

Minutes to the 18th Meeting of the EHF Nations Board (Men)

Date / Time:	Monday, 8 October 2018 / 14:30 – 19:00		
Venue:	Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Vienna/AUT – Gloriette 4		
Participants:	Morten Stig Christensen	DEN	Chairman
	Philippe Bana	FRA	Vice Chairman
	Mark Schober	GER	
	Marek Góralczyk	POL	
	Ingo Meckes	SUI	
	Stephen Neilson	GBR	
EHF:	Michael Wiederer	EHF President	
	Martin Hausleitner	EHF Secretary General	
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer (CSO)	
	Marsha Brown	Office/Minutes	

Please note that only the key inferences from the ensuing discussion(s) throughout the meeting are condensed for the minutes.

1. Welcome and introduction

Chairman Christensen welcomed the participants to the 18th meeting of the EHF Nations Board for men's handball. In his opening words, he noted that the presence of the EHF President, Michael Wiederer, and the EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner was not in the way of a control function over the Nations Board and would leave if requested to do so; the history of the Nations Board, as an forum where the various matters are discussed in an open way has always seen the participation of the EHF President and Secretary General. Christensen underlined that it was advantageous to have this presence to be able to discuss the topics.

2. Previous meeting

2.1. NB Meeting 03/2018

No additional comments were made; thus the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2.2. PHB Meeting 03/2018

The NB Members took note of the minutes from the last meeting of the Professional Handball Board.

2.3. EXEC Meeting 03/2018, 06/2018, 09/2018

Taking the floor to President Wiederer stated that the 09/2018 meeting was a follow-up to the Congress; there were a few motions that are of interest to the Nations Board and the corresponding topics are on the agenda for discussion.

3. EHF/IHF Information

3.1. 14th EHF Ordinary Congress

Wiederer noted that the Congress held in Glasgow was the first Congress in his new function; much focus was on the preparation of the documents, which independent of the political nature were delivered in a complete way prior to the event. This allowed for the attendees to know what issues to discuss beforehand leading in to the decision-making process. Overall, the Congress was well organised by the Scots and took place under a positive atmosphere; Wiederer pointed out that in

that respect, the yet another ‘small’ nation organised a good Congress. The outcome also delivered overall positive results with clear decisions and without any misunderstandings; taking reference to the motion of sleeve advertising, the upshot was that all involved were interested in a future orientated solution.

NB Member Philippe Bana thanked Stephen Neilson for the warm Congress and suggested that in the future the Nations Board was a good platform to discuss relevant motions (i.e. sleeve advertising – which Wiederer noted was a regulation question that had been open for years) and find the new approach together. Taking reference to the upcoming changes (e.g. competition after 2020), it was mentioned that it was now the time to go deeper into issues to find possible solutions; matters of relevance could be discussed in the Nations Board and the ideas resulting thereof, be transmitted to the EHF for further treatment. Bana underlined that the Nations Board was not a decision-making body, but its aim was to provide pragmatic solutions to the issues of men’s handball; this was echoed by Chairman Christensen highlighting that the role of the Nations Board was to give input, formulate and feedback ideas to the EHF to avoid dissatisfaction.

Wiederer noted that it is the fundamental right for any National Federations to table a motion on any topic, if the process is ‘shaved down’ too much, it may make for an ‘easier’ Congress, but at the same time, many persons do not know about the follow-up procedure afterwards. Thus, National Federations must have the opportunity to discuss matters during a Congress. Furthermore, the Nations Board could not resolve certain questions (e.g. starting times), but the ideas of the Nations Board were welcome; following the 2021 Congress there will be changes to the Nations Board that will include a NB representative in the Executive Committee, which will allow for more involvement.

