental and social responsibility, also addressed safeguarding measures, wheelchair initiatives, and promoting these causes at the scientific conference. Hausleitner noted that it is expected that future event organisers submit sustainability concepts as part of the bid; in response, Member Schober advised caution to avoid excessive sustainability demands from the side of new sponsors, which could subsequently burden the organising Federations.

3.5. EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH Minutes and Report

3.5.1. General Assembly 04/2025

3.5.2. Advisory Board 05/2025

The European Handball House successfully hosted its first meetings, accommodating up to 80 participants; the venue has proven valuable, fostering internal collaboration, and enhancing the EHF's image with business partners. The building is fully operational with only minor construction tasks pending; additional outdoor furnishings are on order. A revised 25-year financial forecast projects a surplus, critical for tax planning and audited by TPA. Personnel costs for maintenance, reception, and cleaning will be covered by the EHF. Furthermore, TPA suggested accelerated depreciation over three years (allowed under Austrian tax law) which would not impact the 2025 budget. Rental income will be adjusted with the Consumer Price Index. A proposed loan amendment would raise the loan-to-value covenant to 65%. The photovoltaic system performed well, generating a 4000kW surplus in May.

3.6. EHF Marketing GmbH

Several EXEC members participated in discussions regarding the agreement with Infront, which anticipates a significant increase in revenue during the latter half of its (current) 10-year contract. While the EURO collaboration is mutually beneficial, the substantial payments due from 2026 to 2030 have created a stress situation for the stakeholders, though this is deemed necessary for future success that is contingent on a stable media market, as any disruption would have an immediate impact.

Concerning the Infront/club agreement, a careful evaluation revealed that the current financial structure is not working for Infront, due to the obligations for fixed payments and services. The situation improved significantly after Infront retrieved the marketing rights following the departure of DAZN. However, it is uncertain if this action would be enough to secure the amounts guaranteed to the clubs, and also significantly impact the EHF budget. Thus, 18-months ago, when Infront proposed to terminate the agreement, it was met with resistance from the EHF, which highlighted its consistent delivery and guaranteed position. Issues with club teams (i.e. from RUS, NOR) were noted as potential discussion points. A formal review is scheduled for October 2025, despite Infront insisting on an earlier date, which the EHF has resisted due to upcoming elections.

Recent meetings have served to inform stakeholder representatives, including the EHFM Advisory Board and EHF Finance Delegation, about the financial challenges, particularly the Infront acquisition process that is being impacted by the club agreement. The ongoing process, agreed upon with the Finance Delegation, Advisory Board, and Clubs, involves carefully analysing financial options to determine whether it will result in negotiations or a conflict situation.

Concluding the status update, President Wiederer mentioned that on a Strategy Committee level M. Schober was not included in these particular discussions due to the stability of the agreement on the National Team side; he also underlined that no final decision is to be taken by the EHF prior to the Congress. In response, Henrik La Cour emphasized the need to avoid conflict in this area, and both Xavier O'Callaghan and Martin Hausleitner stressed the importance of unity that moves towards the best possible solution.

3.6.1. Overall Report

3.6.2. Minutes Advisory Board 05/2025

A positive conclusion is anticipated for the EHFM business year, including an improved result through the Final4 events. Also, business topics relating to the current season and as well the upcoming one, 2025/26, were presented alongside the specific situation around the Infront contract. With the minutes to the meeting at hand, no special report was provided.

Additionally, the European Handball Manager course, originally initiated by the FCH as a club manager further education program, held its awarding ceremony on 12 June, highlighting the EHF's investment in education.

4. Finances

4.1. Finance Delegation 05/2025 – Minutes and Report

Henrik La Cour, Vice President Finance, and CFO Bernhard Binder reported that the Finance Delegation (FD) convened in Budapest on 31 May 2025, aligning with the Women's EHF Final4 and the meeting of the EHF Marketing Advisory Board. During this session, the FD reviewed comprehensive business reports from EHF, EHF Marketing, and EHF Services & Infrastructure. Key financial decisions included the approval of an adaptation of transfer fees, reflecting the Swiss Franc to Euro exchange rate, and a report detailing a high volume of outstanding payments in Federation accounts due to daily rates for beach handball and YAC competitions. Furthermore, the FD sanctioned blocked bank and security accounts, along with credit for Federation accounts, for the Men's EURO 2026 organizers. The Women's EURO 2026 Qualifier budget was adjusted due to a revised playing format for the EHF EURO Cup, and the Men's EURO 2026 Qualifier Development Fund received approval.

