
MINUTES TO THE 182ND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Date | Time Tuesday, 21 October 2025 | 14:20 – 18:30

Venue EHF House | The Boardroom

Executive	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances* <i>partly via video link (excused at 17:00hrs)</i>
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Mesut Çebi	Member
	Randi Gustad	Member
	Mark Schober	Chair Nations Board
	Xavier O'Callaghan	Chair Professional Handball Board
	Leonor Mallozzi	Chair Women's Handball Board

Office	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes

Excused	Tjark de Lange	Member
	Danuta Kluz	EHF Organisation & Projects

1. Welcome, Programme and Agenda

President Wiederer formally welcomed the members of the Executive Committee (EXEC), the long-standing members returning for another term and the newly elected members following the recent elections. A special welcome was extended to the individuals recently elected within their respective stakeholder groups; the election process within the Professional Handball Board required much deliberation before a conclusion was reached. However, it was noted that the outcome within the stakeholder bodies affirmed the value of continuity concerning key stakeholder cooperation.

Wiederer noted that the current meeting was not originally foreseen but added to the calendar due to the fact that upcoming EXEC meeting in Rotterdam (N°183-12/2025-NED) on the fringes of the IHF World Championship is expected to be more complex in terms of timing, and as well as the need to complete the necessary nominations required as a follow-up to the Congress.

PART I | 2025 EHF CONGRESS FOLLOW-UP

2. Congress Organisation and Analysis

Establishing context, it was mentioned that agenda point points two through six were either direct follow-up actions or consequences stemming from the decisions made at the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress. Turning to procedural matters, the preliminary nomination list was updated internally prior to the meeting including decisions made during the individual stakeholder sessions, but not distributed another time to avoid confusion. With the document at hand, the EXEC took considerable time and explored the list supported by additional information supplied by President Wiederer. Consequently, no further amendments were made to the list, and it was duly confirmed by the Executive Committee; the list will be distributed as a follow-up to the meeting (AP 1).

Wiederer provided his personal reflections on the processes leading up to the Congress and invited the EXEC to do the same. Delivering a positive assessment, he stated that from a participant's perspective, the setup was the best experience he had faced at a Congress and attributed this to the on-stage conditions, noting the optimal lighting and temperature control that kept the podium and staging area, as well as the participants seating area, comfortable. He stated that the EHF managed to prepare a good basis for the work, which was held in a nice atmosphere, and a proper rundown was executed. He expressly thanked Vesna Lazić, chiefly responsible for Congress organisation and who had dealt with the extensive, some challenging, enquiries prior to the event, as well as the persons who assisted in the event, including the banquet, and those who were responsible for the production of necessary documents and content preparation. Wiederer concluded by noting that the political leadership must answer for the outcome of any administrative event but affirmed that the organization of the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress was successful and that only positive comments from the participants were received.

3. Documents and Minutes

Addressing the current status, the protocols from the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress as well as the other meetings that took place within the framework of the event are in production and will be distributed to the Executive Committee for validation prior to formal approval at the next EHF Congress. Pertaining to the documents, Wiederer underlined the reliability of the content pointing to the voting outcome and the absence of any difficulties on a technical and organisational level; despite the usual withdrawal of candidates during the congress, the election process was efficient. He took a moment to express his appreciation for the National Federations for the coordinated and reasonable efforts in relation to the elections.

4. Status and Further Procedure

4.1. Motions Statutes / Regulations

The application of the motions and changes to the regulations are in progress; the amendments to the EHF Statutes were finalised and subsequently distributed and are now

accessible via eurohandball.com. Furthermore, consequential amendments to the association regulations have also been completed and submitted to the official authorities signalling the seamless completion of legislative requirements.

4.2. Elections

To the 'Internal/External Nominations' list necessary for the staffing of the various EHF structural bodies, please refer to AP2. The responsibility of the EXEC to make nominations, in the stead of the Congress or Stakeholders, was reiterated as a general statutory principle. Additional information noted that the composition of the Professional Handball Board (PHB) and Women's Handball Board (WHB) are presented currently without player representation. In the Competitions Commission (CC), the club stakeholder (WFCH) has nominated a new representative for the position of Women's Club Competitions. Within the Sustainability Board (SB), the nomination of Randi Gustad was directly confirmed and approved. Turning to EHF Foundation/Business Development Board, the sponsor investment initiative remains on hold but is retained as an ongoing working idea; the members, including Mesut Çebi, were approved.

Continuing, the mandate of Hans Holdhaus for the EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU) is prolonged until 06/2026, allowing time to clarify the EHF's future anti-doping situation with the IHF and the International Testing Agency (ITA) resp. WADA. A two-step process for the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) was approved – 1. The confirmation of the TRC continuation (no referee nomination function) and 2. to invite nominations from the National Federations for experts. The full formation of the new TRC will be finalized after the EHF EURO 2026 (01/2026); the current members will continue in their function until this point is reached.

Finally, reference was made to the relationship between the EHF and the International Handball Federation (IHF) and its commissions where it was noted that the IHF Statutes permit the EHF Congress to elect/nominate persons to the function of continental representative in the IHF Commissions. If this is not undertaken by the EHF Congress, the responsibility is delegated to the Executive Committee. The EXEC agreed that on this occasion that until a strategy and purpose for these commissions are established through dialogue with the IHF, no nominations will be undertaken. In response to a detailed letter sent to the IHF, and at the instruction of the IHF, the EHF can return to the matter in January.

5. EHF Structure

5.1. EHF Structure in general

The detailed EHF Structure was not only made available to the EXEC prior to the meeting, but also displayed and explained during the common meetings of the stakeholders. While the structure was described as complex, Wiederer acknowledged the intricacy of the structure and deemed it appropriate for the current scope and direction of the organization.

