

MINUTES TO THE 185TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN KATOWICE, POLAND

Date | Time Friday, 17 April 2026 | 08:30 – 12:30

Venue Novotel Katowice Centrum Hotel | Room Rock

Executive	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	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

Office	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Danuta Kluz	Organisation & Projects
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes

Excused	Mesut Çebi	Member
	Vesna Lazic	PA to the President

1. Welcome, Programme, and Agenda

Welcoming the Executive Committee to the meeting, President Wiederer mentioned that the April session is traditionally used to prepare for the upcoming season, to which the respective motions will be treated at the corresponding agenda points. He briefly mentioned the Final Tournament Draw of the Women’s EHF EURO 2026 held the previous evening and the event workshop being held parallel to the Executive Committee meeting. The dense agenda and the limited timeframe to conduct the meeting was also mentioned.

2. Minutes

2.1. Executive Committee 01/2026

The minutes of the January 2026 meeting (Herning/DEN) were confirmed, and due to the volume of documentation submitted for the meeting, an overview of the motions were provided to the Executive Committee.

3. Business Report

3.1. General Report

Supplementing the comprehensive written report, Secretary General Hausleitner highlighted the specific topics out of the report such as personnel, as well as the upcoming activities that are listed through June 2026. The Women's EHF EURO Cup Final will be the highlight of September. He also mentioned the Final Weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2026 that will see the next edition of the Conference of Presidents, the 35th anniversary celebrations of the EHF, the Women's Handball Conference, all of which will be held in Katowice, Poland.

To other business, Hausleitner mentioned the ongoing situation with Sportradar, the reciprocal communications, as well as the next scheduled meeting on 23 April that will seek clarification of the environment and cooperation going forward. Hausleitner also mentioned the information on the EHF Master Plan (financial environment update, as well as projects, and project restarts); **the Executive Committee approved the EHF Master Plan agreement with the Handball Federation of Türkiye (in connection to the promotion of women's handball related to the EHF EURO 2026 in December.**

Continuing, he noted the information concerning the RYT App, its update, and high volume of persons signed on to the App. Concerning the Infront partnership, Hausleitner noted that the Executive Committee has been kept informed on the developments, and spoke briefly of the most recent Steering Board meeting; the information relating to EHF Marketing would be mentioned under the respective agenda point – it was mentioned that the current status of the EHF partnerships is listed in the written report. This includes the scheduled meetings with Gerflor and Eventim (prolongation talks). Comprehensive information concerning Data/CRM, as well as TV sales and production concerning the YAC events, and the final digital report from the Men's EHF EURO 2026 are also included. Turning to the IT report, the Executive Committee are informed that the full project portfolio plan (connected to the IT costs and areas of work) is also attached to the business report.

3.2. Legal Management

Opening the agenda point, President Wiederer noted the development of the area of legal management over the history of the EHF, mentioning the initial 2-man operation being combined with the competitions business to the large team that covers the wide-ranging topics being handled today. It was noted that several of the topics/motions will be treated during the various agenda points as there are many legal touchpoints that constitute the daily ordinary business. It is underlined that should any member of the Executive Committee require additional information or clarification to the points in the submitted written reports, the team remains at their disposal.

3.2.1. Overall Report

To the overall report at hand, Wiederer elaborated on the most recent published decision concerning the misconduct case of a referee pair to be added to the report. Also, in the report, supplementing the information, there are many requests such as additional meeting sessions among the legal commissions, including a potential interest for an enlargement in the 'Court of Arbitration' to include

other sports. It was underlined that the legal environment has changed, and will continue to change; however, it was stated that the EHF must proceed with caution before installing varying mechanisms without being objectively clear on what the sport of handball needs and, at the same time, is not hindering the development of the sport.

3.2.2. Minutes Legal Commissions

The Executive Committee took note of the minutes submitted from the meeting of the Legal Delegation, Court of Handball, Court of Appeal, and the EHF Court of Arbitration Council. Upon request for comment, Member Sequeira referred to the Romanian case concerning the Hungarian Coaches. He underlined that the case was settled, and the appeal process was exhausted; however, two years after the conclusion, the decision of the legal instance has not been implemented. The EXEC agreed that a request for implementation of the decision will be made, and an initiative with the Romanian Handball Federation will be started.