Additional decisions included a confirmed reduction in financial compensation for the European Open 2025 and the rejection of a wheelchair support request. The delegation also received updates on various financial matters, such as injury fund compensation for the Women's EHF EURO 2024, a tender process for the statutory audit, and the written Comptrollers' Report for the 2024 final accounting to be presented at the Congress.

4.2. Update 2025/2026 Budgets

Following a re-evaluation of the 2025/2026 budget, a balanced budget for the two-year period can be reported. Total income increased by EUR 350k which was attributed to the acquisition of new partners, DEKRA and JOSERA, as well as higher than anticipated income from transfer fees and an increase in fines.

Conversely, total estimated expenses rose by a modest EUR 57k. This increase encompassed below expectations expenses across various cost categories, including personnel, IT, and office supplies. Further use of reserves for the new office building also contributed, making funds available for future years. While Master Plan expenses increased with the inclusion of 2026 projects and EHF EURO 2026 organisation costs rose by 4.5% compared to 2024.

The EHF anticipates exceeding EUR 50 million for the two-year period, with a comprehensive report to be presented at the upcoming congress. The Executive Committee acknowledged the report. Furthermore, the minutes from the Finance Delegation (FD) meeting and the report from the Vice President of Finances were duly noted. The EHF again received an unqualified report from the external auditors following their final inspections, alongside the report from the Comptrollers, which confirms the completion of the 2024 financial period, with the 2025/2026 financials also slated for presentation at the Congress.

With the close of AP4, the Chairmanship of the meeting passed to First Vice President, Predrag Bošković.

5. Commissions – Reports and Decisions

With no meetings of the Technical Commissions in the period since the previous EXEC meeting, the Chairpersons gave brief reports on current activities.

5.1. Competitions Commission / Technical Refereeing Committee

CC Chairman, Božidar Djurković, presented an overview of the activities within the various areas of competitions.

Club Competitions | with the 2024/25 season nearing its conclusion most events have been completed; Finals were held in Spain, Iceland, Austria, and Hungary. The success of the Men's European League Finals in Hamburg attracted 11,000 spectators on Saturday and 12,000 on Sunday. The situation Men's European Cup final matches were reference in the Legal Management report (AP.3.2.); the trophy will be presented to the HC Alkaloid (MKD) at the start of the new season.

The registration process for the 2025/26 season is proceeding on schedule, with the evaluation group scheduled for 23 June; subsequently, the circular decision of the EXEC is expected. The Group Phase draw events for the Men's and Women's Champions League will take place on 27 June in Vienna at the EHF Office.

The first edition of the Youth Club Trophy is set for this weekend in Dormagen and Cologne, featuring the four qualification tournament winners. Cooperation with the participating clubs has been positive, and Honorary President Jean Brihault is representing the EHF at the first part of the event which takes place parallel to the EXEC meeting.

National Team and YAC Competitions Update | following the conclusion of the Men's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers in May, the Final Tournament Draw took place, and the playing schedule was released. Senior national team competitions will resume in October 2025. With the registration for the 2027 IHF Men's World Championship complete, the Phase 1 draw will be held concurrent to the draw for the Men's EURO 2028 Promotion Round on 26 June in Vienna. The final preparations are ongoing for the summer 2025 YAC events, female non-European (TUN, BRA) referees will be part of the officiating delegation at the W17 & W19 Championship events.

Officiating | a course for EHF Delegates Candidates was held in Vienna in May; 17 out of 20 candidates successfully gained status and will be added to the list of EHF Delegates starting 1 July 2025. Two EHF Referee Candidates Courses are planned for the summer in Sweden (M19 European Open) and Georgia (W19 Championship). Amendments to the IHF Rules of the Game will become effective on 1 July 2025, but are already applied at the IHF MU21 World Championship in Poland and the M19 European Open with the first matches on 30 June.

