
MINUTES TO THE 183RD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Date Time	Saturday, 13 December 2025 09:00 – 13:00	
Venue	Hotel New York Rotterdam Room Directievertrek Reuchlin	
Executive	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Mesut Çebi	Member
	Tjark de Lange	Member
	Randi Gustad	Member
	Mark Schober	Chair Nations Board
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chair Professional Handball Board
	Leonor Mallozzi	Chair Women’s Handball Board
Excused	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
Office	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazić	PA to the President
	Danuta Kluz	Organisation & Projects
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes

1. Welcome, Programme and Agenda

President Wiederer welcomed the members to the third meeting of the Executive Committee following the Congress and the October meeting sessions. It was mentioned that the volume of preparatory documents is large due to the number of meetings over the past weeks; however, this is set to decrease significantly by the end of January due to the quieter period surrounding the holiday season. Given the complete attendance, the agenda will be addressed in an efficient manner. It is understood that some subjects will require detailed discussion, while others are included solely to fulfil reporting responsibilities and for notation in the minutes.

2. Minutes

2.1. Executive Committee 10/2025 & Circular Decisions

The minutes of the 182nd meeting of the EXEC were approved; further, a list of Circular Decisions was presented for review. To both documents, no comments were raised. Also, upon recommendation of Member Schober, a list of motions to be treated at the respective agenda points has been supplied; to manage the motions in a more efficient way, such a list is already included in the agendas.

Moreover, documents distributed prior to the meeting will be distinctly marked between the new materials and previously delivered documents.

2.2. 2025 EHF Congress

The minutes to the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress held in Andau, Austria in mid-September were distributed to the wider handball community; this meeting of the Executive Committee provides the first step in the confirmation of the minutes, with formal approval scheduled for the next Congress. BC Chairwoman Horvath mentioned that a nominative correction to an event location (Isola Delle Femmine and Trapani instead of Montesilvano) was necessary on page 17 of the full report; this was acknowledged, and the correction will be made.

3. Business Report

3.1. General Report

To supplement the comprehensive written report at hand, Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner highlighted the following key topics:

- **Personnel** | the current state is stable; a key focus is the search for a CRM and CDP specialist to join the IT department.
- **Sportradar** | the situation is challenging; the issue pertains to the ongoing technical malfunction of the statistical tool which is preventing the proper display of reliable match statistics. This has also resulted in operational difficulties and material damages to the EHF's image and credibility with media partners. The EHF has consulted, and activated, legal counsel due to the response from Sportradar. Since the internal workload for data correction has increased, additional expenditure for technical investments and fees paid to other partners for developing workarounds, as well as reputational damages with media and marketing partners, the EHF is seeking EUR 300k in compensatory damages. Naturally, the EHF is also working on potential future strategies i.e.: internally developed tool which would require a restart of data exploitation and consequential actions.
- **Development & Masterplan** | since the launch of the EHF Masterplan in 2021, the initial designated investment of EUR 5 million in Federation projects has been fully utilized. The EHF has entered into the next phase of investment and is committing EUR 1.5 million per year to fund Masterplan activities that will drive the sport forward that are supported by a secure EHF mandate and will also encourage those entering a Masterplan to gain additional resources and support from local/national authorities. Furthermore, a motion was tabled for the confirmation of the Executive Committee to support a project in Greece (HHF) which focuses on grassroots and general development.
- **Highlight Events 2026** | Hausleitner mentioned that the Conference for Secretaries General in March in Lisbon is combined with the Men's EHF EURO Qualifiers 2028 draw event. In April, the

Final Tournament Draw Event for the Women's EHF EURO 2026 (PRSCT) and a meeting of the Executive Committee will follow. Moving to the Final4 events, at the recommendation of the Vice President Finances, the Executive Committee will also convene in Cologne in June, and special women's handball promotional events as well as the first Women's Youth Club Trophy will take place parallel to the event in Budapest. Looking to autumn period, the September meeting will coincide with the Women's EHF EURO Cup Final (location to be defined), and, closing the year, the final meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on the same weekend as the Conference of Presidents, the Excellence Awards Gala, and the Women's EHF EURO 2026 Final weekend.

- **Respect Your Talent** | at the beginning of December, the EHF held a successful camp in Vienna; Hausleitner highlighted the event report. Once again, the focus was on talented individuals supported through the experience delivered by several RYT Ambassadors.
- **Marketing & Partnerships** | the Josera cooperation is working well, and the new partnership for referees is being implemented with DEKRA with activation scheduled during the EHF EURO 2026 DNS. LIDL is also looking to more involvement. Moreover, akin to the RYT system, a 'Legal' Camp for young players is also in preparation for the framework activities of the EURO event.
- **Ticketing & Media Communications** | sales for the EURO event in January have reached approx. 50% of the total estimated figures; however, an acceleration in sales is foreseen. Furthermore, the EHF has allocated additional funding for promotional activities in key markets. Once again, the EHF in cooperation with ViaPlay will premiere a content production highlighting the rise of the Danish National Team; this will be used as a promotional tool. Furthermore, in the written media report, the TV Sales figures have been provided. Hausleitner noted that currently no solution for transmission in FRA has been secured.