5.2. Office / Partner Mapping

Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner provided a comprehensive synopsis of the 'EHF Office Partner Mapping Manual/Toolbox 2025'. The publication, which was as well distributed in print form to all attendees of the Congress in September, outlines the operational structure of the EHF by detailing each department complete with task overview and link to the external partners. The document is updated yearly and serves as another element that underpins the EHF's commitment to transparent processes, ensuring both internal cohesion and external visibility regarding the daily business practices.

5.3. Task Distribution / Delegation EXEC

Please refer to AP 4.2. Elections.

5.4. Rules of Procedure / Code of Conduct

Secretary General Hausleitner expanded on the agenda point that covered two specific, but connected, governance matters. The 'Rules of Procedure' for the Executive Committee and professional staff supplement the EHF Statutes and define the decision-making processes, including the provision for urgent decisions, for the Executive Committee and other bodies within the EHF structure; it also presents the distinctions between the responsibilities whilst clarifying the boundaries between the EXEC and the Commissions. The updated 'Rules of Procedure' document reflecting the changes to the EHF Statutes following the Congress was confirmed by the EXEC to govern the new electoral period.

To the 'Code of Conduct', Hausleitner continued that the document had gained new meaning since the incorporation of the integrity topics. The document outlines the expected behaviour and commitment for all stakeholders involved in the EHF decision-making process and defines appropriate conduct both at events and in connection with official business. Prior to the meeting the document was electronically distributed to the EXEC members; President Wiederer thanked them for successfully signing the Code of Conduct, which has now been filed for the current period.

6. Other Issues

As various EHF protocols and documents are widely distributed, President Wiederer underlined that the EHF is committed to accurately documenting meetings and ensuring that they are legally sound, while striving to avoid unnecessary contention in the handball community. Naturally, this means that a delicate balance is always required.

Continuing, it was noted that the EHF due to the specific situation of the continent and the handball sport has to remain fully engaged with IHF matters and, in the light of the upcoming IHF Congress and the IHF Presidential election; in addition, the EHF leadership was tasked with coordinating the European situation concerning the candidates. A recent coordination meeting was held with European representatives to discuss the field of candidates, which clearly revealed a common understanding regarding the topic and different strategic

approaches among the contenders. Despite significant differences remaining, the meeting was viewed as productive, successfully allowing all parties to clarify their stances. As currently one of the candidates is a member of the EHF Executive Committee, it was explicitly clarified that candidates are not required to resign from their EHF position until being formally elected to an IHF post. Moreover, for the record, the EHF Executive Committee collectively agreed that it will not take a position regarding a specific candidate and is very much in favour for a proper handling of the election process in order to have a successful basis for the future of the sport.

During the recent IHF Council meeting in Cairo, it was confirmed that all candidates are permitted to present themselves at the IHF Congress in a short statement (5 Minutes) but as well in front of the Continental Federations at their meetings. IHF President Moustafa is expected to attend the scheduled Continental Europe meeting for welcoming and a brief presentation. Consequently, representatives from European federations are strongly advised to arrive at the Congress venue early - specifically, on the afternoon before the Congress officially starts. This early arrival is necessary to facilitate a crucial, mandatory coordination meeting as the current scenario demands robust and thorough preparation.

PART II | CURRENT BUSINESS

7. Executive Committee Minutes 09/2025

7.1. Minutes | 18.09.2025

7.2. Minutes | 20.09.2025

The minutes for the Executive Committee meetings, specifically Minutes n°180 (held with outgoing members prior to the EHF Congress) and Minutes n°181 (held with newly elected members for the 2025–2029 period after the Congress), which took place on 18 and 20 September, respectively, received no comments or questions and were therefore duly confirmed and approved by the Executive Committee.

8. Business reports and decisions

8.1. Business report

Supporting the written report at hand, Hausleitner noted that it covers the Strategic Business update including activities connected to the EHF EUROs, media performance, and progress on IT development projects. It also contains a comprehensive listing of the most recent, and upcoming, organizational activities through to the end of the EHF EURO in January; these activities include Grassroots Charter Partner Workshop, the Scientific Conference, etc. Continuing, he highlighted the ongoing recruitment process for the IT department, focused on filling a specialist role for the CRM and digital environment, as well as the considerations to open another role in the Officiating unit.

Hausleitner also spoke of the strong commercial progress with the DEKRA (referee shirt advertising) and Josera (EURO 2026 sleeve advertising), as well as Infront having successfully sold all rights and partner packages for the event in January. Additionally, the fan experience

has been broadly expanded for the Men's EHF EURO 2026 with the introduction of a referee ear camera for the final weekend, and automated video content and snippets on eurohandball.com.

Looking to other partnerships, Hausleitner also spoke on the operational challenges with Sportradar that has led to the launch of a compensatory legal claim. Contrary to that situation, the EHF has concluded negotiations for the Learn Handball APP, and the signing of the contract is to be scheduled and followed by a formal announcement. In the area of media sales, the process for the M20/M18 EHF EURO 2026 has commenced.

8.2. EHF Service and Infrastructure

CFO Bernhard Binder delivered a brief report on the EHF Services and Infrastructure GmbH (SI) which is governed by an Advisory Board and operated by the Secretary General and the Chief Finance Officer serving as Managing Directors. It was reported that the building project progressed smoothly, and the seasonal transition from cooling to heating has been successfully completed, remaining furniture orders are slated for the end of October, and all minor bug fixes within the building control system will follow. Binder also added that the necessary service contracts have been resp. are concluded and being fulfilled according to the established schedule. The Executive Committee receives regular reports on the SI activities, and at the financial level, operating on a business year from January to December, the company is controlled by the EHF Comptrollers and externally audited by ANA Wirtschaftsprüfungskanzlei.