General Information | the Competitions Conferences for Men and Women were conducted as two separate events in April and May in Vienna. Various Executive Committee members were present and actively participated (see AP 7.5.).

5.2. Methods Commission

MC Chairman, Pedro Sequeira, delivered key information from the current activities as follows.

Methods & Coaching | the Players' Index project is progressing efficiently with the University of La Mancha, establishing a promising framework for educational solutions. The tool aims to identify top players for each position and analyse the impact of their actions on selection.

Education & Training | the second relaunch of the EHF 'RINCK' Convention, focusing on competence-based education, is proving to be a valuable "living document". The most recent seminar saw 62 participants from 36 National Federations. Complementary education efforts include the first EHF-organised Level 3 course integrated into the FAR Master Plan with e-learning and in-person lectures. Additionally, the EHF Goalkeeper Summit is planned for 2-3 October 2025 in Vienna and is open to all participants from the area of specialization.

The next EHF Open Master Coach PRO Licence course is planned for summer 2026, with modules scheduled during a YAC EURO and the EHF Women's EURO in Poland, and a third module in 2027. The 8th EHF Scientific Conference in Zagreb is set for November 2025 in cooperation with 'Frontiers'; further announcements will follow.

Youth, School & Non-competitive sports | preparations are underway for the 2025 European Wheelchair Handball Championship (4-a-side) in Vilnius, Lithuania, scheduled for November with eight invited national teams and participation from the EU and the European Paralympic Committee. A motion to the organisation of a 'Classifier Course' in Europe during the event was submitted (see AP. 7.4.).

National Federations' involvement with the EHF Christensen Grassroots Charter continues to grow, particularly among nations tied to EHF Master Plan cooperation agreements. Planning for the 2nd EHF Grassroots Convention in Malmö (January 2026) includes topic development and outreach efforts. Meanwhile, the 3rd Women's Handball Conference in Katowice (December 2026) is in early planning, focusing on content collection and framework design.

In parallel, the EHF Glossary of Handball Terms and Expressions is being updated for 2025/26, incorporating Olympic standards, illustrations, and EHF Style Guide consistency.

5.3. Beach Handball Commission

BC Chairwoman, Gabriella Horvath introduced the current status of the beach handball activities.

ebt Finals 2025 | held in Trapani, Italy, 5–8 June 2025, the event featured 14 teams per gender, was highly successful, well-organized, showcased strong visuals, and resolved challenges efficiently. The host club excelled, and the municipality showed future interest—welcome news given the difficulty in securing hosts for this annual event

BH EURO Events | the EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2025 and the EHF Beach Handball EURO 2025 will take place in Alanya, Turkey, on 3–6 July and 8–13 July respectively, with a joint preparatory visit scheduled for 13–16 June 2025.

Other Events | EUSA Beach Handball 2025 in Granada runs 15–17 July; the event organised by EUSA needs stronger EHF involvement at the organisational level. The BH Champions Cup 2025 will be held 9–12 October in Porto Santo, where recent local elections are being closely observed due to stakeholder involvement.

European Beach Handball Tour (ebt) 2024/2025 | the season began on 1 December 2024, featuring 226 teams in 32 tournaments. Bid documents for 2026–2027 events, including major beach handball competitions, will soon be shared. A review of youth development pathways is underway, and lobbying efforts continue to include beach handball in the 2027 European Games in Turkey.

BH Officiating | education courses for candidate officials have commenced, with initial participation at the Jarun Cup. The strategy involves utilizing various ebt tournaments to better prepare officials for top-tier competitions. A delegate’s course was held in Trapani, with five participants supported through the WHB. Currently, there are 76 active delegates (24 women, 52 men) from 29 National Federations and 94 active referees (32 women, 62 men) from 23 National Federations.

Calendar & Other Matters | Concerns persist around beach handball event organization in Spain, particularly due to scheduling conflicts within the European Beach Handball Tour (ebt). Local organizers have struggled with overlapping dates, as the international calendar is tightly packed and influenced by global stakeholders and media demands. While non-beach handball federations can host if a national federation lacks infrastructure, the process for removing a team from the ebt—even with justification—requires clearer protocols.