3.2. Legal Management

The current written report is at hand, and no specific report is to be given as no amendments or specific items requiring discussion have been raised regarding the general legal activities. It is to be noted that a specific update regarding the IHF Statutes is anticipated and will be addressed in a subsequent agenda point.

[At the request of the president, a brief summary for the protocol was requested. The Court of Handball issued 15 Decisions since September and there are five open/unresolved cases per Dato. The Court of Appeal issued four Awards in the same time period and currently have two open cases. Also to be noted is that several cases were also treated under the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions to which no appeals were submitted.]

3.3. European Anti-Doping Unit

The written Anti-Doping report details the activities of the business unit and is regularly included on the agenda of the Executive Committee to ensure external visibility of the EHF' commitment to the anti-doping efforts. A meeting with the International Handball Federation is confirmed for 8 January and represents a crucial step in clarifying numerous open topics, and in particular, anti-doping such as the actions taken by the IHF and the International Testing Agency (ITA), the evaluation of the EHF investment in doping controls and education, and naturally the considerations of the upcoming developments i.e. the new WADA Code scheduled for 2027. The report at hand covers the most recent activities, as no meetings have been possible.

3.4. Sustainability Board

Adding to the report at hand, Member Gustad in her function as the Chair of the Sustainability Board spoke of the first successful online session; in order to pursue further coordination, an in-person meeting will be held in January. To the activities, it was mentioned that a development course focusing on future strategies was successfully conducted and the appointment of the Chair was confirmed with the role being internally managed. Gustad confirmed that the meeting was constructive and positive.

3.5. Other

No additional information.

4. EHF Marketing GmbH

4.1. Overall Report

For information, the minutes of the EHFM Advisory Board in November, mainly targeting the situation with Infront, to which no questions or comments were raised, were submitted prior to the meeting.

4.2. General Assembly

The most recent General Assembly of the EHF Marketing GmbH took place on 20 November 2025 in Vienna at the European Handball House.

The financial activities of the EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM) are subject to rigorous oversight, including internal control mechanisms (EHF Comptrollers and two Club Comptrollers nominated by the FCH) and external auditing. The organizational structure and internal processes ("rundown") were confirmed.

The proposed budget for 2025/2026 and the financial results for 2024/2025 were formally noted and approved. In alignment with the participating clubs, the base financial amounts to be distributed have been maintained at the levels of previous years. It was determined that, rather than amending the fundamental regulations, a more efficient approach is to distribute funds according to the agreed-upon key once the financial settlement is complete. The relevant financial documents and the new budget have been distributed to all stakeholders.

4.3. Partnership Infront

For transparency, as well as for the benefit of the newest members of the Executive Committee, President Wiederer provided a comprehensive overview of the status of the partnership which began with a historical reflection; it was noted that the situation was not standard but required a discussion process. The tender process with the objective of signing a long-term media and marketing agreement was initiated in 2017 in coordination with the Stakeholders. The National Team component of the agreement with Infront has been in place since the 1994 EURO.

The original business structure included DAZN (digital competency), and following legal challenges, DAZN exited the agreement prematurely. At the time, Infront intervened to prevent the total collapse of partnership by taking assuming control and taking over the business case. Despite this, the partners (Infront-DAZN) failed to execute the original business plan that was based on guarantees rather than revenue shares. However, this meant that financial distributions to the Clubs under this management were managed in accordance with the regulations.

Nonetheless, over the past two years, Infront showed its intent to withdraw from the Club component of the agreement. Of course, this action was opposed by the EHF and EHF Marketing; thus began a period of intense negotiations. This resulted in an amendment to the Club module and the security of the National Team element was assured. During the discussions both Member Schober and Member O’Callaghan, respectively in the meetings of the EHF/EHFM/Infront Strategy Committee, J. Szabo representing the Clubs, were privy the discussions.

In the summer of 2025, the negotiations for an ‘Exit Agreement’ (EA) began. The EHF/M agreed terms that would satisfy the objectives of the original business plan for the Club segment. This will see all television agreements concluded and compensated through 2030 – some markets remain open; the package as well includes the advertising rights and services. However, there remain persistent issues with the advertising situation especially the securing of a title sponsor for the men’s and women’s competitions will be essential for the financial development. It was noted that without a title sponsor, only basic advertising commitments can be met.

Given that the original tender process incorporated the interests of both the Club and National Team elements, it is now in the hands of the Executive Committee to confirm the ‘Exit Agreement’ which will hold validity until 2030. The EA holds a defined distribution key (80:20) to the Clubs and EHF; the complexity of the digital services (i.e. EHF TV) was also factored into the negotiations and will need substantial efforts for maintaining the level of the output.