Concluding the discussion regarding motions and the role of the Nations Board therein, it was mentioned that solutions for particular issues could have been found within the Nations Board (i.e. sleeve advertising) and that the EHF should utilise the NB more on certain matters; it is within the remit of the NB also to bring feedback to the member nations and on this level the NB should try to improve the cooperation. From the side of the EHF, the complexity of certain situations (e.g. unified throw-off times) was pointed out. Such matters are discussed within other commissions and bodies within the organisation. It was emphasised that in order to engage in the conversation it is necessary to stay up-to-date on the information and utilise the representatives across the bodies. It was also stated that at times there is no optimum solution that is satisfactory to all stakeholders, but solutions are tailored to the realities of the matters.

Turning to the topic of the EHF EURO awarding process, it was clear to see the investment made by the bidding nations in Glasgow. In awarding past events there was no detailed regulation to the bidding process and the bidding parties could effectively do what they wanted. The introduction of a structure to this process experienced resistance, nonetheless it has resulted in more interest and more investment in the presentations. Based on feedback from Member Neilson that it still was unclear as to what promotional activities were allowed (i.e. attachment to official Congress events), as well as how much facilitation (e.g. room/space coordination) etc. by the Congress organiser was required, it was acknowledged that there are limits, and much depends of the venue situation and that the conditions are dealt with upon request. In terms of organisation, it was conceded that there are to be guidelines to encompass this particular element to which input from the Nations Board was welcome.

It was questioned by the NB members as to whether the awarding of the EHF EURO could revert to the Executive Committee. In response, the Nations Board were informed that it was previously attempted, and eventually deemed adverse for the benefit of the sport noting how other sports have

suffered due to their awarding processes. It was mentioned that it was time for a discussion process and input from the Nations Board would be needed; the objective would be to define basic regulations to allow for a transparent awarding process. It was suggested that the matter could be discussed at the 2021 Congress (LUX) as there would be no awarding of events.

On a general note the absence (i.e. due to visa issues) of Member Federation representatives at the 2018 Congress was mentioned; Member Meckes noted that one delegate from every nation must take part. The EHF was in agreement with the statement and it would be listed as a point for discussion.

Bringing the agenda point to a close, a brief rundown on key upcoming administrative events was given. The 14th Conference of Presidents (*discussion points: tender process and media/marketing agreement, YAC competition systems*) will take place on the fringes of the 10th Men's EHF Final4 in Cologne on 1 June 2019. The 13th Extraordinary EHF Congress together with the 15th Conference of Presidents (*discussion points: budget update 2020, budget 2021-2022*) will be held during the final weekend of the Men's EHF EURO 2020 in Sweden; this event is necessary due to the change in date of the event to 2021. The 15th Ordinary EHF Congress in Luxembourg in April 2021 will be an election Congress with no awarding of events.

3.2. EHF Structure – Update

3.2.1. Nations Committee Men (NCM) / Nations Committee Women (NCW)

3.2.2. EHF Nations Board (M/W)

The upcoming changes to the Nations Board are the result of the 'Task Force: EHF Structure 2020+'. Following the presentation at the 13th Conference of Presidents in Zagreb (01/2018), the recommendations were well received at the Congress (06/2018). Consequently, as of April 2021, the chairperson of Nations Board – joining the chairpersons of the Professional and Women's Handball Board – will have a seat on the Executive Committee. Thus, a political process on the level of the both the Nations Committee Men and Women will be needed to find a solution as to which person can best represent the interests of the collective.

In the knowledge that the structure will be bigger in the future, it was noted that it was not only important to bring the required expertise to the Executive Committee, but also to retain the expertise over time. Furthermore, the necessity of defining the role of what is wanted, needed, and expected (written) from the person from the Nations Board to take the seat in the Executive Committee was voiced. The members of the Nations Board agreed that clear definition is necessary and should include a skills based profile for elections. From the EHF point of view, it was mentioned that the Executive Committee oversight body is the Congress; it is a target to have a mirrored committee in the EXEC; thus, it will be useful to have the future NB Chairperson sit on the EXEC giving the signal to the National Federations that it is a body acting professionally. The upcoming changes to the structure present a chance to involve more federations at this level.