Member Blazquez highlighted specific issues involving the organization of an ebt tournament in Spain, linked to tensions between a regional federation and its national body. This reflects a broader need for defined roles among the EHF, national federations, and private organizers in managing competitions and related content.

Unified support from national federations is considered vital for “special” events, especially those with unique formats or governance complexities. Without strong backing, organizers face operational uncertainty. Additionally, the importance of learning from past doping incidents was reiterated. Clarifying these organizational and structural matters is crucial to prevent future complications and ensure smooth, collaborative execution of beach handball events under the ebt framework. Step regarding the structuring of activities must follow.

6. Boards and Stakeholder Groups – Overall Information

Although no formal meetings were held, several key gatherings took place during recent EHF FINAL4 events. At the Women's EHF FINAL4 in Budapest, activities included an Emerging Nations Round Table, the Women's Forum Club Handball General Assembly, and a Women's European Handball League Board Summit. All were noted for strong organization and meaningful content. EHF leadership visited these groups and strengthened the dialogue.

Similarly, the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 in Cologne will host the European Handball League Board Summit, the Forum Club Handball General Assembly, and a meeting of the European Handball Players Union. These sessions will focus on electing leadership for the new term, with no major reports expected.

Chairwoman Mallozzi reported the Women's Handball Board (WHB) has remained highly active, focusing on five goals ahead of the next Women's EURO: boosting the number of referees and coaches, improving conditions, and encouraging community building. Support programs include a pregnancy guide, the master coach plan, and goalkeeper summit. RYT initiatives will run during summer YACs and a November camp. Women's representation is also growing in leadership courses.

The WHB is preparing a survey to better understand role models among young players and will launch a new Women's Handball Platform in September. Safeguarding remains a top priority. Externally, 'HERsport' has approached the EHF for consulting collaboration, and 'Fearless Women' has expressed interest in the upcoming women's handball conference. Both partnerships suggest a bright future for women's handball. The follow-up to these contacts has to be coordinated.

With the conclusion of AP6, the Chairmanship of the meeting reverted back to President Wiederer.

7. Organisation of Events / Competition Topics

7.1. Overall Report Events

This report provides a detailed overview of the most important topics concerning EHF competitions and their strategic development. Significant progress has been made in concluding the financial aspects of the 2024 EURO, with a comprehensive media analysis now available, which mirrors the financial reports. Preparations for the June 2025 draw events, following the Herning event in May, are complete, and referees, including continental referees, have been nominated in coordination with the IHF.

For the 2026 events, the DSN OC is in its final phase of preparation, focusing on Virtual Reality (VR) referees and developing new presentation methods for the game to enhance the overall picture, particularly in collaboration with partners like LIDL. Cooperation with PRCST OC, for the women's EURO in 2026, is at an excellent level and will adapt to all circumstances. Similarly, collaboration with SPS OC, for the men's EURO in 2028 has increased with scheduled installations involving managers, signalling a serious approach to delivering another series of highlight events. Nominations for other events scheduled for after the Congress are pending.

The awarding process for the 2030 (men) and 2032 EURO events was conducted in December 2024. Based on insights from the Women's and Men's Competitions Conferences (WCC and

MCC), a new match and playing schedule has been developed. This revised schedule is designed for 24 teams, where 16 teams qualify for a main round featuring a 4x4 format. From this main round, teams would proceed to quarterfinals, effectively implementing an additional round while maintaining the same total of nine playing days. This proposed concept has been communicated to Infront for a cost evaluation. If deemed superior, this new concept could potentially be implemented as early as 2028 and could be integrated into existing agreements.

The planning for 2028 was initially based on a match schedule that requires verification by Infront. The option of having a Main Round in different configurations has received a “green light” for negotiation. The EHF will concurrently engage with the 2028 organizers to integrate this new system, aiming to generate more interest by removing afternoon matches. This initiative is a significant project that will be further deliberated under the Competitions Conference. Furthermore, a letter of interest for co-hosting the Women’s EHF EURO 2030 was received from France, Netherlands, and Belgium, indicating strong interest in future events.