Currently, EHF SI is preparing the final accounting with the project developer scheduled for the coming weeks to conclude the house project within the parameter of the 2024 business year as planned. This action will affect the necessary adjustments to the 2024 financial forecast, the long-term cash flow projection, and the 2025 budget. In closing, Binder provided a look into the financing of the EHF SI. A current loan agreement of EUR 14.4 million, a loan of EUR 4 million from EHF Marketing, and contributions from the EHF totalling EUR 5 million in shareholder capital and EUR 2.7 million in loan financing. The loans are set to be paid back over a 20-year period. The budget for the year 2025 currently forecasts a loss of EUR 500k, which is primarily attributed to depreciation but is fully covered by the existing shareholder capital.

8.3. Finance Report

8.3.1. 2025 Finances

The 2025/2026 Budget remains unchanged compared to the presentation delivered at the Congress. Currently, internal financial work is focused on updating the 2025 forecasts and preparing the 2026 budget for review and discussion at the upcoming Finance Delegation (FD) meeting. Regarding official records, the minutes from the most recent FD meeting were included for reference, although the former EXEC took note of these minutes at the previous EXEC meeting held prior to the Congress.

8.3.2. Comptrollers | 18.09.2025

8.3.3. Social Fund | 18.09.2025

Prior to Congress, the activities in these areas mainly consisted of preparation for that event and in the case of the Social Fund, as well as the finalisation of the previous period; meetings after the congress were not foreseen. Additionally, the notes for both the Social Fund and the Comptrollers' meetings (both held prior to the Congress) were available and the Executive Committee took note.

8.4. EHF Marketing

President Wiederer delivered a report on EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM), following a two-day meeting of the EHFM Comptrollers' Council in Vienna, which included newly appointed representatives from both the Men's and Women's Forum Club Handball. The preliminary report, based on the financial review for the business year ending June 30, confirmed a very positive season for EHFM. Financial results for both participating clubs and the EHF showed significant improvement over the previous season, particularly due to the success of the Final Four events. This financial stability is expected to facilitate additional disbursements to stakeholders. The only recommendation in the draft report was to improve process documentation, which the EHF leadership viewed as a strong political affirmation of the organization's high standards of financial transparency and work.

The report also detailed EHFM's commercial strategy and rights status. The marketing rights are held by EHFM after the decision to take back control from a commercially unsuccessful previous partnership. While the EHF's sales network has successfully increased income, the critical focus remains on securing a main sponsorship or naming rights partner for the Champions League to maximize commercial revenue and fully transform the financial picture. The EHF confirmed it is committed to retaining these marketing rights beyond the 2026/2027 season in case of finding a reasonable solution with Infront regarding the agreement. The organization is now in the final phase of negotiating the future commercial partnership structure and is working to harmonize any potential competition system changes with existing contracts to complete its commercial picture. This, as well, relates to the competition systems in the future to be presented at a later point of the agenda.

8.5. Further Reports

8.5.1. Legal Report

The Executive Committee (EXEC) reviewed the detailed written report, acknowledging its importance in understanding the overall legal status and case management within the organization. The report confirmed that all current legal matters are being handled diligently and according to established legal standards, ensuring all decisions are thoroughly considered. The core value of the report is to provide an overall picture of emerging legal challenges, which is vital for identifying where existing regulations need to be adapted to ensure the legal system remains robust and effective moving forward. The EXEC took notes on these regulatory areas for future action.

A specific administrative action involved a proposal to enhance the legal system by confirming additional arbitrators. The EXEC approved the motion to add three new specialists—two from Portugal and one from Italy—to the official list of arbitrators. This move is driven by the goal of broadening the EHF’s pool of expertise and enhancing its image by attracting high-calibre legal experts, including academics, beyond the traditional group of arbitration specialists. This confirmation ensures the EHF maintains a strong and competent resource base for its international sports arbitration needs.

8.5.2. EAU Report

Referring to the written report at hand, President Wiederer added the area of anti-doping involves much work, and the EHF currently exceeds the fulfilment of its responsibility in an efficient way. The cost associated with anti-doping measures, including not only tests but rather preventative measures in relation to the international cost structure around ITA, was also emphasised. The Executive took note of the report.

As is standard procedure, the Chair of the Executive Committee meeting was transferred to First Vice President, Predrag Boskovic, just before the commencement of Agenda Point 9, which covers reporting, including that of the Technical Commissions.

9. Technical / Legal Commissions Minutes and Reports

9.1. Competitions Commission | 18.09.2025

CC Chairman, Božidar Djurković provided a brief update on ongoing topics as there were no additional meetings in the period following the Congress.

Club Competitions | all six competitions are proceeding according to schedule and there are no major open topics; minor issues were deftly handled.

Club Representatives in CC | Gael Pelletier from Nantes/FRA is the continuing as the representative of the Men’s clubs in the Competitions Commission, and Zsolt Abrok from the club of DVSC Debrecen (HUN) has been named as the representative for the Women’s Clubs.

National Team Competitions | Round 1 & 2 of the Women’s EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers are complete; the competition will resume in the spring with Round 3. Phase 1 of the Men’s WCh 2027 Qualification Europe will commence at the end of October.

YAC Competitions | The M18 Qualification Tournaments will be played in November, and upon conclusion, the EHF will seek for host organisers for the Championships. Bidding documents for the 2026 YAC Championships and the 2027 YAC EUROs are distributed and the events will be awarded in December 2025. The amendments to the 2026 YAC Regulations are complete and reflect the feedback/input received from the 2025 events.

Officiating | Following recent matches, the EHF will review the behaviour of specific coaches towards EHF officials based on input received. The nomination of Officials for the Men's EURO in January is complete and published and online sessions have been scheduled. The 'Referee Cam' project was successfully implemented at the DEN v ROU match (EURO Cup) in Denmark and will be implemented at the EHF EURO 2026. In other areas of officiation, a 'Toolbox' is being developed with information to support female referees returning to the work; however, to move the project further, partners need to be coordinated.