3.3. EHLB Information

With the minutes at hand from the 1st (inaugural) General Assembly of the European Handball Leagues (EHL) in June, which resulted in the establishment of the European Handball League Board (EHLB), the Nations Board were informed on the successful start to the project that saw the involvement of the 32 National Federations. Going forward, the EHLB – who met in September - will have meetings parallel to the Nations Board. CSO Markus Glaser commented on the broad approach of the EHLB and underlined that the EHLB Chairman (N. Larsson/SWE) was aiming to build a good structure and that the EHLB representatives have a good understanding of the overall approach. Outlining the necessity for change with the stakeholder 'Leagues', the EHF underlined that it was not

involved in the election process; however, based on this, the EHF felt that the attendees missed the message that a broad representation was the target. Nonetheless, the selection was accepted; at the meeting of the EHLB in September the involvement of the eastern European leagues and representatives thereof was acknowledged and discussed.

3.4. MFCH Information

Recapping the conclusion of the EPHLA mandate, the foundation of the EHLB, as well as the departure of PHB Chairman X. O'Callaghan, the NB briefly discussed the imminent (09.10.2018) new election process in the PHB to select a new Chair/Vice Chair for the remaining two years of the current mandate. The NB received information on Gregor Planteu (SLO/Celje) as the successor to X. O'Callaghan in the Men's Forum Club Handball (MFCH). It was expected that candidates for the position would come from the leagues and clubs; it was the opinion of the EHF that the position should remain with the clubs for the remainder of the mandate based on the history and structure of the stakeholder.

(At this point in the meeting, all persons from the EHF were excused whilst the Nations Board held a closed discussion)

On behalf of the Nations Board, Chairman Christensen voiced concern that both candidates were relatively unknown at this level. It was decided that a conversation would be held with the other parties.

3.5. IHF Information

EHF president Wiederer informed the Nations Board on the meeting that took place in Basel on 12 September; the latest IHF-EHF Mutual Meeting was carried out in the spirit of cooperation with open discussion and where necessary, balance was sought. It was underlined that over time, there has been a clear positive development to the meetings. On this occasion topics of discussion included, but were not limited to: the situation with KOS/SRB and BIH (cooperation), the Rules of the Game (aggressiveness of the sport), the ongoing development of global handball (CHN, USA, GBR), and partnerships which saw an open exchange on a complex situation (MP&Silva). The next edition of the IHF Emerging Nations Championship for Men will take place in 2019 at which there will be fewer European participants as teams will be playing the EHF EURO 2020 Qualification.

The IHF Council will meet in Doha (QAT) on 18 October 2018. At this meeting, the idea (stressed by EHF at the Congress in Glasgow) of expanding the World Championships (men senior/youth/junior) Final Tournament to 32 teams will be decided. It was mentioned that should the idea be accepted, five from the eight additional places could be granted to continent Europe. Also, the matters of injury compensation, anti-doping, beach handball, as well as the PANAM situation, are on the agenda for the IHF Council meeting.

To the upcoming 2019 Men's IHF World Championship in Denmark/Germany, the open matter of the playing schedule (match times) was having an impact on the promotion of the event; dissatisfaction with the marketing situation was voiced by the involved representatives.

3.6. National Federation Information

Bosnia Herzegovina: during the summer, the EHF had to deal with the shutdown of the Handball Federation of Bosnia Herzegovina; the federation had no active staff members and also no government support. This led to the allocated donation floor system being passed to the next federation in the waiting list as delivery to BIH was not possible; BIH will receive a flooring system at the next opportunity. In the meantime, the BIH Federation was reanimated and secured renewed

governmental support. The men's national team will participate in the Men's EHF EURO 2020 Qualification Phase 1.

