
MINUTES TO THE 11TH MEETING OF THE (MEN'S) EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

(Parallel to the meeting of the NB)

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Time: 11:00 – 16:30

Venue: Renaissance Wien Hotel

EHLB Participants:

Nikolas Larsson	Chairman SWE
Frank Bohmann	Vice Chairman GER
Patrice Hitz	Member 2 SUI
Etienne Capon	Member 5 FRA
Siniša Ostoić	Member 6 CRO
Thierry Wagner	Member 3 LUX (Excused)

EHF Office: JJ Rowland Director Business Development | Minutes

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Larsson welcomed all to the meeting and highlighted the main topics for the meeting, namely the upcoming summit in June, cooperation with women's leagues and also the future cooperation with the EHF.

2. EHLB – Meeting n°10 | 10/2022 - Review & Follow-up

No further discussion on this point.

3. Current Situation Covid-19 & UKR/RUS/BLR

It was noted that Covid-19 was no longer a major issue. Larsson highlighted fact that testing was in place for WCh and Bohmann mentioned that two matches in the Bundesliga had been postponed. Ostoić informed that the SEHA league restarted on 1 February.

No further discussion on the issue of the war in UKR took place.

4. EHLB Going Forward

- EHLB Summit II June 2023: Larsson informed that EHF has offered a number of options for the event: VIP ticket only or also including European Handball Talks and the party on Saturday evening. It was agreed that whole package price would be investigated further, including any available group discount.

The EHLB Summit is planned on Sunday, 18 June from 09:00-12:00hrs; possible topics to be discussed include the OTT platform France, new SWE OTT platform from the new partner, the 'big picture digital platform/OTT'. The best practice case study is expected to be the Aalborg season ticket and spectator concept strategy on attracting audiences.

Furthermore, time for discussions has to be planned into the schedule, and it was agreed that there should be a cohesion with the topics to be presented at the 'European Handball Talks' round table event. Chairman Larsson will send a 'Save The Date' notification as soon as possible. It was agreed that two speakers and an open discussion round would be enough for the programme. Additional inputs from EHF (information on Master Plan) plus the presence Wiederer/Hausleitner would be welcomed.

- **Players' Agents:** it was noted that the IHF rules and procedures have been introduced, and there is already an issue in Spain with the tax authorities where the player is required to pay for the agent. There have been many discussions in Sweden, also with player agents, where the requirements have been included into club contracts. The EHLB agreed that this simple solution does not solve a complex situation. The topic will be continued to be monitored.
- **Feedback to Stakeholders:** a session took place in November/December 2022, and the next session will be scheduled for 3 April at 15:00hrs.
- **Cooperation/Coordination with Women's Leagues:** the prospects of the creation of a parallel league board or an integration of women's clubs into the current board were discussed. The relative weakness of women's handball and league structures was raised. Possibilities for an integration of women's clubs into the board were welcomed, with contact to more leagues, plus the expectation of more and more sponsors and public authorities for the inclusion of women's sport also as part of sustainability concepts. The idea of a trial period of three years to see whether integration of clubs is the best solution was also suggested. It is proposed that the inputs from EHLB be transmitted at the Women's League Convention on 3 June and organised in Budapest on the fringes of the Women's EHF FINAL4.
- **Contact List:** the need for a development and improvement of the contact list was discussed; issues have arisen following changes in personnel and losing contact with leagues.
- **SMART Project:** the EHLB discussed what possibilities exist once the SMART project funding comes to an end; it was noted that a further discussion with EHF was required. The introduction of an annual membership fee or costs of summit participation to be covered individually by participants was also discussed. It was agreed that the EHLB needs to define what its offering and advantages (representing league interests within EHF system etc.) are in order to make itself more attractive to leagues.
- **EHPU Cooperation:** the EHPU elected a new President, Torben Vinther (DEN) at the beginning of year; Markus Rominger remains EHPU Vice President. The original request

for cooperation came from the EHPU and agreed that the EHLB should wait for further follow up from the union.

5. EHF Activities

- Club Competitions 2022/2023 & 2023/2024: the EHLB gave no additional comments to the inputs from the common meeting; in response to the new men's ranking lists, no complications are foreseen.
- National Teams: the EHLB discussed possibilities in some countries for Federations to call national team players early. Bohmann proposed that youth events at MU21 level should be played in January instead of summer, which would give top youth players more opportunities to participate in club pre-season preparations and better integrate them into club teams. The suggestion would be brought forward to the PHB for further discussion.
- Other (according to the Common Meeting): no additional topics discussed.

6. PHB Meeting 03/2023

No further discussion.

7. Timetable 2022/2023

7.1. *International Calendar (incl. 2023/24)*

7.2. *Meeting Calendar*

No further discussion

7.3. *Next EHLB Meeting*

Based on the feedback received from the league stakeholders, the meeting next meeting will take place on 3 April at 15:00 hrs. The next edition of the EHLB Summit is planned for 17/18 June 2023; and the next formal meeting of the EHLB (autumn session) will be on Monday, 16 October.

8. Miscellaneous

The next electoral period as well as the remainder of the current mandate was discussed. It is assumed that a EHLB General Assembly with elections will be held in 2025; this is to be confirmed with the EHF Office.

9. Closing

With the agenda complete, Chairman Larsson thanked the members for their contribution and closed the meeting at 17:00 hrs.

Vienna, 17 March 2023

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