

Minutes to the 20th Meeting of the Professional Handball Board

Date / Time:	Tuesday, 6 March 2018 / 8:30 – 13:00	
Venue:	EHF Office – Conference Room	
Participants:	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman / Member FCH
	Frank Bohmann	Deputy Chairman / Member EPHLA
	Predrag Bošković	Member EXEC
	Stefan Lövgren	Member EXEC
	Morten Stig Christensen	Member NB
	Philippe Bana	Member NB
	Gerd Butzeck	Member FCH
	Peter Gentzel	Member EPHLA
	Marcus Rominger	Member EHPU
	Michael Wiederer	EHF President
	Martin Hausleitner	EHF Secretary General
	Markus Glaser	EHF Chief Sports Officer
	Marsha Brown	EHF Corporate Liaison
Excused:	Michael Sahl Hansen	Member EHPU

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman O’Callaghan welcomed the participants to the 20th meeting of the Professional Handball Board.

2. PHB Meeting 10/2017 – Minutes and Follow-up

With no additional remarks, the minutes were confirmed.

3. Reports EXEC/NB/MFCH/EPHLA/EHPU

With the minutes of the past two Executive Committee meetings at hand, President Wiederer gave a brief report on the most recent activities and mentioned the upcoming meeting where the various topics such as the tender process and structural issues are to be discussed.

NB Chairman Morten Stig Christensen gave a brief report on the Nations Board meeting that took place the day before. The topics discussed were mentioned such as the EHF EURO regulations and the development of the EHF EURO Qualification Phase 1 when it comes to encouraging the lower ranked nations to engage in the ‘normal’ qualification versus the affordability for such teams was also raised at the NB meeting. The members of the Nations Board also turned their attention to the tender process and the development of the EHF EUROS in the future such as rest days during major tournaments and the potential benefits to the teams/players as well as the consequences, the effect on the other stakeholders, but he underlined the need to find a balance. He also informed the PHB that the NB spoke of the EHF structure in the future, how to prepare the organisation for the future as well as good governance, and the various committees and boards; he underlined that there are two genders, with a strong female part of the sport and that the EHF takes this strongly into consideration with the structure of its boards. Christensen spoke of the question raised in the NB looking to the two groups (men and women) as to

whether in the future the genders should be dealt with separately or should they be merged, thus combining the interests; the concern being that if all the decision-making is on one side, then women's handball could potentially end up like women's football. It was advised that there should be inclusive ownership towards the development of women's handball.

At the NB meeting there was a review of EHF EURO 2018 CRO, a status update on EHF EURO 2020, and a brief discussion on the bidding and awarding procedures for EHF EURO 2022 and 2024. Moreover, he mentioned the difficulty for the bidders finding an opportunity within the framework of the EHF Congress in June, due to the packed schedule, to make an informal presentation of their bids to the representatives of the National Federations.

NB Member Bana added information on the NB discussion on the results of the 'Think Tank: International Calendar 2020+', a meeting that had the participation of all stakeholder groups and resulted in many ideas such as rescheduling the whole and creating spaces to ensure a better balance between the leagues, the clubs, and the federations. The topic of how to handle the Champions League and the national league during the week was also discussed. Bana underlined the good collaboration and the good inputs from the group.

FCH Managing Director Gerd Butzeck reported on the activities of the FCH since the last PHB meeting in October. Butzeck spoke of the FCH Board meeting that took place in Mallorca and saw the signing of the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the EHF and MFCH covering the period 2018 - 2030. Following the signing the FCH began the common work (with the EHF) on the evaluation of the tender results; he briefly mentioned the informative meetings with the applicants, who gave interesting but different presentations, in December. The applicants were asked to improve the offers, which resulted in a second round of bids being received in mid-January. Butzeck underlined that the procedure was transparent.

At the FCH General Assembly the topic of a media and marketing agreement was discussed in depth; a complete overview was given from the start of the process (the announcement in Cologne) to latest development. Butzeck stated that there were some misunderstandings and some misinformation (regarding the playing system), which was subsequently clarified. Butzeck indicated that the clubs were satisfied with the process and, following a vote, the FCH Board was mandated to confirm the agreement with the potential partner; at this time, the leading applicant is the (joint co-operative) Infront/Perform.