Serbia/Kosovo: a brief reiteration of the situation that took place in April was given; Serbia had the home right for a qualification match (2018 Women's World Championship U20 – Qualification Tournaments Europe) and subsequently cancelled the match and then the tournament due to governmental decisions (security reasons invoked). A case was initiated due to the cancellation. It is clear from the point of view of the EHF that it is not possible to have matches between the two teams. It was decided in the Executive Committee (01/2018) that the two teams would not be placed in the same group for a draw in order to avoid such instances; this was executed in Trondheim. More recently, a letter was received from KOS informing the EHF that a club team from Northern Kosovo was participating in a Serbia top league competition. With the region in KHF territory, SRB was asked for a statement (not forthcoming) as it cannot be that KOS teams play in a SRB league without the permission of the KOS Federation. The situation is ongoing and under observation.

Greece/FYR Macedonia: in three weeks, the national teams will face each other in the Men's EHF EURO 2020 Qualification Phase 1 at a venue located in Northern Greece. A recent referendum on the name issue in FYR Macedonia was invalidated; the situation remains unchanged.

4. EHF EUROS

4.1. 2018 Younger Age Category Events

4.1.1. Report/Evaluation

An overview of the 2018 summer events was given; the difficulties concerning the Championship event in Georgia were mentioned, eventually the original venue in Tbilisi. On the whole the events were carried out effortlessly and successfully and with impressive spectator figures (WC HUN, POL, SLO); the EURO event in Slovenia had live transmission of all the matches, the distribution of the event was very good. For the EHF it was a very busy summer as many referees and delegates were involved in both EHF and IHF events. A list of the 2019 (EHF/IHF/EOC) YAC events was at hand; next year the focus returns to the women's events. A correction to the list was made and it was underlined that 2019 European Open will be for the M17 category and not the M19 as listed on the document.

4.1.2. Perspectives

A discussion about the development of the YAC events and topics included, but were not limited to, changes in the modus of events in terms of promotion and relegation, the gap year (where some teams have no competition to play), current standards, and development. It was agreed that the points raised should be discussed and evaluated in a working group, so that the matters could be discussed within the broader community (not just limited to the Competitions Commission) with the objective of submitting final recommendations at the Conference of Presidents. It was said that any resulting changes could only be implemented in a later season.

Concern was also raised for future events as many teams were 'missing' from the 2018 Men's 18/20 events; if teams are not taking part at the M18 level, there will be a sustainability issue at the senior level in the future. Furthermore, the recurring problem of (teams) financing events was mentioned stating that teams will be excluded from events due to the cost (a major factor for smaller nations); the proposed working group would be required to assess how to get the 'missing' teams to participate and how every country could access the competitions as changes to the competition modus only a few years earlier had not consistently changed the number of teams participating in events.

Additionally, acknowledging the complaints about competition standards and, more recently, the large differences in final scores, Secretary General Hausleitner added that these topics would also be on the agenda. Placing the competition schedule under consideration, it was also mentioned that the development of the younger age category competitions also had to be seen in light of the world championships also. Currently some teams do not have a place in an event during the summer; it was underlined that for teams to develop, all teams had to be offered a competition platform. Further points questioned whether the European Open could be adapted to a qualification event and if teams of a certain age category should find its own place in the system.

Wiederer added that on the level of the new I&P contract it must be questioned if it makes sense if that participants are given a donation without objective criteria; funds earmarked for development is not only aimed at the competitions system, but also to optimise the participation of the teams. It was countered that at this time, with the current level of some teams, such a question should be directed for the future when all the teams will be participants.

4.2. EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR (SAN) – Status Update

4.2.1. Organisation

The 2018 Conference for Secretaries General in Trondheim, Norway saw the topics of the new qualification system (7 groups), sponsor/partner matters, and the development fund presented. It was underlined that the majority of federations were cooperating well with the related tasks; a few problems did occur, and solutions were sought and implemented. The national federations are offering reasonable standards and all matches of the qualification will be broadcast live. In order to create a unified picture, there is a company producing materials (incl. venue dressing).

4.2.2. Qualification

Twenty teams will emerge from the qualification, and SWE, AUT, NOR, and ESP will play the EHF EURO Cup. It was noted that there were no issues regarding the matter of rights for ESP, and the formulated plan is being realised accordingly.

