

## MINUTES TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE MEN/WOMEN

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 May 2021

**Time:** 13:30 – 15:30

**Venue:** Vienna, AUT

**Participants NCM:** Morten Stig Christensen / DEN  
Ingo Meckes / SUI  
Jari Henttonen / FIN  
Fintan Lyons / IRL  
Mark Schober / GER  
Bertrand Gille / FRA

**Participants NCW:** Nodjialem Myaro / FRA  
Leonor Mallozzi / POR  
Paola Fiorillo / ITA  
Pirje Orasson / EST  
Sarka Drozdova / CZE  
Cristina Varzaru / ROU

**EHF:** Michael Wiederer / President  
Martin Hausleitner / Secretary General  
Markus Glaser / Chief Sports Officer  
Peter Sichelschmidt / Senior Director National Team Competitions  
Mario Kovacic / Competitions / Club Competitions  
Alenka Cuderman / Women's Handball Coordinator

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### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Michael Wiederer welcomed the NCM/NCW members to the meeting, stating that the EHF Congress was a success with regard that forty nations were able to participate in Vienna, and that the EHF was able to deliver a proper rundown and elections in a reasonable format, thus ensuring a good democratic process. After the Congress a short meeting of the present newly elected NCM/NCW members was held providing information about the EHF structure as well as on the integration of their respective members into the various boards and of the chairperson of the NB into the EHF Executive Committee. During the NCM/NCW meetings

the members should formally define who is going to represent whom in each body, as well as the first official representative of the NB at the EXEC meeting on 10/11 June.

## **2. EHF Structure and follow-up**

Wiederer provided an overview of the EHF structure from the beginning in the nineties with a very small organisation to what is now a very complex one, which at the same time helps the EHF to harmonise the processes, where discussions are carried out with the clubs, leagues and player organisations about different issues. The two already known EHF structure charts were presented highlighting the stakeholder groups and who is nominating the representatives to various bodies. The structure of the stakeholder groups is similar: the representatives of the clubs, leagues and players are coming from the different levels, to create a platform for all the different levels. The NCM/NCW are built-up in a way that all federations' levels are represented and therefore can manage to merge their interests within group.

## **3. AP2 of the NCM and NCW meeting: Status Report EHF Competitions**

Hausleitner provided the information in respect of national team competitions (EURO 2022-2028, Qualifiers 2022), club competitions 2021/22, other competitions (Men's IHF/EHF Trophy, EHF YAC competitions) and international calendar, all according to the presentation, which was shared with the participants. A few points were noted for the future discussion:

- New approach in respect of sales process of the Media and TV rights: the EHF is in constant contact with the partners I&D and put a lot of pressure to them to sell everything in order to increase the reach of the event; not just talking about the TV but also streaming and betting partners.
- Ticketing marketing activities and timeline – new service for the federations – close cooperation with the ticketing partners (exclusive or non-exclusive) – balance between centralized and decentralised structure; Input Schober: possible benefit for the nations to get information about customer data from the centralized structure and to bring the fan of non-participating nations to the event.
- Qualifiers/ new approach in respect of sales of marketing rights/advertising positions (LED, floor stickers) between the federations; Input Henttonen: a clear procedure of involving the agents is required to avoid too much pressure on the market.
- Qualifiers/Input Orasson: federations requested a feedback on the Men's EURO Qualifiers 2022
- YAC Competitions - Input Meckes: EHF shall send to federations an update in respect of the new registration procedure for the M19 EHF EURO 2021 and all EHF YAC competitions 2022.
- International Calendar 2021/22 - Input Henttonen: the relegation round is missing for the EURO 2024 (information is needed asap for planning of the local leagues competitions); a respective clarification was provided by Sichelschmidt.
- International Calendar 2022/23 - Input Schober: a strategic discussion to have a national team week together for men and women is proposed; positive experiences with double matches.

- International Calendar 2022/23: a new Play-off round between third ranked teams of the EURO Qualifications is proposed to be discussed.

#### **4. Definition of tasks overall**

The PHB and in the future the WHB will have a more professional structure and platform of stakeholders, who will gather and discuss common issues. Therefore, the representatives who are nominated to the PHB/WHB should be nominated due to their competences, experiences and activities in the federation. The concerns of the WHB have changed. In the past they were targeting the development of women's handball, however the new structure is driven in direction of professional sport.

On the other hand, there are two new committees NCM/NCW representing interests of federations, mainly national teams and who are asked to nominate two representatives to the PHB/WHB, and three representatives to the NB. One representative will come from the NB to the EXEC with a new task and responsibility, and this position will be developed/integrated into the EXEC. The nomination shall be focused on competences, experiences and communication skills in order to optimize this interest group. It is important for the EHF to receive input, which is essential for the discussion process. Wiederer further underlined that the EXEC representatives are elected by the Congress, and are coming from National Federations as well; it is essential that they find the balance between what is in the overall interest of the EHF and that of their respective federations in global form.

#### **5. Input participants**

Fintan Lyons initiated the discussion regarding the balance which requires to be achieved between the representatives who are elected to the EXEC or other positions and who are supposed to be competent and experienced people. It was mentioned that personal ambitions for the positions are often an extremely active factor and may work versus the strategic vision of the sport. In his response Wiederer stated that personal ambitions are not hindering and can be seen as valuable add-on if the function holder is bringing in competency and respective contributions.

#### **6. Miscellaneous**

Wiederer closed the meeting, which was meant as a direct preparation for the two parallel NCM/NCW meetings taking place afterwards and thanked the participants for their contribution.

For the Minutes: A. Cuderman  
Vienna, 27 May 2021