IHF Rule Change Process | At the international level, the IHF Playing Rules Commission (PRC) held an online meeting, CSO Glaser, and Officiating Unit staff members, Marcos Bestilleiro and George Bebetos were invited and in attendance. Proposals for rule amendments to the IHF have a deadline of 1 November 2025; this is a critical deadline and requires immediate attention as any amendments would potentially come into force on 1 July 2026, for the 2026/27 season.

To the topic, a discussion ensued and the methods that the IHF uses to amend the 'Rules of the Game' were detailed. The narrow deadline, when taking the scope of the topic into consideration, continues to prove challenging for the EHF as a major continental federation to properly consult with its Member Federations and other key stakeholders to be able to formulate serious proposals – here, the matter of protective head gear for concussion injuries was used as an example as the topic was raised in the stakeholder meetings on 20 October. Consequently, the Executive Committee strongly recommended that the EHF engage in a formal communication with the IHF acknowledging the request for input, but also the challenges to adhere to the deadline, and request a timetable for future changes and adaptations for the rules.

In closing, the EXEC took note of the report delivered by Chairman Djurkovic and reconfirmed the club representative to the Competitions Commission for women's clubs based on the information distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

9.2. Methods Commission | 18.09.2025 & 20.09.2025

MC Chairman, Pedro Sequeira presented a brief activity report as well as two motions for approval.

All major activities remain ongoing and on track, including preparations for the 8th EHF Scientific Conference being held in Zagreb, Croatia in November, as well as the next edition of the EHF Wheelchair Handball Championship in Lithuania. Coordination with the respective National Federations, particularly in Lithuania has been highly successful and without issue. The next publication to be issued at the end of October is the 'Injury Prevention Manual' which is currently in production.

Motion 1 | Amendments to the European Wheelchair Handball Event Regulations

This motion addressed a significant regulatory gap by creating a unified 41-page document for wheelchair handball, covering both the existing six-a-side and the four-a-side formats. This new standard, intended for future championships, includes key adaptations in six areas: the competition system and program adjustments, delegation size, clear player replacement rules, reference to established guidelines and procedures, and legal procedures. **Following a short discussion, the motion was unanimously supported and approved by the Executive Committee.**

Motion 2 | Awarding of the Next Scientific Conference Host

The motion sought to address a long-standing desire to announce the host for the scientific conference significantly earlier than in previous years when hosts were sometimes announced only months before the event. The aim is to provide better planning security for the organization and the research community. The proposed schedule involves publicly announcing the next host three years in advance. The best bid for the subsequent conference was submitted by the University of Donja Gorica in Podgorica, Montenegro, and is fully supported by the Handball Federation of Montenegro. **The committee agreed that this early announcement would be highly beneficial for all stakeholders. The motion was unanimously approved.**

9.3. Beach Handball Commission | 18.09.2025 & 20.09.2025

BC Chairwoman, Gabriella Horvath delivered the highlights from the realm of beach handball as follows.

The season ended with the 2025 EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup which successfully concluded in Porto Santo, Portugal with two new teams taking their very first titles. In the Women's Competition, the title was claimed by Fundación Fomento y Deporte CBMP Ciudad de Málaga (Spain), marking their maiden Champions Cup victory, while the Men's Competition saw Nazaré BHT (Portugal) secure their first-ever championship by dethroning the previous titleholders, Leça.

Currently, the Beach Handball Commission (BC) is focused on two key areas, which is the long-term development of the sport. In the new electoral period, this will include reviewing the strategic outcomes from last year and integrating the visions of new commission members. The second priority is the finalization of the beach handball event calendar, which is largely structured through 2027 but requires specific date confirmation for budgeting.

In closing, Horvath turned the attention to the two bidding processes that are currently in progress. For the next edition of the 'ebt Finals', the BC strongly recommends approving the sole bid from Trapani (Sicily), which proposes a stabilizing three-year hosting obligation. For the BH YAC EURO and EHF BH EURO, two bids have been received and are to be evaluated; here, the BC requested the awarding to be conducted via an expedited circular decision to

confirm venues, which will be beneficial for planning and budgetary purposes. In particular, the bid of CRO, hosting the World Championship prior to the events foreseen as a sustainable project.

9.4. Court of Handball | 18.09.2025 & 20.09.2025

9.5. Court of Appeal | 18.09.2025 & 20.09.2025

9.6. ECA Council | 18.09.2025

To the written reports at hand, the EXEC took note of the minutes; however, based upon a question from Member Cebi regarding the 2025 Court of Arbitration (ECA) nomination list, the EHF provided clarification to the selection of ECA Arbitrators.

The ECA structure necessitates a large, diverse, and independent list of arbitrators because it operates as an independent arbitration system, not a traditional court. The client-driven system allows for the parties involved to select their own arbitrators who then jointly appoint a third as Chairman. This external process ensures that decisions are impartial and to establish procedural integrity.

Therefore, the system's strong reputation is alluring to legal professionals who submit resumes to be considered to be placed on the list. As a result, the body does not have a prior relationship with up to 80% of the individuals on the list. Thus, if a ruling is challenged in a civil court, it will typically uphold the ruling by confirming the robust and correct execution of the external arbitration process, thereby validating the final decision, and limiting external interference.

Arbitrators are nominated through a multifaceted, apolitical process to ensure broad representation. Nominations are sourced from the Executive Committee, key stakeholders (including players, leagues, and clubs), and National Federations. Regardless of the source, all nominees undergo a rigorous check to verify qualifications based on professional experience. Additionally, existing arbitrators are routinely contacted to confirm their continued availability, completing a process explicitly designed to maintain the system's external validity.