4.2.3. Final Tournament

The cooperation between the organisers is strong and in the ongoing preparations it is the intention to fill the halls with international spectators, thus they are working on garnering the interest on the continent. The updated playing schedule was introduced in august; the preliminary round will play daily (A/B/C on 09.01.20, D/E/F on 10.01.20). The newly rescheduled matches of 1-4 and 2-3 on the last day of the preliminary round are about taking points to the main round. The additional travel day was reconsidered; it was made clear that the travel day and the rest day are not the same; as it is very important to have fair matches, the schedule was adapted accordingly. No changes were made to the main round, and no solution could be found to combat the day with three matches. The semi-final will be followed by the bronze medal match the day after. This change will impact the prize giving ceremony; however, the organisers do have a concept on how that should work.

4.3. EHF EURO 2022/2024

4.3.1. Awarding

The awarding of the 2022 and 2024 events were reiterated - Men: 2022 HUN/SVK, 2024 GER; and as well Women: 2022 SLO/MKD/MNE, 2024 to be awarded.

4.3.2. Further Procedures

Cooperation with Hungary/Slovakia will begin in November. A further step is to get I&P involved as the event will take place within the period of cooperation. There will be new obligations and new ideas, but also new opportunities to be implemented. The work with Germany will begin after the

World Championship in spring 2019. A new awarding process will be initiated for the Women's EHF EURO 2024; in general, the women's event will not be enlarged at this point as there are not enough teams on a high level to take part in the competition. In the future the EHF will continue to look for reasonable organisers, at this time it still remains that only a very limited number of countries (with state support or free market) can organise an EHF EURO. It is hoped that this can be turned around in the next few years.

4.4. Development of the EHF EUROS/ Competitions / I&P Agreement

4.4.1. Structural issues

4.4.2. Working Platform

The agreement and contract is concluded and now in the integration phase. On the one hand, the work with the EUROS is an intensive process due to the amount of current business (i.e. EHF EURO FRA/SAN and NOR/DEN); on the other hand, there are several championships (HUN/SVK; GER; SLO/MKD/MNE) where the incorporation of the agreement will come into effect. For the recently awarded events, basic decisions are needed. The EHF has begun work on the structure that will support the new agreement, the internal 'Commercial Partnership – Working Structure' document was shown to the Nations Board and an explanation thereof was given.

Strategy Committee (4 persons): comprised of 1 member from EHF, EHF, Infront, and Perform. Receives information from and confirms ideas and proposals of the steering board; a decision-making body.

Steering Board (8 persons): comprised of 2 members each EHF, EHF, Infront, and Perform. The Board is an oversight body of Managing Directors reporting to the Strategy Committee.

Eight (8) Task Forces: comprised of EHF/M professional staff and cover the areas of Digital, Brand, Media Sales, Marketing Sales, Production, Finances, Events, Calendar/Competitions. These are collaborative bodies reporting to the Steering Board.

The 'Commercial Partnership – Working Structure' ensures representation of, and control to, the EHF in the future. The overview of the structure was shown to illustrate the strategic approach and that the bodies will have defined tasks, targets, and responsibilities. The work of these bodies will commence, and will result in a first presentation that will deal with finance questions at the 2019 Conference of Presidents

The first meetings (i.e. Brand and Calendar/Competitions) have been carried out with the presence of the Secretary General respectively the Chief Sports Officer; as an example it was noted that understanding the way that competitions are branded overall is essential for the progress of other areas of the agreement as there is no point in engaging the discourse if the position of the partners is unknown. It was also stated that at this time, the question of branding national team events was a smaller issue than that of the complex question that concerns the clubs with the new system starting from 2020. The discussion also encompasses additional activities, etc.