Additionally, FCH decided to place emphasis on the work with the International Handball Federation on two specific markets - China and the USA). FCH did inform the IHF President that the clubs are ready to support the IHF on a certain level, but not in all areas, and stated their preference for the two named markets. To this end, certain ideas are being floated and, it would seem that the IHF did appoint Jean Brihault as the head of the project 'Handball in the US' specially linked to 2028, and Thorsten Storm will head up the project in China. A Chinese delegation will be present in Cologne and it is expected that many meetings with the US/CHN delegations will take place on the fringes of the 2018 VELUX EHF FINAL4.

Continuing, Butzeck spoke of a meeting that took place in Zagreb where the situation concerning the status of handball on the level of the OG was discussed. It was stated that it is not 100% sure if handball would stay among the Olympic disciplines. For handball to remain an Olympic sport it is crucial that the sport is present around the world, and if not, it at least needs to be present in the core markets, and the USA and China are among those core markets. From the concepts on how to develop handball in China

and the USA, the FCH decided to offer their support to the Chinese and US Federations as part of a concept that is defined by all the relevant stakeholders; this includes the IHF and the EHF.

Returning for a moment to the tender process, Butzeck underlined the transparent working procedure and emphasised that all the clubs were informed. As a consequence of the meeting, another member was added to the (internal) FCH tender working group (N. Larsen). In a next step, the FCH will hold another meeting on 17 April where the club representatives will receive further information prior to the event in Cologne at which point the process should be reaching its finalisation. He closed his report by underlining the importance of the tender process for the club world.

In the brief discussion that followed the FCH report, it was mentioned by PHB Member Bana that it would be good if the EHF could gain access to the IOC report on handball, as it was questioned whether all the Continental Federations had seen the report. It was reiterated that following 2012, handball was downgraded from a 'C' to a 'D' classification. PHB Chairman O'Callaghan spoke of the danger of complacency and stated that everyone needed to be doing their best to ensure that handball remained an Olympic sport.

Concerning the information on the FCH future cooperation with CHN/USA, EHF President Wiederer pointed out that it is not just a matter of handball globality; it must be clear that two-thirds of the OG income comes from the US market via NBC and commercial sponsors. As a consequence of handball not being present, they are afraid of not providing enough sport content for the American market, which is of interest for the media and potential sponsors. This is one of the main reasons why the USA has become a major target.

Continuing, Wiederer briefly spoke of the recent division of the PATHF; the two main reasons for the split was the matter of governance that saw no structural improvement for nearly 20 years and that PATHF is still concentrated in the south. From the middle to north Americas chances were limited. The basic idea of strengthening PATHF was the right decision; the process of implementation could have been different. Other sports also have split continents (federations or zones) for similar reasons. It was underlined that the USA project is in the interest of European handball, and the work has already begun as Brihault and IHF President Moustafa are in the USA. Wiederer stated that the best way to act was to do it in an institutionalised way and to give the activities an official status. The situation in China was regarded as a political decision-making process as whether to push handball forward or not. At the request of the IHF President, the EHF agreed to extend a joint (IHF-EHF) invitation to the Chinese delegation to Cologne and create the space needed to support this initiative.

EPHLA Chairman Frank Bohmann presented the report of the league association. Several EPHLA meetings, which had two main points of focus, had taken place since October. The main focal point was the tender process where Bohmann expressed EPHLA's support and agreement of the process, except for one point in the past that was the playing system of the CL and the increase in the number of matches. EPHLA was afraid about this development and the impact on the national leagues, and were not satisfied with the process of implementing a new playing system without the involvement of EPHLA.

Bohmann referenced the information in the tender where it is stated that the EHF is free to create the playing process, but also stated that it was written in the EHF annual report and in many other presentation that the EHF was in favour of the round-robin system with 12-14-16 teams. Bohmann stated that the potential impact on the leagues was the reason why the EPHLA stated its opposition and

communicated their dissent to the EHF management. In addition to the EPHLA internal meeting, Bohmann spoke of the EHF – EPHLA meeting in Zagreb at the end of January where the EPHLA once again declared its position. He stated that the competition system now is fine with the EPHLA and the association does support the tender process, and that there was confidence in the persons dealing with it to get a good result. Bohmann stated that it was the reason why there has been a conflict for many months. Taking reference to the claim of misuse of data, Bohmann assumed that the distribution of the PHB minutes to the Handball Bundesliga Management Board was the issue; he deemed his action necessary due to the potential impact on the competition structure as well as the national leagues, and not a misuse of data. He also rebutted the claim that he distributed confidential information to the press.