The EHF will issue an official statement on Monday, 15 December 2025. The next major challenge pertains to the next tender process (initial steps being taken in 2026) which will require immediate collaboration with respective partners. Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour confirmed that the EA will necessitate corresponding changes to the EHF budget and specifically the working structure.

5. Learn Handball – Share agreement

On 21 November, the ‘Share Purchase’ agreement was formally signed. This was supported with a detailed cooperation agreement encompassing a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan. Moreover, the first board meeting was held prior to the Executive Committee meeting where the activities for the coming year were agreed upon. The initial budgeted amounts for 2026 mirror the expectations of the EHF as they entered into the sales process; the primary objectives of the investment are to provide easy access to create and manage training sessions, to collect data for building and developing the coaching community, and to secure a financial share from the investment to benefit EHF Masterplan projects especially within Federations where such tools are not available.

To be clear, the EHF holds a minority stake in the company and comparable tools are in use by several Member Federations (i.e. Norway, Sweden); this presents a potentiality for a competitive market. Though the EHF does not hold the right to dictate market operations, cooperation has been established with the Federations to coordinate promotional campaigns to avoid market disruptions. SG Hausleitner is a Learn Handball Board Member and CFO Binder will deputize. This strategic investment will see the EHF strengthen the presence of Learn Handball on the wider European market due to its extensive network, while Learn Handball will add technical competence to the EHF’s internal system.

6. EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH

The EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH (EHF SI) was established primarily due to the acquisition of the new ‘European Handball House.’ The foundation of the EHF SI serves the dual purpose to access the available tax advantages associated with the property and secondly to clarify the financial situation regarding all expenditures related to the property. Additionally, the EHF SI has a clear division of labour that outlines the specific operational areas of business and the personnel responsible for overseeing the work undertaken.

6.1. Advisory Board 11/2025

6.2. European Handball House

Presenting the report CFO Bernhard Binder informed on the regularly scheduled meetings of the EHF SI Advisory Board that take place parallel to the meetings of the Finance Delegation to reduce overscheduling and unnecessary expenditure for individual meetings. At the most recent meeting, a significant topic was the signing off of the final accounting with the project developer, which formally closed the building project. This endeavour was not only completed on time, but also remained financially aligned with the 2022 decision of the Executive Committee. Thus, total spending stands at EUR 32.4 million (incl. all new furnishings), with the structure itself coming in at EUR 31.78 million. Deviations from the original plan were reported, including the slight increase in working space and the addition of more technical facilities, which were partially offset by reductions achieved through the successful implementation of a sustainable heating solution (heat pump) despite the additional planning costs. Binder also informed that the on-site TV studio has been equipped and is fully operational for EHF events (incl. EHF EURO events, conferences, etc.).

Looking to the facility operations and services, the necessary technical inspections are ongoing, this is to safeguard the value of the building and its workings together with a facility management company guiding the processes. The first draft of the energy consumption reporting mechanism has been established and provides the necessary data to make comparisons that will lead to recommendations for further reductions in energy consumption and use of resources.

The running costs currently stand at EUR 6,50 per square meter which is slight above the original forecast of EUR 5 per square meter. However, this marginal increase is based on the EHF decision to use the EHF SI for additional non-essential activities such as printing, front office support, internet connections, supplies, etc. This cost-splitting method was implemented to simplify the accounting and taxation processes between the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH.

Adding to the report, Wiederer emphasised that the working spaces, as well as the conditions and environment, are favourably received by internal and external guests alike; the meetings and larger assemblies have been regular. The recent visit of the Strabag CEO, who had the opportunity for a walkthrough during a large meeting (2025 Office Seminar) was also mentioned. Now with all the elements in hand, it can be reported that the EHF SI had reached a good financial and operational level. Following the report, the EXEC congratulated the EHF SI for its achievements.

6.3. Previous Handball House

For the sake of completeness, the President informed that the former EHF House is not part of the EHF SI, but the EHF directly. However, as it falls under the topic ‘property,’ it was listed accordingly. CFO Binder provided an update on the progress of the sale of the previous EHF House located in the 12th District of Vienna. Final negotiations with a potential buyer are underway, who currently operates a plumbing business. The buyer intends to use parts of the building for the business, with the remaining space designated for office space rentals and residential units including temporary accommodation options.

With the respective contracts in preparation, and in case all technical and financial conditions are fulfilled, the Executive Committee gave formal approval to conclude the sales process.

7. Finances

7.1. Finance Delegation 11/2025

The most recent meeting of the Finance Delegation (FD) was held on 21 November 2025. In addition to the general report from the Secretary General, as well as the reports from the EHF SI and EHFM Advisory Boards, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour delivered the following key topics discussed at the FD meeting.

Leading the information provided, the Executive Committee are informed on the topic prolongation of the personnel contract of the EHF Secretary General for the period until 2029.

