

## Minutes to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Professional Handball Board

*(Preceded by the common meeting of PHB/WHB and running parallel to the meeting of the WHB)*

<b>Date / Time:</b>	Tuesday, 8 October 2019 / 10:45 – 12:30	
<b>Venue:</b>	Hilton Garden Inn Vienna South – Meeting Room: Schönbrunn	
<b>Participants:</b>	Gerd Butzeck	Chairman / MFCH / GER
	Nikolas Larsson	Vice Chairman / EHLB / SWE
	Morten Stig Christensen	Member NB / DEN
	Philippe Bana	Member NB / FRA
	Gregor Planteu	Member MFCH / SLO
	Frank Bohmann	Member EHLB / GER
	Michael Sahl Hansen	Member EHPU / DEN
	Marcus Rominger	Member EHPU / GER
	Predrag Bošković	Member EXEC / MNE
	Stefan Lövgren	Member EXEC / SWE
	Michael Wiederer	EHF President
	Martin Hausleitner	EHF Secretary General
<b>EHF:</b>	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison ( <i>Minutes</i> )
<b>Guest:</b>	Michael Naversnik	External Consultant

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

In the brief introduction, it was noted that the period of the past six months was interesting in terms of handball business. The topics on the agenda were briefly discussed.

### 2. PHB Meeting 03/2019 – Minutes and Follow-up

With no additional comment or questions, the PHB approved the minutes.

### 3. EHF/IHF Information

#### 3.1. EHF Executive Committee / EHF Marketing GmbH

With the minutes at hand and many of the agenda points touching the common agenda, no special report was given to the points EHF Executive Committee and EHF Marketing GmbH.

#### 3.2. International Handball Federation

Reference to be taken to the minutes of the common PHB/WHB meeting.

#### 3.3. Other contacts

No special report.

#### **4. Stakeholder Reports: NB/MFCH/EHLB/EHPU** *(additional remarks to minutes)*

**NB:** Chairman Christensen provided a brief summary of the discussions during both the common meeting (EHLB/NB) and the stakeholder meeting (NB). Concerning the finances related to the 2020+ agreement, the revenue division was discussed in-depth i.e. how to utilise the monies in the best way, how to invest correctly (e.g. less to development, more to women's handball). Christensen conceded that it was a complex situation and a strategy needed to be conceptualised; input from the NB will be provided to the Executive Committee on this matter. He also underlined the importance of the input from the stakeholder group, and the obligation to improve the product to show future investors in the coming years, the stakeholders also need to be ready. Christensen also mentioned the upcoming EURO experience and the information it will provide the stakeholders i.e. how to have a unified championship (and not three events) across three countries, and how the group was looking forward to the branding of one championship. Closing his summation, Christensen remarked on the open-minded discussions that reflected what was beneficial to the whole and not the individual.

**MFCH:** Butzeck in his function as the FCH Managing Director delivered the report and opened in respect to the 2020+ agreement by commenting on the satisfactory development of the media contracts; acknowledging that the information received surrounding the marketing situation that was not satisfactory, he stated that the club stakeholder was aware of the situation, and the problem has been identified and will be worked on. Butzeck also commented on the good work undertaken by EHF in reference to the MP&Silva situation as well as on the small decrease in the number of live spectators and stated that it was another area that is to be worked on. Referring to the minimum requirement proposals for the new period (from season 2020/21), Butzeck stated that the opinion of the club stakeholder is that the venue capacity on the side of the Women's Champions League should be a minimum of 2500 seats, but the EHF believe that the minimum should be raised to 3000.

Continuing, he stated that the club stakeholders had also considered the subject of guarantees resp. licensing – this is an area that will be discussed further. Moving on he spoke of the unified floor system to be implemented into all (M/W) EHF club competitions (except the new EHF Cups) as of season 2020/21, which he deemed simplified the situation. Turning to the topic of the development projects, he mentioned the EUR 50k fund being distributed to emerging clubs (subject to application and criteria fulfilment), in the examples given approximately EUR 3000 is awarded per project and so far, clubs in LTU, SRB, IRL, and ENG have been recipients of such funding. The MFCH continues to collaborate on the IHF CHN and USA projects. It was mentioned that the communication resp. project work in CHN has been slower; a discussion on how to continue is to be initiated. The cooperation with USA (positive progression and clear partners) is ongoing i.e. four USA players will transplant to European teams; the participating clubs will receive a maximum of EUR 2000 per month.