The second reason for the many meetings was the decision of the EHF not to prolong the Memorandum of Understanding with the EPHLA. Bohmann stated that it came as a surprise to the association as the reasons for that were not demanded before. As it is a decision that can be taken by the EHF, the EPHLA is proving how to deal with the situation and wants to have a constructive discussion about it. Emphasising the point, Bohmann stated that EPHLA should be appropriately involved in the new league association. The situation will be analysed as it develops over the next months; the EPHLA is interested in being involved; if not, it will make its points outside the EHF.

In the discussion that followed, upon question, the EPHLA confirmed that it wants to be part of the new league concept (European League Board – Men). President Wiederer reiterated the EHF opinion that the stakeholder ‘leagues’ needed a new structure was based on the EPHLA General Assembly was (more or less) identical to the EPHLA Board; leagues that EPHLA considers members do not fulfil the statutory requirements to be granted registration. When talking to EPHLA, the EHF was talking to a very limited number of leagues, and the issues (international calendar, etc.) were simply discussed and spoken on behalf of this limited number, but at the same time, CRO, HUN, POL, SLO, and many others that also have leagues and provide players to top clubs and national teams are also involved in professional handball. Thus, in order to strengthen this platform, a new platform was needed. It was unacceptable to the EHF that there had been no progression within EPHLA in the past 8 years.

The meeting to introduce the concept of the European League Board on 20 February was received positively by the attendees and resulted in an open dialogue. The EPHLA members present were able to express their opinions, and there was a feedback from the other leagues that they wanted to be part of the decision-making process. It was underlined that the EHF will not decide who represents the leagues; the leagues will do this for themselves. However, the EHF will ensure that there is a dialogue on the important things with the other leagues. It was stated that the responsible persons in the future must have a discourse with the other leagues, uphold a democratic process, and must represent the leagues globally.

EPHLA Member Peter Gentzel emphasised that the EPHLA is the organisation for the professional handball leagues, and it tries to help other leagues in Europe as much as possible, but it cannot create a professional handball leagues in other countries where there are no possibilities. He confirmed that the Polish League (independent League with sponsor) was an EPHLA member.

Continuing, Bohmann warned against creating a second Nations Board, having the same persons representing the Federation and the League on the Board. Also he pointed out that the Royal Spanish Handball Federation failed to inform ASOBAL of the meeting, stating that ESP could not represent the league if it did not communicate with its league. O’Callaghan stated that the example could not be used as

a global argument as the issues between ESP and ASOBAL are not Federation/League related per se; however O'Callaghan conceded that ESP should have notified ASOBAL as intended and as stated in the EHF communication.

It is the opinion of EPHLA that the Association needs a special membership within the new league concept so that professional handball has enough space to state its points and not only the points of the Federations. Adding to the conversation, EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner requested the involvement of EPHLA member leagues in the new league concept, and underlined that assuming the responsibility for a European League Board would entail having contact with all leagues whether they be independent/professional, semi-professional, or administrated via a National Federation. There is an opportunity to assist other leagues in becoming more professional; he stated that a separation would weaken all the stakeholders. Hausleitner made it clear that the different leagues on the different levels have different fields of interest and face dissimilar issues. The EPHLA has the opportunity on 29 June to present the Association to the rest of the leagues and to play a role in the new league concept.

With reference to the terminology being used in the conversation, Wiederer pointed out that the EPHLA stated that it represents professional handball, but in reality it represents professional and semi-professional leagues. However, there is as well professional handball within the leagues that are being administered by National Federations. Wiederer stressed the point because on the EPHLA letterhead (which Bohmann stated was the old letterhead) the Hungarian league was part of the EPHLA logo, but this was not even known in Hungary and it was never an independent or separate league, though it has professional handball.

Bohmann stated that EPHLA did not want to see a new league organisation dominated by regions, where the new league stakeholder has the majority of its members from one area of Europe. In response the invitation to the EPHLA to attend the meeting on 29 June was reiterated, and pointed out that the EHF is still awaiting input to facilitate the organisation of the meeting.

Bohmann took the opportunity to underline the positive cooperation of EPHLA over the past years despite that negativity that has clouded the past few months due to EPHLA opposition against the level of involvement of the stakeholder in the tender process. He made it clear that at crucial points in the process, the stakeholders needed to be involved. Wiederer reiterated that a tender process has a complex rundown and many parts of it are linked to the information process to the outside world.

