

MINUTES TO THE 17TH EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS | VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Date | Time: Saturday, 14 September 2024 | 09:00 – 10:45

Venue: Andaz Hotel Am Belvedere | Belvedere 1 -3

Participants: National Federation Representatives, Honorary Members, International Handball Federation, Invited Guests, Executive Committee, and EHF Office (see enclosure)

Minutes: M. Wiederer | M. Brown

Date: 21 January 2025

1. Welcome

Introducing the theme of the conference, 'Handball Calling', hosted on the Final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024, Michael Wiederer, President of the European Handball Federation opened the 17th EHF Conference of Presidents. The organisation utilised the opportunity of the change in venue of the EURO Finals (Budapest to Vienna) to host a variety of side events and activities in an effort to bring the wider handball community together.

On behalf of the Members of the Executive Committee and the organisers, he welcomed the representatives of the National Federations, the Presidents of the EHF Legal Commissions who were present for the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress to follow, as well as the special and honoured guests, particularly Dr Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation who is expected to address the Congress.

In closing, President Wiederer paid tribute to recently departed members of the European Handball Family being part of the EHF bodies - Gunnar K. Gunnarsson (ISL), Izet Gjinovci (KOS), and Morten Stig Christensen (DEN); a moment of silence was held in remembrance.

Assuming the Chairmanship of the meeting, First Vice President, Predrag Bošković, invited Michael Wiederer to the podium to give the overall report.

2. Overall Report

Presented by EHF President Michael Wiederer

With the 2024 business year of the organisation ending, President Wiederer delivered the interim report starting with the competition highlights. The success of the Men's EHF EURO 2024 was, and remains, unparalleled in terms of large and full venues as well as the internationally recognised, record-breaking showcase of the opening match with 53000 spectators. The Final4 events also elevated in status, and in Budapest and Cologne, the organisation has acclimatised to sold-out

events. Nonetheless, growth continues in the club Final venues with more people watching the matches live in the arenas. All told, the EHF professionals also concluded eight summer YAC and beach handball national team events in six countries. Wiederer also gave a nod of recognition to the International Olympic Committee and the IHF in acknowledgment of the summer Olympic Games that also contributed to the expansion of the handball profile. In addition to the plethora of webinars, courses, seminars, and projects of all kinds, the ongoing technical work of the EHF was also underlined. On the eve of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Final, the hosts as well as the organisation celebrated the successful integration of two brand new nations at a high level, the constructive implementation of framework events which have included conferences and courses, and other activities.

Turning to the administrative meetings, the reports given by the President on behalf of the Executive Committee at such events i.e. the Ordinary/Extraordinary Congresses and Conferences of Presidents, are also 'part of the game'. The handball community is continually and comprehensively informed on the happenings within the organisation; thus, information at such events can seem repetitive. Nonetheless, with the 2024 Business Report in the process of finalisation for distribution after the EURO Final weekend, highlights from other initiatives would also be mentioned.

To the governance of the European Handball Federation, President Wiederer emphasised that the organisation continued to adhere to the decisions made at previous Congresses i.e. financial distribution keys, and the structures in place (elected commissions) continue to uphold the system. The business model remains beneficial to current practices as since 2017, where most of the current leadership is in function, returns have surpassed EUR 150 million of which EUR 86 million was paid to or directly invested in the EHF Member Federations. Thus, despite unforeseen challenges as well as complex decision-making processes, the actions of the EHF have resulted in sustainable and firm conclusions that have allowed for procedures to be followed in this dynamic world of sport.

From the EHF standpoint, the continued governance of handball could be viewed as 'conservative', even 'defensive', but a fundamental part of this encompasses the identification of perspectives, needs, and opportunities. Traditional handball remains at the heart of the sport; however, it must be seen through its various facets, whilst preserving the DNA thereof, and in this sense by utilising market analyses that reflect development and competitors' data. As the EHF moves forward, and giving examples in the areas of beach handball, eSports, as well as AI influence, there is solid intent to work on the product strategy; also, there is clear recognition that the organisation must continue to engage in data management and digital development.

In conclusion and supported by the Greiner Growth Model, which demonstrates the usual development of a company and institutions in phases, Wiederer emphasised that the sport has many options and that there are various paths that can and will be explored, and not only that, but the organisation will also continue to advance the sport from the grassroots through to the elite level. Through the activities of the European Handball Federation, these endeavours are visible.