3.2.3. Motions and follow up topics

The Executive Committee treated the motions that follow. For brevity a short description is provided; it is noted that all motions were submitted in written long-form.

- **Motion 1 | Amendments to the EHF Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions:** the motion was approved as written.
- **Motion 2 | Enforcement - Górnik Zabrze Handball SP/POL/EHF:** based on the information provided, and as well taking note of the input received from the National Federation of Poland, the Executive Committee finally agreed to follow the recommendation.
- **Motion 3 | Amendments to the EHF EURO Regulations:** the motion was approved as written.
 - Addition of EHF Venue Dressing Guidelines, EHF Brand & Event CI Guidelines
 - Deletion of person in charge
 - Optimisation of Protest procedure
 - Update to Substitution Area Drawing
 - Various minor editorial changes (no approval required)
- **Motion 4 | Enforcement – Coach Almir Ljajic/EHF:** during a brief discussion, it was recommended a full and therefore global 2-year ban. The Executive Committee took note of the input and agreed that the recommendation is to be followed.
- **Follow-Up 1 | Information & Communication Strategy – ECA/Overview Legal Topics:** the Executive Committee took note of the information.
- **Follow-Up 2 | Approval of Nominated Arbitrators:** the Executive Committee confirmed the list of the five nominees to the pool of ECA Arbitrators.

- **Follow-Up 3 | Non-disclosure agreement IHF relating to individual European cases:** the Executive Committee, in agreement, took note of the information submitted.
- **Follow-Up 4 | IHF restriction concerning parallel functions; territorial principle, IHF Statutes:** in the ensuing discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that there must be compliance with both the IHF and EHF Statutes, and neither foresee a double function.

3.3. European Anti-Doping Unit

Taking note of the report at hand, the Executive Committee were informed that there were no positive doping results out of the EHF EURO 2026; the field of work continues in a good way.

3.4. Sustainability Board

Lending voice to the submitted report, Member Gustad reiterated that the next meeting would take place in Budapest and welcomed input from the Executive Committee Members and the handball community. Member Lövgren noted that based on the number of projects and activities, more information must be provided to the Member Federations. It was also mentioned that the topic of information dissemination was also a topic for EHF Media. The information and feedback received during the Conference for Secretaries General was mentioned. Closing the agenda point, the Executive Committee are informed that a comprehensive report will be given after the next Board meeting and at the next Executive Committee in Cologne.

3.5. Other

Hausleitner delivered a short report on the 15th Conference for Secretaries General and mentioned the number of participants and that nearly 50% of attendees were partaking for the first time, the comprehensive presentations covering many topics where information was able to be delivered pertaining to new competition systems, the European calendar, the EHF Master Plan, women's handball development, sustainability, and grassroots projects, as well as the introducing the EHF professional structure so that Member Federations representatives could contact the right persons directly. Following a short discussion, it was acknowledged that the differences in the needs/resources of the larger/smaller Federations would influence the development pathway.

4. Finances

Opening the agenda point, President Wiederer reiterated that the Finance Delegation is not embedded in the EHF Statutes, does not serve as a decision-making body, and can be described as a coordination instrument. Continuing, Wiederer also mentioned all the meetings that had taken place leading up to the current EXEC meeting i.e., Technical Commissions, Stakeholders, Legal Bodies, Comptrollers, as well as the board meetings of EHF Marketing GmbH – it was emphasised that it is here that Finance Delegation in addition to the finance related topics assists in the preparatory process for the Executive Committee where all final decisions on principle strategic matters are taken.

4.1. Finance Delegation 03/2026 Minutes

The Executive Committee took note of the minutes and out of the report, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour mentioned that the low number of transfers is due to being 'early' in the year. In the meeting of the Finance Delegation an overview of the Federation accounts was also given. Following the Men's EHF EURO 2026, the deposit amounts increased to EUR 5.5 million, but an expense of EUR 2.8 million to cover the daily rates of 2026 summer YAC events must be deducted from that amount. Moreover, in preparation of the 2026/2027 season, the index adjustment (Congress agreed) was applied to fees and compensations; the EUR 10k deposit for men's and women's club competitions was also mentioned. Closing this section of the report, La Cour stated that the requests of the European Handball League Board and Beach Handball Support Programme were also considered.