9.7. Nations Committee Men (NCM) | 20.09.2025 & 20.10.2025

9.8. Nations Committee Women (NCW) | 20.09.2025 & 20.10.2025

9.9. Nations Board (NB) | 20.10.2025

Mark Schober, re-elected Chair of the Nations Board delivered the report, and opened by reiterating the composition of the Men's Nations Committee and Nations Board. The stakeholders, representing the interests of the National Federations, discussed the following topics:

- EHF EUROs in the Future | the proposed system (i.e.: introduction of a QF phase) and the possible impact on current and future organisers.
- Beach Handball | inclusion of the National Federations in the discussions surrounding the development of the sport.
- Match Logistics | how to coordinate travel and accommodation in the future

Schober informed the EXEC that these topics remain open and on the agenda for the Nations representatives.

For understanding, the nomination process to the positions of Chair/Vice-Chair within the stakeholder groups was explained. While the EHF Statutes dictate nominations, a practical deviation has been established over time: the Nations Board is allowed to nominate a chairperson who is not automatically the Chair of the corresponding Nations Committee. This established procedure was reviewed and confirmed by the Board to ensure administrative harmony and procedural balance.

10. Competitions

10.1. Organization of Events

With the comprehensive written report (50+ pages) at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner highlighted the following points, beginning with the current status of EHF EUROs.

- Men's EHF EURO 2026 – DNS | the final phase of preparations is progressing, and the ticketing activities are showing promising results. The EHF remains optimistic that full venues will be achieved. Various framework events are also in planning to enhance the fan experience. News around fan travel (i.e., FAR) was also imparted.
- Women's EHF EURO 2026 – PRCST | the Qualifiers are in progress and the Final Tournament draw event will be hosted on 16 April in Katowice, Poland; a meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on the fringes of this event. Following the success of the Beach Handball EURO in Türkiye, the EHF is highly optimistic about leveraging the full capacity and organizational strength of the Turkish Handball Federation to deliver a highly successful event together with the other organising federations. To further promote the EURO event, the EHF EURO Cup features eight teams, and a Final Tournament is set for September 2026, and the host of this event will also be made known in April.
- Men's EHF EURO 2028 – PSS | The 'Promotion Round' will commence in new year, prior to the start of the Men's EHF EURO 2026. The 2028 Qualifiers draw will take place on 26 March within the framework of the Conference for Secretaries General in Lisbon. In January 2028, the opening match will be held at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in Madrid; in this respect, elements crucial to the success of the opening match must be expedited. The contractual framework with the OC has been cemented and the necessary preparatory work is underway.
- Women's EHF EURO 2028 – DNS | as the OC is currently occupied with the men's 2026 event, preparation for the women's event in 2028 will officially commence after the EHF EURO in January concludes. Several venues remain the same and based on the proven experience of the OC, the 2028 EURO is expected to benefit significantly.

- Men's EHF EURO 2030 - CPD | regarding the match schedule (to be updated) contact with the organisers will have to be formalised.
- Women's EHF EURO 2030 | initial contact has been established with a potential host to explore the possibility of implementing a new playing format (to include Quarterfinals (QF)); this point was stressed by the Nations Board – prior to proceeding with the bidding process, the playing system must be finalised. The EHF is in contact with the French Handball Federation current exploring a joint bid with the Federation in Belgium. Preliminary discussions with the potential host already include the implementation of a QF phase. The official bid book for this event is scheduled for distribution on 22 October; to accommodate a new competition format, the bid book was adapted to reflect ticket allocation for federations in the QF as well as details for the number of overnight stays for officials. Organisational standards for a QF phase are aligned with the main round. The Executive Committee took note of the bid documents.
- EHF EURO 2034 – Future Bidding Processes | with the objective of strengthening the product for the sports market, and specifically around media right, the EHF has entered a phase of strategic planning. Part of this includes evaluating the option of starting the launch of a new tender process in 2026 and the bidding process for the 2034 events. Whether the bid book will incorporate the 2036 events is still under discussion. It was noted that the format of the event will also influence the planning process.

10.2. National Team Competitions

It was briefly reiterated that the first matches of the Men's IHF World Championship 2027 Qualification Europe will commence at the end of October; this phase of the competition will conclude in mid-May 2026. The first edition of the 'IHF Men's Under-17 World Championship' will commence in Marrakesh, Morocco on 24 October; teams from Germany and Spain are competing for Europe. Finally, the Men's 18 EHF EURO 2026 qualification tournaments are proceeding in a satisfactory way and will conclude towards the end of the month. Next year, the M20 EHF EURO will be held in Romania and the Men's 18 event will be held in Serbia.

For transparency, Wiederer also informed the Executive Committee that the option to enlarge the Under-17 World Championship to 16 teams was not implemented for the upcoming event in Morocco and the IHF will proceed with 12 teams. The event locations for the upcoming IHF WU18 and WU20 events are not known yet.

10.3. Club Competitions

As reported earlier, there are no major issues in the 2025/26 season nor decisions to be taken; matches will resume on 23 October. Moreover, the EHF ensured that neutral venues were found for the home matches of teams from ISR and will continue to monitor the situation over winter to determine if scheduled matches can return to the home venue in March. The only

notable operational challenge recently experienced was the logistical difficulty surrounding a match between a Faroese and a Dutch club, which was affected by adverse weather conditions.

10.4. Other Competitions

The 2026 Youth Club Trophy will take place in Cologne/GER for men and in Budapest/HUN - pending agreement with the OC - for Women; the deadline for registration is 10 November. The qualification matches to these events will take place prior to April 2026. The positive feedback from the stakeholders was also noted.