To give a comprehensive overview of the current situation, the Nations Board were informed on the coordination meeting that took place on 22 August with representatives from EHF/M and Infront/Perform. It will fall under the responsibility of I&P to recruit 14 task designated staff. At this point, where the new staff would be based according to their individual task related positions (ZUG/VIE/LDN) was in discussion. Moreover, the requirements of the new staff are still undefined. Thus, the implementation of an efficient structure remains essential.

It was noted that the new partner, Perform faced the situation that they had no prior experience of dealing with handball; thus, throughout the process, the EHF used the presented opportunity to provide much information that eventually scoped the eight task force working areas. Using the 'Task Force: Brand' meeting as the working example, the starting point will be the collation of all figures available in Europe, create tailored content for specific groups that will lead to a brand for every competition and coordinated promotional campaigns. It was underlined that the meeting was not speaking of logos and the like, but creating and following a personalised corporate identity. As a follow-up to the initial meeting, the next steps will be to decide how the brand should work and what the policy should be; the EHF will create the agenda and define the workload as well the interface between the other groups. All task force meetings are scheduled to be completed by 21 November; there will also be an internal workshop.

Concerning the 'Task Force: Calendar/Competition', Glaser informed the group on the meeting held a week prior to the Nations Board. The meeting was to find an approach to a complex situation. The topics of competition and calendar were merged due to the obvious relationship. In preparation of season 2020/21 (when the agreement comes into force), it was reiterated that during the tender process there was a general approach to the competitions with the understanding that there was to be top tier and second tier club competitions. It was underlined again that there would be no changes to the men's Champions League system in the first season.

In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that eventually the top tier competition could see 2 x 8 groups and 14 match days; in the future the group C/D could merge with the EHF Cup to become the European Handball League. An implementation of a European Handball League could only follow after a thorough evaluation and not before 2023. It was stressed that groups A/B would consist (more or less) of the same teams, but the objective was to improve the EHF Cup by closing the gap to the Champions League. Currently, there is a mixed playing day system, and one option was to divide the week. Several options were discussed about the playing system after the group phase – the key point here was on which days the matches were to take place; a possibility of moving all international matches to midweek (i.e. having a compact period) that would leave the weekends for league matches was briefly mentioned.

Referring to place distribution it was mentioned that the playing system and the issue of dates must be decided relatively soon in order to allow for all stakeholders to take organisational steps for the season 2020/21 in advance. As decisions will be taken in the winter, the EHF will offer information to the Federations/Clubs 18 months prior to the start of any competition, and other less consequential details could follow at a later date. Additional comments included the possibility of creating a midweek rule (regulatory) that national leagues cannot play on the same day as an EHF club competition. It was also noted that more agreement with the league stakeholder was needed as any solution with only a limited number of leagues would not be possible; this would be an important step for the new league board (EHLB). Upon question, it was highlighted that there would be no change in the number of Champions League matches for the teams involved; and a European Handball League with 4 x 6 groups including a qualification round.

To the topics discussed, it was reiterated that the involvement of the stakeholders would have to be defined in reference to the task forces; besides, much of the discussion content is handled on the level of daily business and when it comes to finances and regulations the decisions are not taken on only the professional level, and the EHF must go through the statutory channels. However, in a first step the working procedures are to be defined prior to the discussion process. The Nations Board was reminded what concerns percentages, the matter is Congress regulated (2002, 2008) and any changes to the current system needs a Congress resolution. Concerning the budget, any expenditure

(distribution or investment) of the funds earmarked for development must go through the Executive Committee (03/2019), the Conference of Presidents (05/2019) and finally a formal decision for 2021 and after would have to be made in January 2020.

4.4.3. Standards – to follow

4.4.4. Finances – to follow

With the initial structural task force meetings scheduled in the near future, there was nothing of significance to add at this time.