4.2. Final Accounting 2025

The meeting of the Comptrollers took place prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee and the numbers presented at the previous meeting were confirmed with a slight deviation in revenues incl. EHFTV decreased by EUR 15k and expenses (decreased by EUR 287k). CFO Bernhard Binder elaborated by pointing to the higher spending on 'Congress and Meetings', an increase in Office and Digital Infrastructure expenses, and increase also in 'Development' expenditure due to the release of provisions. However, costs surrounding the 'Commissions' and 'Competitions' were kept below expectations. Binder also highlighted the procedure on deferrals and accruals, discussed with the Comptrollers and external auditors; a slight adaptation was undertaken in line with the Congress decision, which effectively results in a lower loss in 2025, but also a lower profit in 2026; nonetheless, the 2-year result shall remain balanced. In closing, it was mentioned that the result of ECA, Social Fund and EHF SI was also evaluated during the same period. The Executive Committee approved the 2025 Final Accounting confirmed by the external auditors and the EHF Comptrollers with EUR 20,34 million (revenues) and EUR 23,87 million (expenses) which after use of reserves results, according to the profit and loss account, in a minus of EUR 2,81 million. The 2-year period (2025 -2026) will be balanced via the 2026 profit as it was foreseen in the presentation approved by Congress.

4.3. Update Budget 2026

La Cour delivered the information pertaining to the 2026 Budget adaptations based on the information provided to the 2025 accounting period. He underlined that due to the positive development, fewer recommendations were received from the Comptrollers, and they, all previous ones, have been implemented. Thus, concerning 2026 estimated expenses of EUR 31,995 million (+ EUR 110k) there remains a balance between revenues and expenses as certain line items (Congress, Meetings, Commissions, etc.) remain unchanged, and using the EHF Master Plan reserves, a decrease in 'Development' outlay can also be expected.

For the record, it was mentioned that there is no special or separate report for the Social Fund and the ECA Fund as it is part of the accounting. The Executive Committee are informed that the anticipated 2026 profit will cover the losses of 2025 and safeguards the balanced budget for the two-year period 2025-2026.

5. EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH

5.1. Advisory Board 03/2026

The Executive Committee are informed that there is no special report on the building, however, there are still some matters to be resolved and the EHF SI are working with the contractor to this end. However, it was highlighted that the controlling and auditing process as well as the final accounting, including the first full year of running costs and the invoicing to the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH, have all been finalized. The audit procedures were conducted, and the final report was analysed by the Comptrollers; as a result, the EHF SI received approval for its financial conduct.

For the 2025 financial year a loss of EUR 228k was reported; this result is fully in line with the approved budget and prior Executive Committee expectations. The components of the of the result encompass rental income (EUR 1.24m), operating expenses and non-cash costs (EUR 1.252m), as well as the financing costs, where interest expenses were over EUR 600k. Two-thirds could be attributed to the bank loan and one-third to the credit extended by the EHF & EHF Marketing GmbH. Thus, the loss is not driven by underperformance.

Despite the accounting loss, the cashflow status remained positive with a net of approx. EUR 500k. Additionally, as previously communicated to the Executive Committee, the loan structure was deliberately split into three separate tranches to mitigate risk around interest rates i.e., partly variable, fixed until 2034, and 20 years fixed until 2043.

5.2. General Assembly 04/2026

The most recent EHF SI General Assembly approved the accounting, thus completing the business year.

6. EHF Marketing GmbH

The minutes of the respective Men's and Women's Club Board and the EHF Marketing Advisory Board were submitted prior to the meeting. The meeting structure followed the usual rundown and the content focused on the current season resp. preparations for the 2026/27 season.

6.1. Advisory Board 03/2026

All pertinent information to the Final events among other matters are contained within the report; moreover, during the meeting, comprehensive information from the Club Boards, taking place on the same day but prior to the Advisory Board, was also delivered.