EHPU Member Marcus Rominger stated that the player's organisation was not involved in the political decision-making process and in the past year there was no meeting with the other stakeholders about the process. The EHPU was also surprised at the suggested system, which they also opposed. Being aware of the current status, the EHPU is satisfied with the outcome. Rominger also mentioned the 'Think Tank: International Calendar 2020+', and deemed it a good way to bring the stakeholders back together.

Taking reference to the tender process, EXEC representative, EHF Vice President Bošković noted that it was necessary for the organisation to take the risk in order to see how valuable the products are. Bošković alluded to the criticism faced and countered that this was one of the most transparent processes that he had witnessed, and gave the credit to the EHF President. He underscored the fact that it was not possible to satisfy all the people all of the time, and the target was to satisfy the majority and what is best for the sport as a whole. He stated that handball still ranks below football and basketball and that something needed to be done, and it was, and it exceeded expectations.

EHPU Member Marcus Rominger informed the PHB that the minutes from the last EHPU meeting held in Paris would be distributed in the coming days. The meeting held at the beginning of February covered various topics, the main points being the prolongation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EHF and EHPU, and the formulation of a SMART agreement (to be signed after the PHB meeting).

Rominger also gave information on the status of the Top Seven (for men and women) awards that will be voted and optionally awarded during the respective FINAL4 events in 2018; these awards are voted by the players for the players. The EHPU will also hold a meeting with the head of EHF Media and Communications to plan a coverage strategy.

Concerning the reach of the EHPU, Rominger responded that currently seven player organisations from seven countries are represented by the EHPU and the aim is to reach more; it was not clear how many players from different Federations under the seven organisations are involved. Rominger explained the quandary facing the EHPU, the top players do not think they need the representation, and the players from lower tiers, do not know how to access a players' organisation as they take their cue from the players at the top. It was underlined that the interest from the players on an individual/personal level must be the catalyst in the activation of players.

4. EHF Information

4.1. 13th EHF Conference of Presidents

With the minutes of the meeting at hand, it was briefly reiterated that the Conference serves as an information exchange platform for the National Federation representatives prior to and in preparation of the EHF Congress. On this occasion, information was provided on the 'Think Tank: International Calendar 2020+' and the tender process.

4.2. IHF Information – Council Meetings/Congress 2017

There was no additional information to add regarding the 2017 IHF Congress; to the Council meeting that took place in Zagreb in January 2018, the PHB were briefly informed that the meeting handled the matter of the PATHF and the still open issue of the nominations to the various commissions.

4.3. International Activities

To this point no comments or questions were raised.

4.4. Think Tank: International Calendar 2020+

Secretary General Hausleitner gave a short reiteration of the meeting that took place on the fringes of EHF EURO 2018 CRO in Zagreb. The group spoke of the possibility to re-arrange the playing season in the future e.g. to start in January and end in December; due to pre-fixed major event, the discussion could not continue. The participants concentrated on the harmonisation of the existing calendar, which produced ideas that could solve issues in the future such as:

- ◆ Re-scheduling of the national team week from June to the end of April/beginning may – this would allow the National Leagues to play their final phase consecutively, and create excitement for the final events.
- ◆ Set a date where every league has to finish their competitions; after that the Men's CL Final4 would take place – signalling the end of the club competition season.
- ◆ Create a weekend for the national cup finals – targeted focus with media coverage e.g. 'Finals' Weekend' stories

- ◆ Playing days: prior to and in the national team weeks so that players would only travel on specific days to national team activities – this is a complex idea when TV contracts are taken into consideration.
- ◆ Plan a fixed period for players to have holiday and recuperate; a fixed period for when a competition starts so that preparation time is also taken into account.
- ◆ Created fixed days for international competitions; as part of the tender process the possibility of finding days during the week, so that the leagues can have their matches on the weekends has been discussed with the potential partner.

Hausleitner stressed the point that these items were suggestions only, nothing has been decided. He also mentioned that some of these ideas were implemented in the football realm and have proved successful. Addressing the concerns raised by different PHB members about the placement of handball competing with other sports for media slots/attention, Hausleitner mentioned that the external media experts continue to research the situation and return to the EHF with suggestions on this matter. At this time, the research show that the weekend is overloaded and there is too much competition with other sports, but it is easier to be place 'against' football as the communities are different. Wiederer added that the situation could be volatile when dealing with the stakeholders with opposing interests i.e. two leagues with dissimilar TV contracts. The only option for the organisation is to listen to the market, and accommodate accordingly.