7.2. National Team Activities

There are two upcoming national team draws scheduled for 26 June at 3pm, clarifying an initial mistake in a previous email’s cover note that incorrectly listed 25 June. Both draws are expected to be brief, involving only a few teams. The first draw is for the Promotion Round in January 2026, for which the teams and rundown have already been published. The second draw is an update on the World Championship Qualification Europe for 2027, specifically for Phase 1. The teams for this qualification draw will also be included, and this information will be published on Monday, following this briefing to allow for any comments or remarks. In addition to these two national team draws on Thursday; the Champions League draw will take place on Friday, 27 June.

7.3. Club Competitions

Regarding the 2026/27 season, CSO Markus Glaser requested approval from the Executive Committee, which was granted, to delay the publication of the place distribution for the next season following any necessary adjustments. For women's upgrades, the registration process is concluded, though the situation on the women's side is challenging due to difficulty in securing clubs on the highest level. Insights from the competition conferences are being used to determine possibilities among registered teams, following internal coordination with partners.

For the Men's Champions League, the final registration deadline is two days after the initial registration period, falling on a Tuesday. A specific challenge involves Denmark, having a unique method for determining their second team. This poses a problem for hitting the registration deadline, which the EHF initially deemed unchangeable. However, with Executive Committee consent, Denmark has been granted until Thursday, potentially allowing for a legal decision regarding their second team. The procedure was clarified: teams must register by the initial deadline, but changes can be made until Thursday. Clear regulations for national federations are deemed essential for the future.

7.4. Other Competition Topics

The core reason for Motion I is to officially confirm the **EHF Youth Club Trophy for Girls starting in the 2025/26 season**. An alternative approach suggests running only the girls' competition in 2025/26, with a new decision regarding both genders for 2026/27 and subsequent seasons, after one edition of each has been played.

Regarding participation, the first priority for both genders will be Champions League clubs, followed by national champions in the respective age category as a second priority, with the third priority place allocated to the EHF. The eligibility for boys and girls will be for those born on or after 1 January of a year to be determined, with the fundamental idea that it should remain the youth category (approximately 18/17 years old).

The Executive Committee thoroughly evaluated and discussed the submitted motion, addressing several key aspects. The discussion began with a proposal for the competition to be held annually, and a significant point of debate centred on defining the age category. While many federations favoured 1 January as the cut-off date, one perspective suggested considering the competition year, proposing categories like M18/W17. The discussion also touched upon the definition of national champions and the initial initiatives of the project. It was emphasized that the project's focus is on educating players, not merely on financial transactions. The challenge lies in optimally combining various elements, considering which players participated in the right season. The project is primarily Champions League (CL) Club-oriented and financed by EHF Marketing, with CL clubs receiving first priority. Discussions will then extend to national federations and European League (EL) clubs as the project progresses from its initial phase. The exponential growth seen in UEFA's similar initiatives was acknowledged. Concerns were raised about not burdening National Federations (NFs) during the season and with a preference for the competition to be held during Easter week, but avoiding the Easter weekend itself, aiming for the best possible timing.

Member Sequeira praised the ability to organize the event quickly, noting that prompt decisions would provide more planning time, which would benefit potential organizers. He also highlighted the positive aspect of involving CL teams, considering the investment potential in youth players from these clubs. A crucial point raised was the need to fix the age category definitively, as some 18/19-year-old players are already part of senior teams, leading to potential inconsistencies if the age is not strictly defined. It was also noted that the first edition of the competition was “hand-picked”, implying a more curated selection process.

The EHF Executive Committee approved the Motion I.

Motion II has been put forth requesting the approval of the Executive Committee to organize and host a classifier course during the EHF European Wheelchair Handball Championship in Vilnius, Lithuania, from November 24-30, 2025. This course is seen as a crucial opportunity to train officials who will play an essential role in stabilizing and developing the 4-a-side format of wheelchair handball within Europe. The establishment of a dedicated group of European-level classifiers, specializing in wheelchair handball, is expected to strengthen and strategically position the 4-a-side discipline for its future integration into the global Paralympic system.

The EHF Executive Committee approved the Motion II.