6.2. Exit Partnership Infront

Opening the topic, President Wiederer reiterated that the 'Exit Agreement' also impacts the EHF due to the dual nature of the original of the partnership. However, not wishing to reiterate previous measures undertaken, Wiederer focused on the preparation for the upcoming 2026/2027 season and specifically the new tasks and responsibilities resulting from this separation process (reflected in the minutes of the Advisory Board) and underlined that a favourable solution was reached.

Continuing, it was noted that until 2030 almost all markets are covered, and basic distribution to the EHF and the clubs is granted via EHF Marketing. Currently, renewed focus is given to the area of sales and EHFM is actively in the process of restructuring the working process and the internal structure that is to be adapted accordingly by 1 July 2026.

6.3. Further procedure

A brief discussion was held, and the EHF and EHFM are currently analysing the markets. The outcome of these explorations will be part of a comprehensive report to be delivered at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in June.

MOTION

As previously stated, only a short description is provided; it is noted that the motion was submitted in written long-form; and, as the financial part of the regulations according to the license agreement results in the responsibility of EHF Marketing, the topic is listed under this agenda point.

- **Motion 1 | Compensation Club Competitions:** the motion was approved as written and describes the distribution of the basically granted amount to the participants according to the respective competition phases of the Champions and European League. The motion pertains to compensation for participating teams in the men's club competitions. Prior to the decision, through the introduction and the ensuing discussion, Wiederer mentioned that the matter of compensation was always a part of the changes to the new system to be implemented. The motion does not encapsulate women's club competitions as that system, as previously discussed in various forums, remains unchanged for the 2026/2027 season.

7. Learn Handball Agreement

The initiative has made a strong and structured start since the cooperation was launched in January. Priorities have included the alignment of governance, financial structuring, the development of the app, language strategy to appeal to more markets, as well as the sales approach. The most recent presentation of the collaboration was during the 15th Conference for Secretaries General which engaged the participants directly. Subsequently interest was shown by 11 National Federations, with concrete agreements already concluded, notably with Great Britain. Further growth is planned through the expansion of the multilingual tool, as well as targeted promotion linked to the 10-year anniversary. It is hoped that the sales and educational capacity will also be strengthened. Overall, the partnership is progressing well along a defined timeline. MC Chairman Sequeira added the in addition to the topics mentioned, discussions on licensing, content creation, and project development have also taken place with the view of incorporating a feature targeting those seeking education.

Following the conclusion of AP7, First Vice President, Predrag Bošković assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

8. Technical Commissions Minutes & Motions

8.1. Technical Delegation (TD)

Opening the agenda point, Bozidar Djurkovic, Chairman of the Competitions Commission delivered the report arising from the Technical Delegation where information across the Commissions and the key technical areas was exchanged. This included medical services, VOGO, sideline solutions, Kinexon, as well as the Learn Handball app. The TD also aligned itself with the EHF Master Plan, and other planned initiatives including, but not limited to webinars, Goalkeeper summit, and the Grassroots Convention, thus confirming a clear cross-functional collaboration. The topics are reflected across the minutes of the Technical Commissions.

8.2. Competitions Commission (CC) & Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC)

Club Competitions: All recent matches were completed without any major issues, and the upcoming Women's EHF Champions League Quarterfinals and the Women's European Cup followed by the men's competitions are proceeding as scheduled. The dates and locations for all Final4 events have been confirmed and published and are in the end stages of the preparation. It was noted that during this session of the EXEC, numerous motions from the area of competitions would be treated to ensure that the respective regulations would be updated and at status prior to the start of the next season.

National Team Competitions: The Women's EURO Qualifiers as well as the EURO Cup were concluded last weekend with no issues; this included a positive outcome of the group containing the ISR team. Discussions concerning the venue of the EHF EURO Cup Final, scheduled for September, are ongoing and the EXEC will be consulted once a proposal is ready. The 2027 Men's IHF World Handball Championship Qualification (Play-Off Europe) will commence in May, and the matches ESP v. ISR will be played in Argentina upon the proposal of ESP due to organisational and security issues. Other practical matters, including officiating and costs, have already been addressed including the coordination with National Federations, the Continental Federation, and the IHF.