Concerning the 2026 European Universities Games (EUSA) to be held in Salerno/ITA from 18 July to 1 August, the Executive Committee approved the replacement of Päivi Mitrinen (FIN) with Urmo Sitsi (EST) to serve as the EHF Technical Delegate to this multi-sport event.

10.5. Competitions in the future

President Wiederer and CSO Glaser presented EHF proposals to restructure European club competitions, introduce the European Handball Games, and change World Championship qualification.

EHF Champions League (Men) | A revised structure for the EHF Champions League (Men) has been proposed and strongly recommended by the Professional Handball Board (PHB) after extensive discussions. The new format begins with a Preliminary Round of six groups of four teams, designed to increase overall participation and offer a manageable, short commitment to "middle-ranked" clubs. Teams finishing first and second advance to the Main Round, while third and fourth-placed teams transfer into the European League (EL), extending their European season. The Main Round will feature two groups of six teams, with results against the other advancing team carried over from the preliminary stage.

The structure is designed to deliver a high-quality product; teams reaching the Main Round will play a total of 14 matches, a number vital for fulfilling existing broadcast contracts. The Main Round is followed by quarterfinals and the Final4. The system ensures that top clubs can benefit from a greater number of top-level matches. Furthermore, this revision is the potential to return up to two match days to national leagues due to adjustments in the knockout phase. The necessary calendar adjustments are minimal, requiring the removal of one knockout round and shifting an autumn CL round, with no negative impact on national team weeks.

From the stakeholder perspective, and after in-depth discussion on the level of the different internal and external bodies and institutions, the PHB unanimously approved this format as the most interesting solution that successfully balances the required match volume, the quality of the product, and stakeholder interests. The Executive Committee has approved the progression of these ideas, emphasizing that while the concept is accepted, the technical details are not yet finalized and e.g. the structure of qualification will be worked out in relation to sporting and marketing criteria.

European League – Playing System | The discussion on the European League (EL) system has finally favoured a knockout-related format, featuring a 32-team group phase to guarantee clubs a minimum of six games early in the season. This model was chosen over a pre-season qualification phase, which creates planning difficulties for clubs facing early elimination. The new structure maintains a cross-competition flow from the Champions League (CL) to the EL, but not down to the European Cup (EC). An earlier idea allowing EL group phase teams to drop to the EC was removed due to logistical issues, and flow from the CL to the EC is disallowed to prevent a CL team from eventually winning the EC, which would be counterintuitive. The total match volume remains largely consistent with the old system.

A key concern was raised regarding the significant match volume for the two teams that finish fifth in the Champions League main round and drop into the EL Last 16. These teams will have already played 14 CL matches, potentially leading to the highest total number of games played by any team if they reach and win the EHF Finals. While this high volume is an unavoidable side effect of the system's compromise, it is acknowledged that more home matches also represent a positive business opportunity for top professional clubs. In any case, the number of KO phases was noted positively, creating strong interest for public and media.

European Handball Games (EHG) – Planned for 2030 | The European Handball Games (EHG) is a major strategic proposal planned for September 2030 (exact date to be clarified in Autumn). Envisioned as a single week "lighthouse" tournament from Tuesday to Sunday, it will feature the eight best Men's and eight best Women's national teams. The core rationale is to sustain handball's profile in Europe during a period of reduced Olympic exposure due to the Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Games being outside European prime time. Scheduled for early autumn, the EHG deliberately avoids conflict with late-season events like the Champions League Final4. Crucially, the tournament is intended to be a high-stakes event, potentially awarding a direct European Olympic Qualification Place, and linking to the revised World Championship Qualification system to create more meaningful matches.

Integrating the EHG into the calendar requires dedicating one National Team Week out of the altogether (EURO and national team weeks) 60 agreed-upon days in the Memoranda of Understanding with leagues and clubs. This compromise is considered acceptable because the new club structure will return up to two Champions League rounds to the leagues, and the early-season timing avoids peak player fatigue and the climax of club competitions in April-June. Furthermore, in line with the 2020 Congress decision, the proposal mandates that the financial revenues generated by the EHG must be distributed to both Federations and clubs (for player release). In any case, the event was regarded by the stakeholder representatives after having been presented as a major asset for marketing and future processes. The Executive Committee confirmed the event as such, details regarding qualification via existing competitions, event concept and organisation, etc. will have to be worked out and presented.

World Championship Qualification Europe - Revision | the World Championship qualification system will be revised to incorporate a new league system for national team competitions. This step is considered necessary to create a consistent schedule of relevant matches for national teams, maximizing the effective use of available national team weeks. From the perspective of the stakeholders, it was reiterated that the EHF must hold to the maximum of 60 (player release) days. The Executive Committee agreed that the idea can move ahead for further treatment, but it was underlined that the details are not fixed as more discussion is to be had.

11. Boards and Stakeholder Groups – Reports

11.1. European Handball League Board Men / Women

The Executive Committee are informed that the Leagues, represented by the European Handball League Board (EHLB) continue to maintain a structured approach as highlighted by their recent activities. The most recent General Assembly was held in Cologne and was followed by a competition workshop that delivered a comprehensive presentation focused on the competitive side of the sport. The EHF has received detailed documentation and input from EHLB which proved integral to the extensive discussions and subsequent development of the new club competition system that was approved today. Wiederer emphasised the importance to acknowledge that the leagues have actively improved their internal structure and operational setup and continue to progress in their objective to be a reliable partner to the EHF through their explicit offer of cooperation, and as well offer to give input to the processes taking place.

Regarding the development of women's leagues, at this time, the formal structure of the Women's European Handball League Board (WEHLB) is still evolving, and there is no specific information to impart.

The minutes of the meetings which took place the day before will be delivered to the EXEC for further consideration.