The duty of formal approval of the contract was given to the Executive Committee in a display of clarity and transparency towards external parties and the Executive Committee confirmed the prolongation unanimously

Following the recommendation of the Compensation Delegation (comprising at the time of Honorary President Jean Brihault, the Vice President Finances La Cour and Vice President Bošković, and the EHF Comptrollers), the contract of the EHF President, on the basis of the Congress nomination, the FD formally noted the prolongation of the contract of the President which was based on the professional responsibility of the role.

Continuing, the FD also dealt with a number of financial and strategic matters such as the property sale of the previous EHF Office (see AP 6.3.) and the actual finance questions to which La Cour elaborated as follows:

- **Financial Accounts** | an overview of the transfer income and National Federation accounts was delivered, and specific attention was drawn to the financial difficulties reported in Lithuania, Latvia, and Ukraine.
- **Development Fund** | support for the Women's EHF EURO Qualifiers 2026 has been granted.
- **Commercial Agreements** | the calculation of the Infront share for the EHF EURO Cycle 2028 was formally approved.
- **League Boards** | support for the Men's and Women's European Handball League Boards (EHLB/WEHLB) was discussed.
- **Referee Compensation** | a request concerning a possibly higher referee compensation for the upcoming EHF EURO events in 2026 was elaborated upon, with the confirmation that the compensation levels would remain consistent after respective adaptations were introduced in 2024.
- **Employee & Elected Representatives Compensation** | the bonus payments to the professional staff as well as the compensation of the elected representatives have been approved according to the budget and with the payment schedule planned for the coming week.

7.2. Update Budget 2025

7.3. Preview Budget 2026

The FD concurrently reviewed the 2025 and 2026 budgets due to the relevance of the two-year financial period. Following comprehensive discussion and subsequent adaptations with the department leads a balanced budget for the 2025/2026 period was presented.

Moving on to the revenue outlook, Vice President Finances La Cour informed the Executive Committee that the EHF anticipated EUR 53 million in total revenue marking a significant improvement compared to the Congress budget and a EUR 300k increase above the previous forecast. The reasons for the improvement were listed as follows:

- **EHF EURO Partnership Income** | the increase stems from new agreements, specifically for sleeve advertising.
- **Non- EURO Partnership Income** | achieved through the better-than-expected EHFM result as well as new partnerships such as DEKRA.
- **Transfer Income** | remains at a high level and delivers a EUR 830k increase.
- **Learn Handball** | no revenue share from the Learn Handball investment has yet been included in the 2026 budget.

Continuing, and moving into the area of expenditures, La Cour reported that in line with the EHF strategy to invest as much as possible into the development of the sport, expenses also increased, respectively.

Personnel Expenses | increased by EUR 265k reflecting the two positions to be established.

Operating Costs | the overall increase in expenses, in line with the Consumer Price Index, including rental fees for the European Handball House was noted.

Cost Centre Regrouping | this area sees a major deviation from the budget presented in October, notably the inclusion of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) under Digital Infrastructure.

Thus, in closing, the budget for the two-year-period 2025/2026 is balanced leaving the EHF on track to achieve operational targets for the year 2026.

8. Committees / Boards 10/2025, Stakeholders

8.1. Nations Committee Men/Women / Nations Board

The minutes of the Men's and Women's Nations Committees and the Nations Board were distributed accordingly shortly after the meetings. The Executive Committee took note, and no additional questions or comments were raised.

Nations Committee Men (NCM) | following the October session of the Stakeholder meetings, the NCM held an online conference to discuss key strategic topics which included and focused on the new match schedule for the men's EHF Champions League and the men's EHF European League, as well as the proposed 'Nations League' (working title) concept. The opportunity for input was positively received.

Nations Committee Women (NCW) | the minutes included a report that highlighted the NF Survey conducted during the Women's EHF EURO Qualifiers framework. The results and questioned posed within the survey were noted as highly interesting and relevant for further considerations.

8.2. League Board Men/Women

Bringing the report to the Executive Committee, President Wiederer noted highlighted the positive shift in engagement, and also reflected on the past situation prior (and up to) 2010 recognising the dissatisfaction with past organisations claiming to represent the leagues. Then came the point in time where the EHF had to assume responsibility in order to ensure a broader representation of handball leagues across the continent. The European Handball League Board (EHLB) was integrated into the EHF structure and currently holds regular meetings as well as joint sessions with other stakeholders.

The Women's European Handball League Board (WEHLB) was introduced in 2024 and officially absorbed into the EHF structure in 2025. This was a clear strategic move targeting the development of the women's leagues that are in a more 'fragile' state in comparison; the EHF also aims to see the inclusion of smaller leagues, lending to the integrity of the processes.

Both boards are working with the issues resulting from the activities, but as well development topics.