YAC Competitions: The draw procedures for all summer 2026 YAC events were concluded, at this time, site visits as well as other preparatory activities i.e. nominations are ongoing. Currently, no major issues are expected.

Officiating: Match nominations have progressed smoothly with no significant complaints regarding referee performances, while a formal decision was recently issued in the case involving the referee pair related to the alleged manipulation of their physical test ahead of the EURO. The first EHF Referee Candidates Course of 2026 will take place in Poreč with six female referee pairs participating, and a motion on the new officiating structure, with validity as of 1 July 2026 is to be addressed later.

General topics

Preparations are ongoing for the future playing system of the Women's EHF Champions League as of season 2027/2028 and on the long-term structure of national team competitions. A concern was raised that the use scenes of referee-related video content may unintentionally create negative

impressions, particularly for young audiences, highlighting the need for a stronger media strategy that prioritises positive match situations and promotes the sport in a constructive light. After a detailed discussion about the rundown in the media sector digital, no conclusion was taken.

CC MOTIONS

As previously stated, only a short description is provided; it is noted that all motions were submitted in written long-form.

- **Motion 1 | Ball Pressure:** following discussion, the motion was slightly adapted for clarification. Qualifying information from the ball manufacturer will be sought for the pressure range to be explicitly stated in the regulations. The motion was approved as adapted.
- **Motion 2 | Non-Admission of Clubs - Change of the responsible body:** from CC to EXEC and along the evaluation process; the motion was approved as written.
- **Motion 3 | Late Entry of a Player (Extraordinary Cases):** following intervention by Member de Lange, it was agreed that the wording would be adapted for transparency when dealing with the club and the individual in so far that it is clear what the field of possibilities of the EHF would be for such cases; by the adaptation, the motion is approved as amended.

Motions 4 to 6: all motions were approved as written.

- **Motion 4 | Finances after not finishing the season** – no compensation to be paid to the respective Club if withdrawing during the season.
- **Motion 5 | Club Ranking** – as a basis for the seeding
- **Motion 6 | Catalogue of Criteria for Upgrades** – amendment to seven topics:
 - Venue, TV (Audio-visual media), Spectators, Club Ranking, Media, Product management, Highlight Event
- **Motion 7 | Prioritization and awarding of the 2 EHF spots in the EHF Champions League Men & Defending Champion of the EHF European League Men:** following a short explanatory discussion; it was confirmed that the winner of the Champions League has an automatic place – and that country would be granted another place. Should the criteria be fulfilled it is possible for the Top-Nations to have a maximum of three places. The winner of the European League is granted an automatic place in case the CL winner is not from the same country or not requiring a direct place out of the contingent. Following the clarification, the motion was approved as written with a majority of votes.

Motions 8 to 13: all motions were approved as written.

- **Motion 8 | Group Phase Draw – EHF Champions League Men**
- **Motion 9 | Awarding open spots in the EHF European League Men**
- **Motion 10 | EHF European League Men Play-Off and Last16 Draw**
- **Motion 11 | EHF European Cup Men & Women – 1st & 2nd Round Draws**
- **Motion 12 | Involvement of Players in Official EHF Champions League Campaigns**

- **Motion 13 | Club Filming**

- **Motion 14 | Officiating Experts Committee (OEC):** on the basis of the decision of the January meeting to postpone the nomination of the Members to the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) and to settle the topic together with the planned new overall structure for the area of ‘Officiating’ aimed at the professionalisation of the field of referee and delegate matters, a document was presented prior to the meeting. The new body, named Officiating Expert Committee (OEC), will consist of six members with the following responsibilities.
 - Elite referees & evaluation: Oyvind Togstad (NOR)
 - Female officiating: Jutta Ehrmann (GER)
 - Officiating emerging nations and EHF Young Referees: tbd (in June 2026)
 - Rules of the Game and innovation: Boris Milosevic (CRO)
 - Delegates assessment and education: Denis Reibel (FRA)
 - The sixth position will involve external experts for special tasks on a case-by-case basis.