Bana underlined the positive and collaborative atmosphere; he underlined the fact that all the stakeholders were working together to find the win-win solutions for the future. In agreement with Bana, Butzeck also remarked the interesting proposals; he reiterated, with detail, the ideas of moving the national team week, and the expansion of the season. In response, Bohmann commented that the suggestions are in principle good, but transferring them to reality could prove difficult (availability of multi-functional arenas). He stated he found the idea of moving the national team week good as it would give the national leagues space to prolong the season. Regarding the slots (50:50 opinions), he did not see how it could change because of the TV contracts (e.g. FRA, SWE, GER). He mentioned that so far in the international structure has only allowed the leagues to play between Wednesday and Sunday. He said that if they had a fixed date now, there would not be any problems, but emphasised the need to be told in advance so that they could try to change; giving an example, he underlined that there must be a clear structure. Rominger cemented the point of needing a clear structure by stating in the past it was unclear, whereas in football it is not the case. Rominger recognised that nothing could change in the short-term and the ideas looked to the future, but stated that it was important to make a statement about the long-term ideas so that they can be implemented into the structures of the leagues across, so that eventually the leagues and the EHF is on the same page. Rominger hailed using the Final4 to end the club competition season as a good idea, because the last thing a player wants to do after winning the Final4 is going to the 'bundesliga' two day later and then to the national team a week after that. He underlined that a season-closing event would be needed.

President Wiederer mentioned two problems that have to be considered: every second year there is a major football competition starting in June that has an impact of the major events of the EHF, and the organisation has no intention of damaging the product by placing it up against another major sporting event at a time where it does not make overall sense. He also noted that the calendar under discussion is the international calendar and what concerns national team activities to be coordinated with the IHF. He

gave examples of how the ideas raised would affect the Continental Federations and their Championships, and underlined the need for the EHF to take care in this respect.

4.5. European League Board (ELB) – Information

The information to the European League Board situation was given under agenda point 3.

4.6. EHF Marketing GmbH

The latest meeting of the EHF Marketing Advisory Board took place on Monday, 5 March 2018. Topics on the agenda included daily business, as well as the tender process; no special report.

4.7. Anti-Doping: Status report

All anti-doping samples taken during the EHF EURO 2018 CRO yielded negative results. The respondents in the case arising from the 2017 W19 EURO have filed an appeal, the case remains open. In light of the case, the EHF has imposed additional preconditions surrounding YAC events (obligatory anti-doping education, etc.) and will provide additional funding in the area of anti-doping.

4.8. Other

No other business to report.

5. Stakeholder Situation – NB, MFCH, EPHLA, EHPU

The stakeholder situation was treated under agenda point 3.

6. Men's National Team Competitions

6.1. EHF EURO 2018 CRO – Report & Follow-up

The EHF stated that event review process is still ongoing; however the organisation was satisfied with many aspects of the event. It is expected that the TV viewing figures will exceed the previous event.

Arena spectator figures: the EHF was pleased with the outcome during the preliminary round. Attendance during the main round was not the optimum, and the final weekend (semi-finals) was damaged due to the lack of local interest. From the EHF perspective, it was underlined that the ticketing situation and the spectator concept will be re-evaluated for the future. There were mixed reviews about the hotels e.g. distance to the arenas unsatisfactory in Varaždin, however the situation was known prior to the event.

Implementation of clothing regulations: opposite to the situation at the beginning of the EURO, towards the end of the event, there were more violations (followed by the appropriate sanctions). It was underlined that the situation can be discussed, but it is an international rule. However, for the overall presentation of the event, it is better to have a more unified picture, and the clothing of the teams is part of this.

Implementation of rules; issues: at the event, the instant replay technology was used 17 times; goal light (to be improved) and goal line cameras were also used. The digital match sheet will be improved for the event in France and future EUROs. All the feedback has been submitted to the Technical Commissions. The feedback received concerning the rules will be evaluated; the issues are complicated and need to be discussed not only on the European level. When looking at rules that could be improved, the EHF is ready to enter into the discussion, where it should lead the way based on standing and experience. It was underlined that clear rules are a necessity and there has to be a common line when it comes to rule interpretation; subjective interpretation has to be avoided. The EHF will meet with the IHF for its mutual meeting on 5 April. Further feedback suggested i.e. harmonisation of technology usage (buzzer) with the IHF.