3. Masterplan Initiatives

3.1. Introduction

Presented by EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner

Introducing the topic, a brief reiteration of the programme including the '7 Pillars', the incorporation and harmonisation with the 'Circle of a Handball Life', as well as the objectives was given. Recently the focus has been on strengthening organisational structures and ensuring that there are professionals in the Federations dedicated to coordinating and facilitating the Masterplan initiatives. Blending the activities following the 'Circle of a Handball Life', it is imperative that there is focus on activities for children. To date, the EHF has invested EUR 2.5 million into various projects with 20 National Federations, and exploratory development discussions are ongoing with three additional Federations.

The activities upholding the cooperations with the Federations have included, but were not limited to supporting education and training, especially around grassroots, recruitment of staff to support the activities within the Federations, enhancing trilateral cooperations between Federations, governments, and sport institutions, as well as providing essential materials (balls, goals, equipment) and engaging persons in development projects. With the focus on grassroots, the EHF opened with the 1st Grassroots Convention in January and closed in December with the Women's Handball Conference that also focused on Grassroots. In the coming year as the Masterplan activities continue, the Grassroots Charter will play a prominent role.

3.2. Grassroot Charter

Presented by Pedro Sequeira, Chairman of the EHF Methods Commission

The Grassroots Charter serves to strengthen handball development at the foundation and to foster participation and excellence across all levels. To attain these goals, the organisation aims to expand the handball community, engage fans, and cultivate a potential workforce. The focus on grassroots development will place emphasis on lifelong participation regardless of age, gender, or ability. Through this, handball will benefit from talent discovery, the cultivation of future coaches, as well as community engagement.

The Charter outlines the rights and responsibilities of the EHF and its Member Federations when promoting grassroots handball; this includes enabling participation and ensuring that the sport is enjoyed in a safe, fun, and inclusive environment; developing a sustainable strategy that promotes a complete healthy lifestyle, as well as maximising participation by increasing the number of clubs, players, and activities. Once a Federation has signed on to the Grassroots Charter following the admission and evaluation process, they are obligated to meet standards such as appointing administrators, promoting activities, organising competitions, and report on progress. In return, the Federations will benefit from access to resources via the Masterplan. The printed publication of the Grassroots Charter was provided to the conference attendees.

3.3. Fields of Sustainability

Presented by Martin Hausleitner, EHF Secretary General and Leonor Mallozzi, Chairwoman of the Women's Handball Board

Opening the report, the attendees were informed on the most recent activities where sustainability has either been the core point of the agenda or a key component of various discussions. The EHF Sustainability Board, led by Franjo Bobinac, held its 5th meeting where the group looked to future events. Special handball and wheelchair handball are also being looked through the sustainability lens; when dealing with the players (Respect Your Talent), the coaches (educational tiers of the Rinck Convention), or the broader spectrum of the sport (Masterplan), the organisation is committed to following the 'Global Goals for Sustainable Development' as adopted by the United Nations. The first survey from the EHF Sustainability Board is in development and is expected to be completed mid-February 2025, with the presentation of the results during the next scheduled meeting of the Board in March 2025.

Furthermore, the European Handball House, located on the 'Platz des Europäischen Handballs', will be officially opened to the Member Federations on 15 December 2024. Due to the elements (e-charging stations, photovoltaic panels, heating pumps, energy efficient façade, etc.) incorporated into the construction, the building was granted the Austrian 'Klimaaktiv' certification.

As the organisation continues to move forward in its numerous endeavours surrounding sustainability, Leonor Mallozzi reported on the Women's Handball Conference held in Vienna in December. Presenting a brief review of the Conference, sustainability of women in handball combined with grassroots elements drew over 140 participants from 32 countries across the spectrum of stakeholders including coaches, active and former players, club, and national federation representatives to the forum. Altogether, 24 lectures and 4 main-stage panel discussions provided much opportunity for the participants to attend multiple talks on their preferred topics, which included how to attract young girls to handball and how to retain them within the sport, how to provide a safe and secure environment, and how to encourage women to pursue leadership roles in the sport, and also how women in sport are portrayed in the media.