The new OEC will be supported by the professional staff in the EHF office. A presentation the structure will follow at the conference for the responsables for refereeing of the National Federations

8.3. Methods Commission (MC)

MC Chairman Pedro Sequeira highlighted the pertinent points out of the Commission.

Analysis and Coaching: activities continue to run as planned with no major developments to report.

Education and Methods: educational initiatives are progressing steadily, and the EHF Webinar series is scheduled to restart in spring 2026, and the competences-based EHF RINCK Convention education framework remains a living document, with final materials received and the implementation process ongoing. The next edition of the EHF Goalkeeper Specialisation A is planned for 2027, with potential recognition of national goalkeeper specialisations subject to defined criteria; a related motion proposing amendments has been submitted.

The EHF Open Master Coach PRO Licence programme is being delivered across three major events, beginning with the first module at the Raiffeisen Bank EHF FINAL4 2026 in Budapest, followed by the Women’s EHF EURO 2026 in Katowice and concluding at the Women’s 19 EHF EURO 2027 in Zagreb. From 56 registrations, 25 candidates were admitted, including eight women (4 supported by the WHB) and 17 men. Registration for the next intake (2027/28) will open in September 2026, considering validated remaining candidates. Moreover, a new format for the EHF Coaches’ Forum is being developed to engage coaches at all levels, with the aim of strengthening coach participation and shaping future education together with the coaching community.

Grassroots and Development: activities continue to grow across the EHF network. The EHF Christensen Grassroots Charter now counts 24 National Federations as signatories, with Austria, Finland, Lithuania, and Luxembourg joining most recently during the Conference for Secretaries General held on 25–26 March 2026 in Lisbon. Also, the framework for project data collection and

annual reporting is finalised and ready for implementation, with data collection from National Federations for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons planned to commence over the summer. Additionally, more events are scheduled to further support grassroots growth, including the third Women's Handball Conference on 16–17 December 2026 in Katowice. Cooperation with Special Olympics will be strengthened through planned support such as the organisation of coaching courses at Special Olympics events, alongside the inclusion of two 'ID Handball' experts in the EHF Expert list. Developments in Wheelchair Handball remain ongoing, reflecting the continued commitment to inclusive participation pathways.

Research and Innovation: ongoing initiatives such as the EHF Players' Index and Learn Handball, are central pillars supporting evidence-based development within the sport. Looking ahead, the 9th EHF Scientific Conference is planned for 11–12 November 2027 in Podgorica, Montenegro, in cooperation with the University of Donja Gorica, with the overall concept, structure and nominations currently under definition and scheduled for confirmation by June.

EHF Experts: the renewal of the EHF Experts list has been completed following a structured evaluation process based on curriculum vitae reviews and interviews conducted by EHF office personnel. The updated list, approved by the MC in February 2026, comprises a total of 127 experts. Gender balance data have been collected and will be formally presented at the next meeting. The confirmation of the Officiating EHF Experts has been deferred in order to secure a harmonisation with the IHF Expert List and is scheduled for consideration at the EXEC meeting in June 2026 to be the basis for the start on 1 July. In addition, continued engagement and development of the expert community is supported through regular knowledge exchange activities, with the next EHF Expert webinar scheduled to take place on 20 May 2026.

MC MOTIONS

As previously stated, only a short description is provided; it is noted that all motions were submitted in written long-form.

- **Motion 1 | IMGA Handball Masters:** the EHF will commence the process to exit from the cooperation; but will continue to organise and host its EHF Masters event. The motion was accepted as written.
- **Motion 2 | Amendments of the EHF 'RINCK' Convention Manual, Goalkeeper Specialisation:** the motion was accepted as written.
- **Motion 3 | Bidding Documents EHF European Wheelchair Handball Championship 2027:** the motion was accepted as written.
- **Motion 4 | Establishment of an EHF Medical Panel:** the decision was postponed after an exchange on the topic IHF Medical Commission and the 2027 EHF Scientific Conference.
- **Motion 5 | Renewal EHF Experts Lists:** the Executive Committee took the principal decision; however, they postponed the confirmation of the list until after the IHF List of Experts has been confirmed. Thus, the final decision is expected in June.