11.2. Professional Handball Board

President Wiederer opened the agenda point by providing information on the nomination of the Professional Handball Board (PHB) Chair during the meeting held earlier in the day. The league representatives (EHLB) stated a formal request to hold the permanent seat as the Chairman of the PHB, which would consequently grant them a seat on the Executive Committee. An extensive discussion was followed by a formal vote, which concluded in favour of Xavier O'Callaghan (representative clubs – MFCH). However, this demonstrated that the leagues have clear aspirations for a more influential role in the governance of European handball.

PHB Chair, O'Callaghan continued by informing the EXEC that the meeting focused mainly on the information imparted during the common meeting of the stakeholders and in particular, the proposals for the new competition structures. Furthermore, and based on the current competition schedule, the club representatives raised concerns regarding teams participating

in the IHF Super Globe tournament; the example of this year's situation where participating clubs had to play an EHF Champions League away match on a Thursday, followed immediately by a Super Globe match on Friday in Cairo. Thus, eliminating adequate rest for teams who have to travel to another continent. Bearing this in mind, the PHB has submitted a request to the EHF Competitions department to amend the 2026/27 edition of the EHF Champions League regulations for the next edition to ensure that clubs confirmed for the Super Globe are allocated a home Champions League fixture immediately preceding their international travel for the benefit of the players.

In closing, O'Callaghan also mentioned that the PHB opened the discussion on the club ranking system, and this will return to the agenda of the next meeting in March 2026.

11.3. Women's Handball Board

Leonor Mallozzi, previous and re-elected Chair of the Women's Handball Board (WHB) presented a comprehensive update on the activities of the group that have focused on education, promotion, marketing, and most importantly, the development of women's handball. Mallozzi started with a brief review of the summer activities that had much engagement such as 'Respect Your Talent' (RYT) programmes on the fringes of the YAC EUROs, as well as the RYT Camp scheduled for December in Vienna. The 'Role Models' project is attaining its defined objectives in promoting key female figures within the sport.

However, the significant highlight was winning the award for 'Best Social Media Campaign in Women's Sports' for the 'EHF Women in Handball' series and specifically, Women's EHF EURO 2024. The EHF, represented by Leonor Mallozzi and Simona Margetic (media department) received the award at the International Sports Convention held in London in September. The WHB Chair also emphasised that the EHF delegation gained useful insights, including that handball remains a unique product with a unique fan base, and collected concepts and ideas from the conference that will be incorporated into the planning for the 2026 Women's Handball Conference (WHC) to be organised by the WHB, and looking to the WHC, there will be a focus on defining the specific identity and profile of the women's handball fan.

Bringing the report to a close, Mallozzi mentioned that at the latest WHB meeting held prior to the EXEC meeting discussed YAC competitions, where clear support was given to the introduction of Youth Women's Club Trophy (WYCT), with the finals currently proposed for Budapest. The WHB also unveiled its 'Roadmap 2025 – 2029' which is to focus on five key areas: Visibility and Promotion, Professional Playing and Working Environment (including Officiating), Community, Female Coaches, and Social Sustainability. Finally, Mallozzi encouraged the EXEC to submit input that would contribute to the WHB strategy.

11.4. European Handball Players Union

Addressing the EXEC, Wiederer informed that the European Handball Players Union (EHPU) has yet to be fully integrated into the structures of the PHB and WHB due to the lack of a

Memorandum of Understanding that formalises the relationship between the EHF and the EHPU. To this matter, dialogue was opened prior to the EHF Congress and is ongoing. Also, to the interest of player representation in the women's handball sector, the EHPU has not yet established an operational basis. However, despite this, the EHF recognises that the EHPU until now is the only group actively working with and advocating for the interests of the players or at least a part of the players; therefore, the representative was invited to the stakeholder/PHB meeting as a guest participant but had the right to express his and their opinion according to the agenda points. In closing, Wiederer stated that the EHF is aware of the need to establish a reasonable platform for dialogue with the players. And this should come with the finalisation of the MoU with EHPU

Following the conclusion of agenda point 10, the Chair reverted back to the EHF President, Michael Wiederer.

12. Miscellaneous

12.1. International CAL

As previously mentioned, the 2026/27 calendar will undergo minor adjustments regarding the match schedule in the area of club competitions.

12.2. Meeting Calendar

The updated calendar for 2026 has been reviewed and approved; the EXEC members were requested to take note and provisionally reserve these date in their calendars. The next edition of the Conference of Presidents is now scheduled to take place within the framework of Final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2026 in Katowice, Poland. Furthermore, the 35th EHF Anniversary will be marked in 2026; it was suggested to potentially combine the celebration with a major event, such as the Conference of Presidents, to ensure the involvement of the National Federations. The 09/2026 meeting of the Executive Committee will be moved for a week to align with the final stages of the EURO Cup Final tournament.

12.3. Various

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee in Rotterdam (N°183-12/2025-NED), briefly mentioned under agenda point 1, is logistically complex as the Cairo bound departure of the EXEC will follow shortly after. Therefore, a compressed schedule with arrival on Friday, 12 December (Semi-Final attendance); the EXEC meeting will be held in the morning on Saturday, 13 December followed by departure in the afternoon. Those wishing to extend their stay in the Netherlands were asked to inform Vesna Lazic to adapt the travel accordingly.

With no additional items on the agenda, President Wiederer thanked the Executive Committee for their endurance during the long meeting days, as well as for their cooperation. The meeting was formally adjourned.