In response to the information provided, a brief discussion ensued, the PHB members touched upon points concerning player 'agents' and their approach towards players, as well as the potential for education, certification, registration and/ or licensing. Due to the complex nature of the topic, it was

determined that the EHF would explore the situation to find out what general conditions are; a plan on how to proceed would be formulated.

**EHLB:** Chairman Larsson informed the PHB on the content of the 4<sup>th</sup> EHLB meeting held the previous day. The league stakeholder spoke of how to bring value to the leagues and will focus on four specific areas, which were discussed. The EHLB also considered methods to bring 'Best Practice' examples to emerging leagues by identifying the needs of those leagues that are ready to move forward in their development. Ideas such as the creation of a roadmap as well as a league workshop were also deliberated. Larsson closed his report by naming beach handball as an EHLB target group, while bearing in mind how structures differ country to country; the EHLB will also initiate a dialogue with EHPU to discuss areas of common interest.

**EHPU:** opening the report of the players' stakeholder group, EHPU President Hansen spoke of the contact with smaller handball nations and their players; the demographic of the players was noted in the feedback received i.e. part-time and amateur players. The EHPU is currently considering way on how to support players that are not playing in major markets, and within the stakeholder group, players can now become direct members.

Taking reference to the IHF-EHPU meeting and with the presence of EHF President, Hansen stated that due to the calendar, it was not possible to have a female representative present. The members of the EHPU delegation (Hansen, Rominger, Gensheimer, Appelgren, and Spellerberg) discussed the various topics that included, but were not limited to, qualification scheduling and the IHF Athletes Commission. The meeting was deemed constructive and a good start, as this was the first time the EHPU was invited to Basel in a formal way; it is important to the players' stakeholder group to have its platform maintain dialogue on this level.

Following the brief discussion, and to close the agenda point, it was noted that the demand of the players to have good working environments has been recognised as steps have already been taken; and it was acknowledged that players' framework needs to be optimised.

## **5. Men's National Team Competitions**

### **5.1. EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR – Preview – see common meeting notes**

### **5.2. EHF EURO 2022/2024 – Status Update**

### **5.3. World Championships 2019/2021**

### **5.4. YAC Competitions**

#### *5.4.1. 2019 Men's U21 / U19 World Championships*

#### *5.4.2. 2020 Men's 20 / Men's 18 EUROS and Championships*

Reference to be taken to the minutes of the common PHB/WHB meeting.

## **6. Club Competitions**

### **6.1. Season 2019/2020 – Status**

In addition to the information imparted at the PHB/WHB common meeting (AP2) and in response to a question, it was reiterated that since 1 July 2019, the new approach to the nomination of the match officials lies in the responsibility of the Competitions Department within the EHF Office in Vienna headed by CSO Glaser and his team.

Responding to a query concerning match-fixing, it was explained that the CSO Glaser has the responsibility within the EHF as the Integrity Officer; monthly reports are sent to the EHF that provides a summary of activity. Glaser described the different levels of alarm in addition to the analyses undertaken and the explanations given in relation to betting patterns. It was underlined that no matches had reached a level where a case had to be initiated, and furthermore, no activities related to the nomination of match officials. The EHF Whistle-blower system is fully operational; the anonymous service is overseen by the Initiator of Proceedings; to date, four reports have been registered and none of them relate to matches. Therefore, the EHF has two functional systems covering potential cases.

## **7. 2020+ Status Report**

Please refer to the minutes of the common PHB/WHB meeting.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

The schedule relating to the final matches of the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship EGY on 31 January was briefly discussed due to the potential calendar conflict with the start of the national league competitions on 1 February. It was voiced that some regulations still remain in conflict with each other. In response, the EHF recapped that the event in question fully corresponds to the IHF regulations and that the number of player release days for national team activities is twenty-nine and the travel days are encapsulated therein.

Closing the meeting having covered the agenda, Chairman Butzeck thanked the group for their collaboration and input.

For the minutes: M. Brown

Vienna, 11 October 2019

professional handball board\2019\phb\*23\phb\*23 minutes\_191011e