8.4. Beach Handball Commission (BC)

BC Chairwoman, Gabriella Horvath pointed out the following topics.

European Beach Handball Tour (ebt) 2025/2026: the season commenced on 1 December 2025 and, as of 9 April 2026, includes 23 registered tournaments and 175 participating teams.

Events for the Upcoming Years: the ebt Finals in Trapani, the YAC 17 EHF EURO and EHF Beach Handball Championship in Zagreb, the EUSA Games in Salerno, and the Champions Cup in Porto Santo are the remaining events in 2026. These events underline an intensive competitive summer aligned with the established international schedule.

EHF Education Courses 2026: education and development remain a strategic priority; the updated list of officials includes 73 active delegates from 29 national federations and 89 active referees from 22 federations. The final phase of the EHF Beach Handball Referee's Course will be conducted during the ebt Finals 2026, while a Level C Coaches' Course is planned alongside the EHF Beach Handball Championship 2026; Level A and B courses remain under National Federation responsibility, supported by EHF experts. A systematic review of coaches across all federations is ongoing to ensure licensing requirements for EURO 2027.

Publications: the Aspetar study conducted during the YAC 17 EURO 2025 is awaiting publication, with further scientific analyses planned through 2027 to support long-term educational development, including age category definitions, structured coaching pathways and a refined educational framework currently undergoing further internal fine-tuning.

BC MOTION

A decision on the motion presented pertaining to the long-term educational development of beach handball protagonists and regarding the topic Rinck Convention was postponed; the EHF office together with the Commission will work on the further definition of the framework.

9. Organisation of Events

The following overview summarises the current status of EHF competitions and event organisation.

Men's EHF EURO 2026 DSN – Review: an extensive report was made available.

Women's EHF EURO 2026 – Update: work on the Women's EHF EURO 2026 is progressing according to schedule. Following the recent draw, the development of the final match schedule is underway and remains challenging due to three different time zones and the parallel organisation of federation workshops aimed at maximising venue attendance. Coordination is ongoing with Denmark regarding the organisation of the EURO Cup Finals in cooperation with Norway, Hungary, and Romania. All related workshops, site visits, Heads of Delegation conferences, etc. are scheduled, and referee nominations will be finalised during the summer period.

EHF EUROS 2028: concerns have been raised regarding delays and organisational challenges linked to the Men's EHF EURO 2028, particularly in Spain, where unresolved venue and governance issues require immediate resolution. The EXEC emphasised the need for decisive action to ensure timelines are respected and confirmed that alternative solutions must be considered if the approved

organisational standards and venue requirements cannot be met. A respective deadline is set to clarify the open issues.

YAC Competitions: no special report was given.

Other Competitions: implementation of a quarterfinal phase for the EHF EUROs 2030 and 2032 was briefly addressed. For the Women's EHF EURO 2030, the announced joint bid from France, Belgium and Switzerland remains under consideration, with a decision expected in June. No update is available for the EHF EUROs 2032. The bid process for 2034 is progressing, with letters of intent due by September; the detailed awarding timeline has been shared as part of the official documentation and was confirmed by the EXEC.

10. Boards and Stakeholders – Minutes & Reports 03/2026

10.1. Nations Committees Men/Women & Nations Board

10.2. European League Boards Men/Women

10.3. Professional Handball Board

10.4. Women's Handball Board

The minutes of all Committees and Boards were at the disposal of the EXEC members prior to the meeting. Due to time constraints the four sub-agenda points were postponed until the next meeting of the Executive Committee in Cologne in June where the reports of the Chairpersons will follow as well.

10.5. Update Stakeholder Partnerships

10.5.1. Clubs/Forum Club Handball

10.5.2. Leagues/EHLB & WEHLB

10.5.3. Players/EHPU Players Board

All Memoranda of Understanding with the stakeholder representatives for the Players, Leagues, and Clubs are progressing as planned and have been delivered to the partner organisations accordingly with finalisation and signature targeted for June. It was confirmed that this step is essential to enable the next phase of the implementation; information resp. the approval of the EXEC is foreseen in June prior to the signing.