8.3. Professional Handball Board (PHB)

8.4. Women's Handball Board (WHB)

The minutes of the PHB and WHB were noted and to which there were no additional comments or questions. For clarity it was noted that the WHB was heavily involved in the survey mentioned in AP 8.1.

8.5. Stakeholder Groups

Currently, the EHF is actively engaged in a process to update and formalise agreements with the key stakeholder groups.

8.6. Clubs: FCH Men/Women

Together with the Club stakeholders, the EHF is in the phase of negotiating and updating the agreements in the form of Memoranda of Understanding with the MFCH/WFCH. This adaptation will deal with outdated topics and new developments e.g. the international calendar. Based on the major changes to the match scheduling since the last agreements were concluded (2017), a common understanding on the current project requirements must be formally laid down. The draft agreement will return to the Executive Committee for final confirmation once finalised.

8.7. Leagues: EHLB/ WEHLB

While a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is not in place at this time, a cooperation agreement is in place following the integration of the leagues into the EHF structure. The next working session with the men's league representatives is scheduled to take place during the upcoming EURO event.

8.8. Players: EHPU

The EHF recently reviewed its relationship with the European Handball Players' Union (EHPU) noting the expiration of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2024. It is the viewpoint of the EHF that there is a significant divide, both structurally and historically, across Europe when it comes to player representation. It is clear that some handball nations maintain professional unions with dedicated staff, others lack a formal structure. This is the cause of a fragmentation where individuals have claimed to represent the interests of players without a verified or unified mandate. At a recent EHPU meeting in Cologne, the EHF representatives almost outnumbered the player delegates which raised the question of the EHPU's reach and organisational depth.

Moreover, the EHF showed serious concern regarding the EHPU's transparency and its role as a reliable source of information. Despite being invited to the formal stakeholder meetings in Vienna and in October, the EHPU representative declined to make official statements when offered the floor, only to subsequently launch external media campaigns. These campaigns often suggest that the EHF ignores the player voice - a claim that contradicts the fact that the EHPU remained silent during the actual decision-making processes. Furthermore, there is a clear disconnect between the union and the players it claims to represent; while the EHPU advocates for fewer matches, it has failed to inform players that the new Champions League system already includes a reduction in the match schedule. This suggests that the EHPU may be prioritizing organizational self-promotion over the actual dissemination of factual information to the players that it claims to represent.

While the EHPU currently states that it represents 2300 European players (a fraction of the 18000 players registered at the EHF), internal surveys indicate that two-thirds of female national team players are unaware of the existence of the EHPU – this includes top-tier players reporting non-existent contact with the organisation. From the business perspective, the lack of a reliable, professional partner exacerbates e.g. negotiations regarding personality rights (i.e.: sticker albums, partner collaboration). The EHF offers essential services such as legal advice or contract protection hotlines and invests in several projects for strengthening the position of players as for example 'Respect Your Talent' programme etc. whereas no contributions come from the other side.

Nonetheless, the EHF remains committed to a fair representation for the players but emphasises the need for a partnership that seeks cooperation and not conflict. The current approach of the EHPU leadership has clearly hindered productive interactions. Therefore, the EHF is considering the matter through the lens of three distinct areas – formal representation, material content, and public relations mitigation, and moving forward, the EHF remains open to taking one final meeting with the EHPU to clearly define the expected standards for cooperation. It is to be noted that should this endeavour conclude without common agreement, the EHF is prepared to move forward with its own direct player-oriented communication channels to ensure that athletes receive accurate information regarding their workload, rights, and the services accessible via the EHF, as well as fact-based information on the development of projects.

Summarising the topic, which was discussed with much input of the EXEC Members, the EHF respects the players as one of the groups being part of the democratic process; at the same time, efforts will be taken to find out in which way the players' stakeholder can be represented in the global system, understanding that in addition to the efforts of the EHF to work with the topics, the enlarged involvement of the players is given.

9. Technical Commissions Reports

EHF First Vice President, Predrag Bošković assumed the Chair of the meeting.

9.1. Competitions Commission

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

Club Competitions | all matches were played according to schedule; the SRB European League Club played three matches without spectators, and afterwards the first home match with spectators proceeded without incident. The main round match schedule is completed and published; all men's club competitions will resume in mid-February after the winter hiatus and after the EHF EURO. All women's competitions will proceed as scheduled.

National Team Competitions | Phase 1 of the Men's World Championship Qualification Europe took place at the end of October; challenges faced in the CYP-TUR matches were resolved, and the home match of GBR was praised for the efforts undertaken to host. The Phase 2 (PO) draw was held in November to allow for better planning under the National Federations; the Phase 3 draw is planned for the Final weekend in Herning. The 2026 Women's EURO Qualifiers (R3/R4) and the EURO Cup will resume in March 2026; the venues for the ISR and UKR matches remain to be defined. The matches of the Promotion Round for the Men's EURO 2028 are played in a KO format in early January and the draw for the EURO Qualifiers will then take place in Lisbon parallel to the Conference of Secretaries General

YAC Competitions | the M18 Qualification Tournaments concluded in early November; the 2026 YAC EUROs are to be hosted by ROU (M20) and to SRB (M18). The Women's 16 European Open (W16EO) in SWE will serve as a the 'Qualification Europe' to the new IHF W16 World Championships; with the organisation of this event not yet as the midway point, the detailed playing system can only be defined after the number of participating teams is known.