5. Technical issues

Injury cases: to date, due to a lack of information, it has not been possible to conclude all the injury cases resulting from the EHF EURO 2018 CRO. Based on experience of the current procedures not being adhered to, the EHF decided to clarify the procedure that has led to changes in the process applicable as of EHF EURO 2018 FRA. Federations are now obligated to immediately report any injury, meaning immediately after the injury occurs. The EHF insurance procedures will be activated when a player has been off for a total four weeks, and will only cover what is not covered by the insurance by the club. Also when a player returns to activity of the national team (e.g. during a Championship), the team doctor as well as the player concerned must sign a statement of verification that the player is fit to return to active duty. The respective club is to be informed accordingly.

Guidelines for instant video replay: borne out of the SLO/GER experience of EURO 2018 CRO new procedures had to be defined that covered under which conditions instant video replay would be used, as well as the detailed role of the referees and technical delegates, etc. This was undertaken to avoid legal ramifications. The International Handball Federation (IHF) was duly informed where it was noted that there needs to be a unified system for handball as the technical officials overseeing the matches are often the same in IHF as in EHF events. At the EHF EURO Heads of Delegation (HoD) conference in Paris, all team representatives will be informed of the new guidelines. It was noted that the team responsible (the person at the final tournament) is not always the same person at the HoD, thus the information will also be distributed accordingly. In the future it is expected that the final tournament team responsible will also be the person to attend the HoD conference.

Release for National Teams: it was duly mentioned that the current situation of players not being released to national teams is clearly regulated for the top tier competitions; however, this is an issue affecting players from second/third tier events that do not follow the international calendar. It is the understanding of the EHF that if a national team player is called for duty during the national team week, the club has a duty to release that player. If a player is under a professional transfer, the club/league is obliged to release the player. If a player is contracted, it should be understood that the player will not be available for club activities during NTW. The situation for amateur players is to be clarified. Regulations governing the release of players were distributed upon the last update. Current consequences for violation of player release were discussed briefly – if a player nominated is not with his team during NTW, the player cannot play for the club. It was mentioned that the governing regulations must be made more precise and must cover both beach and indoor handball for activities that are during the National Team Week. If a player is not released, consequences to the club/league must also be clear.

6. Preparation PHB meeting

The matter was discussed under AP3; the EHF will chair the next meeting due to the absence of a Chairman.

7. Various

- ◆ **Good Governance:** Chairman Christensen introduced the topic stressing its importance and the need to reignite the discussion. Describing the discussions in Denmark, it was stated as the main organisation, the EHF could be the frontrunner in the matter ensuring that National Federations adhere to good governance guidelines, and leading by example. Christensen maintained that there were still many problems within this area and there is a difference in the way that certain issues are handled. For the future a clear approach was needed. In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that the EHF receives no subsidies and it, therefore is not obliged to undergo external examinations of practice. It was underlined that good governance was also about transparency; it was questioned whether there should be minimum standards to be a member of the EHF. The EHF has established a good system to deal with various issues and this also needed to be recognised e.g. YAC anti-doping activities as well as Sportradar Fraud Detection activities. Closing the point it was noted that good governance would remain on the agenda to make the federations aware that it is an active topic.

- ◆ **Meeting calendar for 2018/2019:** The meeting calendars for the remainder of 2018 and a preview of 2019 were at hand; without comment, the Nations Board took note of the information.

- ◆ **Season 2020/21 Draft Calendar:** A draft calendar for the season 2020/21 was shown to the Nations Board and it was underlined that it was drafted based on the input from the 'Think Tank: International Calendar' – a meeting with representatives from all stakeholder groups (EHF, Nations, Clubs, Leagues, Players) in Zagreb in January. In a next step the draft will be discussed with the IHF. The key points of the draft concern a new structure for the end of the season; Final4 (event that ends the EHF club competitions season) moved to mid-June; National Team Week: March, April, June (IHF NTW); Leagues now have opportunity to finish at the beginning of May or June. An analogous system is applied to women's handball. It was underlined that the discussion for the 2020/21 season was ongoing and no final decisions had been taken. Such changes could only be implemented with summer 2020 and for the season 2020/21.

Thanking the participants for their contribution, Chairman Christensen closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: M. Brown
Vienna, 15 October 2018