In the brief discussion that followed, it was stated that goal line technology will continue to be implemented at major events; it is not foreseen to be used at single matches due to the logistic and cost factors. Though mentioned that the use of the various technologies was welcomed, it was underlined that there needs to be an education process for the users, but it is also important to make sure that fans and spectators know how it works.

6.2. EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR – Preview

With no special report to be given, the members of the PHB are informed that the preparations are ongoing and the cooperation between the organisers is very good. An event with 24 does offer many new media opportunities and it is a perfect chance for the new teams that are at the event to develop. At the upcoming workshop in Norway, the attendees will be provided with best practice examples and an in-depth review of the regulations. The EHF EURO Cup has been finalised; ESP has agreed to participate and the tournament will be played within the framework of the qualifications.

6.3. EHF EURO 2022/2024 – Awarding Process

For the upcoming men's events, four competent (joint) bids have been received; the EHF is in the process of undertaking the requisite inspections and evaluations of the bids. Due to the EHF initiative of working with all the venues, only a small number of venues have to be inspected and evaluated, because the others are already known to the organisation. The EHF continues to move in a positive direction in this area.

7. Club Competitions

7.1. Status season 2017/2018

CSO Glaser reported that the A/B Group Phase has concluded and the EHF is currently checking on playing dates for the next round. So far, there are no major issues or incidents. The ranking will not be clear until 11 March, and the competition is quite equal as there have been many close matches.

- Men's EHF Champions League Structure: no special report, the system is working.
- Other competitions: motions for approval on small issues such as teams booking their own accommodation will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

7.2. Preview 2018/2019

There are no changes foreseen to any of the playing systems; the calendar for the season has been made and distributed. The draw for the coming season will take place on 29 June. Concerning the season 2019/20 and the distribution of places, a proposal to the Executive Committee has been submitted requesting approval for one CL place for all Federations. It is not about Federations 'losing' a place, but not having an additional place guaranteed on paper; however, the situation might not change at all as there is the way via the registration and the criteria catalogue. This is a pre-emptive measure as it has to be concluded on time for the 2019/20 season in order to keep the National Federations/Leagues informed.

7.3. Sportradar – data collection/fraud detection

Opening the topic, the PHB were informed that though it concerns the same partner, the two fields of business are unrelated. It was stated that the collection of data is contract based; the start of the project was not without its flaws, using the platform (scouts) and clubs not cooperating as needed. However,

those issues are being targeted. It was mentioned that there also has to be more education as the platform is only in English; this has proved a barrier to some users.

On the level of fraud detection (match-fixing), the cooperation to examine all competitions began on 1 January; CSO Glaser, who also serves as the fraud detection integrity officer, attended a workshop in London. The PHB was given an overview as to how the system works. In this field of business, Sport Radar is a global leader, and so far the system is working very well.

The EHF held a fraud detection seminar during EURO 2018 in Croatia and gave the first information package to the referees and delegates nominated to the event. More workshops will be held in the coming season i.e. with the clubs.

7.4. Future Club Competitions Seasons – Schedule/Calendar

As already discussed, there are no particular issues regarding the 2018/19 calendar that has already been distributed. The 2019/20 calendar has been submitted to the Executive Committee for confirmation at the meeting on 16 March. Work is still continuing on the 2020/21 calendar based on the input of the think tank, etc. Input from the Nations Board referred to the issues identified to the 2019/20 calendar namely the matter of the Olympic Qualification in April 2020 where teams will face three consecutive games; and round six of the VELUX EHF Champions League that will be scheduled on a Saturday/Sunday a week after the EHF EURO Qualification. This has been suggested in order to avoid one round where all matches will take place on a weekend.

8. Marketing of European Top Products: Tender 2020 – 2030

8.1. Status Report/Tender Information

The first draft of the contract on an EHF level has been submitted and is currently in the hands of the lawyers. A first workshop took place in Switzerland, with legal representation on both sides. The agreement of the national teams and the clubs are linked and feedback is expected by 15 March, so that Executive Committee approval can be given. The second contract will be based on the first – with the same standards. It is foreseen that the contract will be signed in Cologne. The competition system, a topic relevant to the PHB, foreseen in the agreement targets the Champions League and a European League; however, this will not be finalised with the signing of the agreement. The competition system will remain an ongoing process, as the future cannot be predicted. Wiederer stated that the organisation is reaching the end of the process. The Secretary General requested confidentiality on the elements discussed as the contract is not yet signed. More information will follow when it becomes available.