Officiating | despite some challenges with nominations, the first half of the season concluded satisfactorily. The preparation of the nominated officials to the EHF EURO is ongoing (online meetings, physical testing); an online meeting took place with the coaches of all participating teams where the most important officiating topics were presented. Additional pre-event testing of the 'Referee Cam' was successful; footage from these cameras will be used during the Final weekend. VR decisions will also be verbally announced in the arena.

Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) | the mandate of the former TRC ended on 20 September 2025. The four former TRC members were all nominated for the EURO in January to assure a proper handling of the officiating topics during the event. The registration process for the nominations for the upcoming mandate period has begun. The EHF Executive Committee will confirm the new TRC in Herning at the end of January.

Calendar | the revised competition calendar 2026/2027 was already sent out, based on slight changes in the area of the men's club competition dates.

9.2. Methods Commission

Due to the excused absence of MC Chairman, Pedro Sequeira, the EHF Secretary General delivered the verbal report based on the written submission.

Knowledge Transfer | the YAC Event Analyses and the Injury Prevention Manual were released in the past weeks and have already generated much discussion within the handball community. Digital outreach continues with regular webinars and most recently the session on 'Offensive Transitions' which attracted approximately 700 registered participants. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to promote the upcoming 2026 Grassroots Convention in January.

Conventions | the Goalkeeper Summit took place in October in Vienna and was attended personally by over 150 persons. The 8th EHF Scientific Conference (Nov.) in Zagreb attracted hundreds of participants both in-person and online; this event emphasized investigative research and established a framework for future cooperation with universities. It was confirmed that the next edition is scheduled to take place in Podgorica in 2027.

Christensen Grassroots Charter | Luxembourg and Romania have formally applied to join and sign the Charter, and Austria has requested admission papers. It is hoped that the three Federations will join the 19 current signatories. The 2nd Grassroots Convention will take place in Malmö; the number of registered participants currently stands at 90.

Wheelchair Handball Championship | nine National Federations took part in the event in Lithuania; the EHF positively commented on the growth of the event as well as the growing interest in the sport from Finland and Sweden. Diving into the development of the sport, it was mentioned that several Federations (FRA, POR, ESP, NOR...) have developed active domestic leagues. The event in Lithuania gained significant political recognition, attended by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Sport, and the Minister for Social Affairs. Additionally, it was noted that the IHF on the basis of information provided by the EHF has submitted all necessary documentation to the Paralympic Committee to apply for inclusion in the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games.

In the ensuing discussion, it was emphasized that while high-level competitions often remain at the forefront of the EHF's profile, the foundational work of the Methods Commission is vital for the

development of National Federations. The Commission's ability to integrate academic research through the scientific community provides a necessary platform for educators and university partners to contribute to the sport's growth. The report concluded with an acknowledgment of the Commission's essential role in creating professional frameworks that often operate behind the scenes but remain indispensable to the overall handball system.

9.3. Beach Handball Commission

BC Chairwoman, Gabriella Horvath provided an update on the activities by firstly confirming that the event calendar for 2026 had been finalised, with the bidding documents for the upcoming year being prepared for distribution. Continuing, Horvath highlighted the ongoing collaboration with 'Aspetar' regarding the study undertaken during the BH YAC17 EURO 2025 which is scheduled for release.

The main focus of the BC report concerned the motion regarding the restructuring of the age categories for YAC competitions; this means a return to the original U18 and U19 which is primarily driven by recent changes from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Dakar which have moved away from the 'traditional' qualification tournaments towards 'participation' principles. The BC raised the concern that the current age categories are the part of the cause for the 'early exit' of players out of the system before they transition to the senior categories. It is the intent of the BC by closing this gap that a more sustainable development pathway will be created.

In response, the EHF expressed a need for caution, as well as a thorough analysis of the proposal. While the U17 championships in Croatia will proceed as planned since the regulations are already published, it was suggested that any further adaptations be postponed. The development of beach handball cannot be viewed in isolation as it must be harmonized with the IHF as well as the National Federations. The EHF must be aware that changes to the age categories could cause frustration to those Federations embedded in long term strategies and already have a level of stability within its player registration systems. Therefore, it was agreed that a period of internal review would be necessary to have the topic dealt with at the spring session of the Stakeholder meetings and the Conference for Secretaries General. Following essential feedback, the topic will return to the Executive Committee for a final decision on the motion. Supporting this process, the BC will prepare a detailed document giving full transparency to the rationale and situational factors of the motion itself.