7.5. Men's & Women's Competitions Conferences | Follow-Up

It was stated that the deliberations and discussions following the conferences are foreseen to extend beyond the upcoming stakeholder meetings in October, which are anticipated to be highly productive in finalizing these matters. This will necessitate a comprehensive internal discussion process. As a mid-term measure, the focus is on what can be achieved in 2026/27, leveraging established platforms and engaging stakeholders to initiate these crucial discussions.

Keynote speakers provided valuable insights, expanding beyond internal topics. European Brand Institute CEO, Gerhard Hrebicek offered a historical perspective, contrasting the organization's position in 2008 with its current standing and the increased competition in the field. Consultant Michael Naversnik presented examples from other sports, such as the league format in Volleyball (VB) and 3x3 in Basketball (BB), highlighting the responsibility of federations to introduce new competitions. These examples could serve as potential role models for beach handball. The discussions extended to national team competitions and refining the calendar, particularly for EUROs, offering valuable input for the 'perfect' club system table. A critical question emerged: how will the EHF respond to the 'new' BB/VB competitions, and what role could a new highlight sport play? Jenny Haskel, Knowledge & Insights Lead of the Sport Business Group from Deloitte LLP, delivered information on the general development of sport in the media world and in particular the significance of women's sport.

Furthermore, information on calendar possibilities was delivered, acknowledging that while opportunities are limited by the current environment, they do exist. This was especially pertinent given challenges from other sports, such as FIBA's desire to alter its own schedule. A significant strategic question for the EHF was its place in the future of the Olympic Games and the perspectives for Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032. The EHF recognizes the need for flexibility and responsiveness to external environmental factors.

Positive initiatives and inputs were received from active players and stakeholders from more federations. Emerging Nations, for example, showed increased readiness for home and away games, suggesting potential for further development.

The distributed minutes reflect the next steps in compiling a comprehensive package that supports the development of all competitions, not just those involving top nations, but also mid- and low-tier countries, citing the FAR example as proof of ongoing development.

8. International Institutions

8.1. International Handball Federation

8.1.1. Report Council Meeting 06/2025

President Wiederer briefed the EXEC on the most recent meeting of the IHF Council including an overview of the attendees and noted topics of interest. Wiederer spoke of the importance of the Continental Report which was prepared and submitted prior to the meeting. **The EHF Executive Committee acknowledged the information.** As the minutes were not available at the time of the EXEC meeting, basic information was given according to the agenda. In addition to that, the IHF Council had a visit at the already purchased house to be adapted as the IHF Headquarters until November.

8.1.2. Various Topics

The two motions, brought in by the EHF according to input received by the PHB/WHB were approved: the deletion of the term for concluding contracts between players and clubs; the clarification regarding payments of education compensation to the respective Federation in case of a club bankruptcy.

8.1.3. Preview IHF Congress 12/2025

To the topic of the upcoming IHF Congress in December 2025, and overview of the current organisational status was given. The topic of submission deadlines was discussed, and clarification will follow.

8.2. Other Institutions

The AIPS Special Handball Commission report has been received and reviewed. It was noted without further comment, relevant details for the next EURO have to be worked out and eventually to be confirmed.

9. Ordinary EHF Congresses 2025

9.1. Status Organisation

Preparations for the upcoming Congress are proceeding on schedule. Congress Info 1 was dispatched to National Federations (NFs) on 12 March 2025. A preparatory meeting with the Scheiblhofer Hotel took place on 24 April 2025, where discussions covered the setup of the Hall of Legends (Congress Hall), technical requirements, and meal coordination, which is set for late August. Additionally, Villa Pannonia Hotel was visited as a potential accommodation option for office staff, anticipating that hotel capacity in Andau due to the huge interest might be insufficient for all participants; further information will follow after 19 June. The deadline for Congress motions was 19 May 2025, with one motion received from Austria and three prepared by the EHF (See AP. 9.4.). The deadline for registration and nominations for EHF functions is 19 June 2025, with nominations from NFs currently being submitted. Meeting agendas for the various Commissions are to be finalized and issued in August whereas the timetable for the meetings is already set.