Furthermore, following the confirmed introduction of the Players' Board, the EXEC approved the proposed configuration and agreed to initiate the information process to and within the federations. This will allow federations to nominate top-level representatives of the players' group and the EHF to establish the necessary technical voting framework, with the objective of onboarding additional participants to the PHB and WHB structures by no later than October.

11. International Handball Federation

11.1. IHF Congress 2025 – Minutes

11.2. IHF Council Meeting 03/2026 Minutes

The minutes of the IHF Congress 2025, as well as the 03/2026 IHF Council meeting have been received; the Executive Committee took note of the documents available.

11.3. IHF-EHF Working Meeting 04/2026

A meeting held in Basel (the EHF represented by the President and Secretary General) covered several topics, including developments at Champions League and competition level, as well as an information exchange related to the European Handball Games. The exchange provided an initial overview of ongoing and planned activities, clarifying the strategic context of current competition structures and other topics of common interest. Further information will follow after the next steps and the Council meeting in May.

11.4. Nomination IHF Commission Members

Wiederer opened by stating that not all prior exchanges with the IHF regarding the nomination of Commission members had been circulated; however, significant pressure ahead of the March IHF Council meeting required Europe to present candidates. As a result, Božidar Djurković and Pedro Sequeira were nominated to the COC and CCM respectively based on their roles within the EHF. The other positions were discussed at the recent working meeting in order to provide the IHF with a comprehensive overview of the European position and to clarify topics such as the meeting schedule, with regulations now foreseeing at least two meetings per year, including one in person as well as the information procedures (confirmed by the IHF Council).

It was further acknowledged that there is still an open point for the EHF concerning the PRC and the CD nominations. Consequently, EHF CSO Markus Glaser was nominated to cover refereeing-related matters and ensure the coordination in Europe, while WHB Chairwoman, Leonor Mallozzi, shall be nominated to the CD to strengthen the strategic focus on development of women's handball at international level. Nominations to the Medical Commission are pending. To the IHF Beach Handball Commission, it was noted that the IHF continues to rely on a permanent working group. Thus, the EHF intends to nominate BC Chairwoman Gabriella Horvath as a participant, subject to the next steps by the IHF. **The Executive Committee consented to the nominations as written and confirms that no other mandate to represent Europe in Beach Handball on IHF level was given.**

11.5. Various Topics

With regard to Russia and Belarus and the IHF Council decision, based on the recommendations of the IOC and the IHF Executive Committee, the matter was referred to the EXEC for consideration. Friendly contacts on a YAC (under 21) stage at an informal level will be possible, but no official cooperation is in place according to the IHF position. A formal letter from RUS was received requesting full reintegration; however, it was underlined that any such decision lies with the IHF and is subject to regulations and decisions, which supersede other information or positions, but as well considers the practicality of carrying out matches across Europe and the world. The situation was formally taken note of, pending any further binding decisions at IHF level.

It was further noted that, in line with existing legal provisions and IOC recommendations, individual integration may apply to referees and delegates, while individual players are already fully active in European competitions. Such individuals may be included on relevant lists and appointed on a case-

by-case basis where permissible. The EXEC takes note of the EHF initiative regarding individuals and their integration in competitions.

12. Other Institutions & Partnerships

The agenda point was postponed until the next meeting in June due to a lack of time.

13. Miscellaneous

13.1. 2026 Activities

13.2. Further topics

Reference was made to the upcoming competitions, including the European Cup Finals, YAC EUROs and Championships, and scheduled beach handball events. In this context, the Executive Committee nominations for summer 2026 were addressed, and members were reminded to verify their availability and confirm representation where required to ensure timely and effective organisational planning.

The President closed the meeting with his thanks to the Executive Committee members for their contribution. It was noted that the agenda points not treated or not completed on this occasion would be transferred to the agenda of the next Executive Committee meeting to be held in Cologne on the fringes of the 2026 EHF Final4 in mid-June.

For the Minutes: M. Brown