Closing the report, BC Chairwoman Horvath referred to the comprehensive event report which included the recently concluded Champions Cup in Porto Santo that was submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting.

10. Competitions

10.1. Organisation of Events – Overall Report

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

10.1.1. EHF EUROs 2026 – Update on Organisation | the preparations are nearly complete, with the nominations and travel schedules having been fixed. A recent meeting focused on the topic ‘Safety and Security’ where potential crisis scenarios were treated. New technologies to be implemented include a ball retrieval system, the ‘Ref Cam,’ as well as VR announcements.

To the women’s event in December, a special promotion plan is in place and set to be initiated in September to increase media awareness (Media Summit). Continuing, Hausleitner mentioned several key updates regarding ticketing and financial motions to streamline tournament operations. Most notably, a flat 10% ticket share has been established for organizers during the EURO to ensure a consistent financial structure. In a move to align with the regulations, the FD also approved for 2026 the deletion of the specific contractual clause that previously required a higher share if the home team failed to sell out, effectively simplifying the obligations for host nations.

10.1.2. EHF EUROs 2028/30/32 – Status Organisation | to the 2028 men’s event, the Spanish Federation is expected to deliver a final venue set-up concept by 17 December. The organisational planning for the women’s event will restart after the conclusion of the men’s 2026 event. The Czechia/Poland/Denmark OC (M-2030) is currently defining the cornerstones of the operation; at this time there is no additional information to be given. A detailed concept for Women’s EURO 2030 has been received from France/Belgium and discussions are ongoing regarding implementing a new QF-phase, which is dependent on the upcoming calendar changes. The open questions are to be discussed in the coming weeks, and the matter will return to the Executive Committee in January.

10.1.3. Younger Age Category Events

10.1.3.1. Awarding of the YAC EHF EUROs 2027

Based on the documents submitted, the Executive Committee awarded the W19 EHF EURO to Croatia; the selected venues for the event are Koprivnica, Varaždin, and Zagreb. Podgorica, Montenegro was chosen to host the W17 EHF EURO.

10.1.3.2. Awarding of the EHF YAC Championships 2026

The EHF National Team Competitions department submitted a request to the Executive Committee to postpone the awarding of the Men’s 18 Championships until January 2026 to allow for more time to complete a thorough evaluation of the bids. The two EURO events in this category (M18 ROU/M20 SRB) were already awarded.

10.1.4. Men’s Youth Club Trophy 2026 / Women’s Youth Club Trophy 2026

All 16 MCL clubs have already confirmed their youth teams’ participation. However, a fourth host of the qualification tournament is being pursued. To the inaugural women’s event, efforts are currently underway to increase female participation in the Youth Club Trophy, which currently sees 13 of 16 slots filled. Also, three additional hosts for the qualification tournaments are being sought.

10.2. National Teams

Looking ahead, the EHF aims to transition away from unofficial friendlies in favour of a model inspired by the ‘Football Nations League,’ designed to create high-value official matches that increase media rights revenue—a strategy set to be a primary focus at the upcoming Conference for Secretaries General. This is seen as the basis for the consideration under 10.4. ‘Other Competition Topics.’

10.3. Club Competitions

The Executive Committee preciously confirmed that the Men’s EHF Champions League will expand from 16 to 24 teams starting with the 2026/27 season. This transition will follow a newly approved distribution system based on tiered rankings, which assess performance over the previous three completed seasons for both men’s and women’s competitions. While creating a model that satisfies all stakeholders is challenging, the adopted approach offers technical flexibility and ensures quality standards are maintained - a solution supported by the Club representatives and taken note of by the other stakeholders involved - as the most practical way forward.

To secure broad agreement, the EHF held extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including video conferences with Club Board, Nations Committee, and League Board representatives. These discussions provided valuable input on the competition calendar, team allocation, and structural changes. Following these sessions and subsequent presentations to the Executive Committee, a clear roadmap for implementation emerged. Although the specific clubs are yet to be confirmed, the underlying framework for distribution has been formally approved, enabling the project to advance with confidence. The Executive Committee approved the motion following a technical clarification of the formula for the Men’s Champions League with 10 granted places for the top nations, Maximum 8 additional for the top nations/clubs + Maximum 4 for other nations/clubs + the remaining additional place including wildcards, defending champions, and potentially in the future, club from outside Europe, confirming that these limits serve as flexible benchmarks to safeguard competitive integrity while successfully reaching the 24-team total.

10.4. Other Competition Topics

Under the agenda item Other Competition Topics, the Executive Committee officially approved the motion to proceed with the ‘Nations League’ (working title only) model for World Championship qualifications. This decision follows extensive consultations with the Nations Committee Men, where a clear consensus emerged in favour of the new format as a means of replacing unofficial friendly matches with high-value official competitions, including the integration of the ‘European Handball Games.’ A key technical element of this strategy is the activation of the fourth national team week in late September or early October. This is a period which stays within the foreseen 29 days but has to be properly allocated in the calendar. While the Executive Committee has given a firm mandate to move forward, it was noted that this transition will necessitate a comprehensive restructuring of the international handball calendar, including an earlier start to EURO Qualifiers resp. the topic later start of the EURO in January for enabling the Leagues to be active, and as well secure the preparation for the event.