9. 2018 EHF Congress

9.1. Structural Issues

An overview of the motions to be put before the Executive Committee for confirmation was presented to the PHB as follows:

- New date for the EHF Congress: organisation conflict in EURO years, from November 2020 to April 2021, current mandate extended by four months.
- Vice President Finances: change in title based on tasks and responsibilities, VP title would change to First Vice President as a consequence.
- Additional member for Women's Club Competitions: to bring the situation in line with the 2014 WFCH MoU agreement; no major change.

- Boards & Committees: National Committee Men/Women
 - National Committee Women (new): 6 members – one from each group (1-12, 13-24, 25-36, 37-50) and two members elected freely; two members from the NCW to the WHB.
 - National Committee Men (new name for the current NB): analogous to the NCW (modified election mode); two members from the NCM to the PHB.
 - Nations Board: for Men and Women, six members in total comprised of three members from the NCM and NCW respectively, the Chairperson is nominated to the Executive Committee (altered EXEC composition – 3 Finance Delegation, 3 Technical Commissions, 3 Members, and 3 Interest Representatives).
 - Women’s Professional Handball Board: to be built up like the PHB.
- Age Limit: right time to amend as no personal interest conflict exists in current administration; implementation of IOC rule/standard - stop at the end of the year when candidate turns 70 unless the congress extends the mandate, which can only be done once. Three-term maximum remains; no conflict in Austrian law to prevent such a move.
- Special Activities: targeting the possibility of making handball competitions accessible for all persons.
- Participation in non-profit partnerships: based on input from the auditor granting the EHF non-profit organisation status in such cases.
- Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions: would see the Executive Committee having the right to approve amendments/adaptations; proposed based on findings from previous experience
- Motions relating to Finance: Compensation Committee (from the UEFA model) to avoid the elected deciding their own finances within the system; proposal offers a neutral, transparent approach. As it is currently unclear how compensation for the elected is defined, it is necessary to close the ‘hole’ in the system in the future. Because at this stage it cannot be predefined what the EHF Presidency will look like in the future, a sliding scale will be implemented and evaluated on the involvement of the person and the circumstances.
- Motions from the National Federations:
 - NOR – Independent Chairman to Oversee Congress
 - IRL – Protective Disclosure Advocate – can be integrated into the structures
 - SLO – Professionalism in the area of Officiating
 - SWE – Advertising on Players’ Clothing
 - BIH – Regulation amendment regarding team leaders (to be treated by the EXEC)

It was underlined that all the motions presented are not finalised and are to be discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee for either being presented to the Congress or not resp. to be amended/changed; thus confidentiality is requested.

9.2. Other topics

No other topics to be presented.

10. Various

- ◆ Member Butzeck informed on an unresolved task for the PHB to nominate an additional member to the ECA Council. It was emphasised by the EHF President that the additional member would not be responsible for resolving cases (only in exceptional circumstances). In accordance with the statutes, all members of the PHB must be in agreement. Butzeck proposed W. Lambrecht (NED) a young law specialist focused on sport and having much experience in football issues. The PHB were informed on the CV and agreed unanimously to appoint Lambrecht as the stakeholder representative to the ECA Council. The PHB members were given a comprehensive report on Lambrecht's background before confirming the nomination.

- ◆ European Handball Manager: with the educational programme in its third year of a four-year cycle, the programme is scheduled to end in 2019/20. In the discussion as to prolong the programme, it was discussed whether to make the completion of the programme mandatory for those serving as handball managers. It was agreed that handball managers needed certification and more persons possessing the qualitative traits was necessary. It was stated that in terms of certification other education paths had to be considered as well, as some were higher than the EHM, and that education needed a comparative view. The idea of also having levels was raised i.e. a certain level of certification for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd tier competitions. It was also suggested to promote the course among players, as it would be beneficial for them to know that such options are available to them. The prolongation of the EHM programme was agreed in principle. The PHB members requested an overview of the EHM participants.

With no further topics on the agenda, Chairman O'Callaghan thanked the PHB for their contribution and closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: M. Brown
Vienna, 9 March 2018