For the Minutes | M. Brown

EXEC Meeting - Delegations / Nominations Update 28.10.2025

1. EXEC Amendment:

Schober (via NB), O'Callaghan (via PHB), Mallozzi (via WHB)

2. Finance Delegation:

President Wiederer (Chairman), 1st Vice President Boskovic, Vice President Finances La Cour, Secretary General Hausleitner, Chief Finance Officer Binder

3. Technical Delegation / Advisory Board Competence Academy Network (CAN):

CC Chairman Djurkovic, MC Chairman Sequeira, BC Chairwoman Horvath
(alternating Chairpersons)

Office: CSO Glaser, Sport & Games Services Simion, Beach Handball Nicolau

4. EURO Delegation / Advisory Board EHF EURO:

President Wiederer (Chairman), 1st Vice President Boskovic, CC Chairman Djurkovic, Secretary General Hausleitner, CSO Glaser, EURO Events Müller
Office: tbn

5. Professional Handball Board (for Men's handball)

Representatives Nat. Teams (via NCM): Schober/GER, Laen/DEN
Representatives Clubs (via MFCH): O'Callaghan/ESP, Planteu/SLO
Representatives Leagues (via EHLB): Larsson/SWE, Bohmann/GER
Representatives Players (via EHPU): tbd
Representatives EXEC: Boskovic, Lövgren
Delegated (President, Secretary General): Wiederer, Hausleitner
Office: Glaser

6. Women's Handball Board

Representatives Nat. Teams (via NCW): Mallozzi/POR, Palinger/HUN
Representative Clubs (via WFCH): Ivanovic/SLO, Sundmoen/NOR
Representatives Leagues: Wendt/GER, Bryl-Prokop/POL
Representatives Players: tbd
Representatives EXEC: Gustad, de Lange
Delegated (President, Secretary General): Wiederer, Hausleitner
Office: Lamprecht

7. Competitions Commission: substitute nomination

Member Men's Clubs (via MFCH): Pelletier/FRA
Member Women's Clubs (via WFCH): Abrok/HUN

8. International Handball Federation

Council: Wiederer, Boskovic
Commission of Organising and Competitions (COC): - tbc IHF
Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM): - tbc IHF
Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC): - tbc IHF
Medical Commission (MC): - tbc IHF
Commission for Development (CD): - tbc IHF

9. Initiator of Proceedings and Substitute IoP

Coelho/POR and Antoniou/CYP
Office: Flixeder (Legal), Glaser (CSO)

10. Legal Delegation:

CoH President Plazer/AUT, CoA President Karanasos/GRE
ECA Council President Colucci/ITA
Office: Flixeder

11. EHF - IHF Beach Handball Working Group: tbc IHF

Horvath (HUN)
Office: Nicolau

12. European Anti-Doping Unit (EAU)

Holdhaus (external / AUT)
Office: Lacina

13. Social Fund

Brihault (HON/FRA), Elovsson (HON/SWE), Dejacó (HON/ITA)
Office: Binder

14. Sustainability Board (tbc)

Gustad, Filipe, Müller, Hausleitner, Szlezak, Binder
Office: Lamprecht

15. EHF Foundation / Business Development Board (on hold):

Wiederer, Boskovic, La Cour, Hausleitner, Cebi
Partners: tbn

16. EHF Marketing Advisory Board

Wiederer, Boskovic, La Cour, Hausleitner, Binder
Club representatives: (via M/FCH) J. Szabo/HUN/MFCH, Jeney/HUN/WFCH,
O'Callaghan/ESP/MFCH, Butzeck/FCH, Planteu/FCH

17. EHF Marketing Comptrollers Council

Comptrollers: Pretenthaler/AUT, Ludewig/GER
Club Comptrollers: Genge/GER (via MFCH), Korsen/GER (via WFCH)
Office: Binder

18. EHF Marketing - Men's Club Board

Wiederer, Boskovic, La Cour, Hausleitner
Club representatives (via MFCH): J. Szabo/HUN, Storm/GER, Leutwyler/SUI, Butzeck/FCH

19. EHF Marketing – Women's Club Board

Club representatives (via WFCH): Jeney/HUN, Roue/FRA, Albrechtson/SWE, Planteu/FCH

20. Technical Refereeing Committee:

CC Refereeing: decision EXEC 01/2026

Office: Bebetsos

21. Technical Scientific Committee:

Chairman: Sequeira, Members tbn / confirmation by EXEC

Office: Simion

22. Introduction of Expert Groups acc. to subject

Nomination by EXEC: Chairperson / Members tbn

23. Expert Groups

Delegates: proposal by Course Management; confirmation by EXEC

Lecturers: proposal by Technical Delegation; confirmation by EXEC

Task Forces: nomination by EXEC or delegated

Working Groups: nomination by EXEC or delegated

24. Further Delegations to external partners

European Union / Commission: Wiederer / Boskovic, Hausleitner

European Olympic Committees: Wiederer / Boskovic, Hausleitner

ETS (Team Sport Federations): Wiederer / Boskovic, Hausleitner

EUSA (Universities): Gustad (Indoor), Horvath (Beach)

EFPM (European Fair Play Movement): Cebi

IMGA (Masters): Lövgren

USPE (Police Handball): de Lange

MESGO (Master Education): Simion

25. Project promoters

Master Plan: all EXEC Members

Respect Your Talent: Lövgren, Gustad

26. ECA Council (ECC) – amendment

Vice President Stakeholders (tbc via PHB/WHB): Utor/ESP

27. ECA-Arbitrators

Proposals EXEC, NFs and Stakeholders: confirmation ECA Council

Office: Flixeder

278 Language Evaluation Group

tbn 2028

29. Technical inspections

tbn

30. Representations at EHF events

Nomination by President Wiederer / Sec. Gen. Hausleitner

31. Cooperation visits National Federations

Nomination by President Wiederer / Sec. Gen. Hausleitner

32. Other nominations:

Commissions / Committees / Boards: according to elections

Alternative Nominations via EXEC

Vienna, 28 October 2025/vl

Strategic Business\EXEC\Allgemeines\EXEC Nominations\EXEC Del_Nom_210525.docx