9.2. Program / Agenda

The program and agenda have been reviewed and noted, with no additional comments or feedback provided.

9.3. Elections

Evaluation Group Procedures and Congress Mandate | the Evaluation Group consists of Jean Brihault, Jörgen Holmqvist, and Bente Aksnes, and their responsibilities include testing the language skills of new candidates when compiling nomination lists, as the group holds the mandate to select individuals for testing. These are conducted in the virtual meeting room. It was underlined that there will be no opportunity for opposition at the Congress regarding these matters, as it aligns with an earlier Congress mandate. This two-step procedure is in place to protect the work being done. The aim is to present a complete picture from the entire Evaluation Group, which will involve working through a group dialogue with all parties; the initial document will contain all candidates.

9.4. Motions

Motion 1 - AUT | Completion of Mandate

Motion 2 - EHF | Election to the EHF Executive Committee - Further Members/Gender Representative

Motion 3 - EHF | Delegation of decision-making authority

Motion 4 - EHF | Initiation of Recognition Proceedings

Discussions revolved around four key motions for the upcoming Congress, with one originating from the Austrian Federation and three prepared by the EHF. The Austrian Federation's motion concerns the President's mandate, aiming for the completion according to the Statutes.

The EHF's first motion proposes a permanent, proper election process for the additional gender representative mandate. This aims to standardize the election process and avoid situations where a female representative might secure a position with few votes, safeguarding women's representation on boards. It is intended for the next Congress, with its effect on elections to be presented prior to the respective votes.

The second EHF motion addresses the delegation of decision-making authority. Currently, decisions foreseen for Congress approval by a two-thirds majority are often forwarded to the Executive Committee (EXEC) with a simple majority. This motion proposes a legal adaptation, requiring that if a decision is to be transferred to the EXEC, it must also be approved by a respective majority, aligning the transfer process with the original decision-making threshold.

The third EHF motion tackles the issue of player suspensions across different federations and leagues. In recent months, players suspended in one country have transferred to another, effectively avoiding their suspension period. This motion aims to prevent such circumvention, aligning with practices in other sports. However, it also seeks to safeguard proper procedure: as legal systems in different countries foresee varying penalty times for the same infringement, the player must have an opportunity to balance this. The motion therefore foresees that a lawsuit within the EHF, before implementing the original decision.

The final motion is crucial for ensuring the proper conduct of business, particularly in preventing automatic transfer of indefinite sentences from one country to another. It ensures that if a consequence is to be imposed upon a player transferring, it must receive separate confirmation from the EHF. The provision is especially important for smaller federations, ensuring a correct and fair handling of these frequent situations.

9.5. Budgets

Presented by the Vice President Finances and the CFO, the draft budget for 2027/28 incorporates all confirmed income contracts, excluding those for sleeve advertising and referees, which are yet to be finalized. A 5% increase in fees is anticipated due to the European Consumer Price Index change, with the overall income projected to exceed the threshold over the two-year period. However, no income increase from EHF Marketing is budgeted for 2027/28.

On the expense side, all categories have seen an annual increase of 3–5%. The budget continues to fund the Master Plan, and competition-related expenses have risen slightly but remain below the general inflation rate. The use of the European Handball House reserve has been reduced to ensure its longevity. **The Executive Committee approved the budget for presentation at the Congress.**

9.6. Other Topics

The situation regarding the Russian (RUS) and Belarusian (BLR) Federations remains unchanged. At the last congress, representatives were present in the room but were not permitted to vote or contribute to discussions. A communication process is expected, and a

letter from the Belarusian Federation has been forwarded to the Executive Committee for their decision. The Executive Committee has acknowledged the information provided. While communication channels remain open and an exchange is welcomed, the federations are still not supposed to vote or speak in official capacities. However, the analyses regarding sporting activities will have to follow in order to be ready for a potential integration at the point of time.

10. Various

The meeting concluded with an expression of anticipation for the upcoming summer activities. The Executive Committee was thanked for their willingness to represent the organization at events across Europe. Following these remarks, attendees were wished a pleasant weekend with an enjoyable Final4, and the meeting was formally adjourned by the President.

For the Minutes | M. Brown