The introduction of this framework during stakeholder meetings has initiated a critical dialogue regarding player welfare and domestic league schedules. While there is broad understanding that the concept is beneficial for the long-term growth of handball, clubs and leagues have raised concerns regarding the impact of the additional activity week in the autumn. As a constructive response, a counterproposal is being considered to delay the January season restart (EURO) from the 7th to the 15th.

This transition also presents a vital opportunity to revise the women's competition framework to ensure a healthy and sustainable relationship between club and national team events. However, the next step will be the restructuring of the women's competitions and is supposed to have an impact on the 2027/28 calendar which will be subsequently worked out. This calendar will anyway need special care at the end of the season and because of the early start of the Olympic Games in July 2028.

Moving forward, this calendar overhaul as of 2028/29 will be the primary focus of the upcoming Conference of Secretaries General in March. The EHF is committed to an open information process as the project moves into the public sphere, continuing to refine the technical details and distribution systems to ensure all quality criteria are met, and the EHF remains at the disposal of stakeholders for more detailed explanations as the implementation phase begins, marking a unanimous commitment to evolving how international matches are organised, valued, and scheduled.

11. International Relations

11.1. International Handball Federation – Congress Preparation

Based on the information currently available, President Wiederer provided a brief overview to the upcoming IHF Congress where elections for the next four years will also be held. Following the ensuing discussion, it was underlined that the EHF Executive Committee is fully behind the continued development of the sport on a global scale as there is a unanimous mandate to support the direction of the sport.

The Executive Committee discussed the fragmented state of European support regarding the IHF presidency. A major point of contention is the perceived lack of unity, due to there being multiple European candidates, and what this could possibly mean in the terms of the election process.

Furthermore, the EHF identified an anomaly in new IHF motions. These motions require continental and national federations to incorporate clauses into their own statutes that effectively waive their right to take legal disputes to court, a move that contradicts recent European Court of Justice rulings. A respective external legal expertise underlines this position. The EHF noted its concern that many federations might vote for these changes without fully grasping the extensive consequences. Therefore, the EHF agreed to inform at the Continental Meeting prior to the IHF Congress to spread awareness. At the same time, an exchange will take place with the IHF Leadership for clarifying the situation prior to the Congress.

11.2. European Olympic Committees / EOC EU

11.3. European Team Sports Association

At the ‘European Evening of Sport’ (held on the same day as the ETS meeting) in Brussels and with the presence of the EHF President and Secretary Generals, several contacts were established with the political and sport-political representatives. The EHF successfully delivered a policy statement to the EU on 8 December, to the initiative for aligning with broader sport communication strategies. The Executive Committee was informed upon the most recent collaborations with other European Federations such as the European Team Sports Association (ETS) comprising of Volleyball (CEV), Football (UEFA), Basketball (FIBA EUR), Ice Hockey (IIHF), and Rugby Europe. Recently, the focus of the discussion has shifted from Covid-19 safety regulations to navigating the geopolitical temperature. Key topics included the management of situations involving Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, as well as specific regional challenges like those in Bosnia. A major point of coordination involves the approach to hosting events in Israel for 2026. The ETS agreed on the necessity of ‘open communication’ to ensure no single sport federation acts in isolation in order to avoid uncomfortable situations that would arise if one sport permits the staging of games in Israel, while others do not, thereby placing the remaining Federations under immense external pressure. Contact on a daily business level and potentially a next meeting in Vienna will follow.

Following the conclusion of Agenda point 11, the Chair reverted back to the President.

12. 2026 Activities

As the final point, and to close down the meeting, the Executive Committee briefly discussed several practical changes to the meeting calendar. made to avoid logistical conflicts. A key proposal was made to consolidate the June Executive Committee meeting by moving it from a standalone date to coincide with the existing Final4 activity, which was accepted as a logical step for those already in attendance.

Additionally, a change was made to the October stakeholder meetings. Due to a previous scheduling error that had set these meetings a week earlier than usual, they were found to be in direct conflict with parallel meetings in the club system. Consequently, the EXEC approved moving these stakeholder sessions back by one week (now on 19/20 October) to align with the standard schedule and ensure full participation from all club and league representatives.

The revised dates for the June and October meetings were formally accepted. The EXEC also noted that the list of upcoming activities is extensive; as a next step, the EHF will begin preparing nomination for the various 2026 summer events in January.

With no additional items on the agenda, President Wiederer thanked the Executive Committee for their cooperation and adjourned the meeting.

For the Minutes | M. Brown