A highlight of the conference was having elite players (Andrea Lekic, Allison Pineau) share their stories and their vision for the future; the motivating story of Joyce van Haaster, wheelchair handball player, as well as Jamilla Boullise, the responsible for education and preparation of female referees in France, also shared best practice examples. The two-day conference was inspiring and addressed topics in a positive and progressive way. The importance of investing in women and girls to grow handball was emphasised.

4. Top Events – The EHF EUROs

4.1. Competitions - Introductory Words

Presented by Božidar Djurković, Chairman of the Competitions Commission

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, which severely impacted the Women's EHF EURO 2020 and had a serious effect on both the Men's and Women's EHF EURO in 2022, the EHF EUROs rose like a phoenix. The Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany made history and the ongoing Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Switzerland, Hungary, and Austria, the first with 24 teams, is exceeding expectations.

It is a key responsibility of the EHF to organise such highlight events as not only do they enhance the visibility of the sport, secure income for the participants, but they also provide massive opportunities for further development initiatives. This has been reflected in terms of TV viewership, marketing interest, as well as live spectator attendance with all indicators showing significant growth over the years. The national team events have the widest reach among public awareness in the global handball community and is a driver to increase not only the number of fans, but also the number of active players as handball role models can be created in all countries.

The concept of co-hosting the EHF EUROs among three or even more federations, has proven to be a success. The approach not only distributes the risk, but also allows for more (and smaller) Federations to host the EHF EURO in their countries and activate their communities, while showcasing unforgettable highlight events that create a lasting impact. With a record-breaking number of spectators seen in Switzerland and Austria, the power of the EHF EURO is underlined. In 2026 and 2028 there will be a mix of experienced and novice organisers, all promising a memorable EURO experience.

4.2. 2024/2026/2028 Men's EHF EUROs

4.2.1. EHF EURO 2024 in GER

Presented by EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner and EURO 2024 Organiser & Chairman of the Nations Board, Mark Schober.

Opening with the information that the EHF EURO in Germany not only was a landmark event, but the statement was also upheld by the fact that it ranked among the most searched terms list (Google) of 2024, as well as the data resulting from the media and marketing analyses. Broadcast hours increased by 12% (5798 hrs), cumulative audience figures also increased by 18% (1,221 billion viewers), and event impressions increased by 33% (39,1 million); thus, based on the growth around social media (streaming figures not included), the TV audience was the second best of all time. Looking to the partner landscape, the event saw more partner activation which resulted in a 32% increase in QI media value equivalent to EUR 500 million. Event impressions across the partners and sponsors increased by 38% proving that alliance with the EHF EURO is beneficial. Overall, the event increased the visibility of the sport by 23%. Turning the floor over to Mark Schober, Hausleitner, once again, thanked the German Handball Federation for the excellent cooperation and for delivering the "best EURO ever".

Schober, on behalf of the German Handball Federation (DHB), opened by speaking of the promise made by the DHB during the awarding of the event in Glasgow, Scotland in 2018. From the opening match in the Merkur Spiel Arena with 53,586 spectators (sold-out), and across the event venues having over 1 million spectators watching the matches live, speaks to the promise being kept. The opening match was a tremendous feat using 25km of cabling, 300 motors, 5km of walkways, and a total of 30 tons of equipment all of which were in the rafters of the arena to execute the first day of the record-breaking event. The event went all out across the digital landscape; it not only attained but exceeded all key performance indicators. The sustainability goals also yielded a positive result through the cooperation with DeutscheBahn (DB) despite adverse weather conditions and the threat of employee strikes.

Continuing with the highlights, the draw of FAR-NOR, the spectacular win of Georgia, as well as the exceptional goal scored by Elohim Prandi was mentioned, and the attendees were reminded to view the 'Here to Win' EURO short film created by the EHF. Off-court highlights included the Leadership Conference that attracted over 180 participants to discuss sustainability within, and the professionalisation of, the sport. Also, in keeping with social sustainability targets, within the framework of the event, the DHB embarked on education 1000 coaches for children and served as the host for the 1st EHF Grassroots Conference. Closing the report, Schober extended his thanks to the DHB and EHF teams, as well as the EHF Executive Committee for the cooperation and successful execution of Men's EHF EURO 2024; he also thanked the National Federations for their support of the event.

4.2.2. EHF EURO 2026 in DEN/SWE/NOR

A video preview of the Men's EHF EURO 2026 opened the topic, and presenter Anita Kristiansen underlined the event slogan of 'Pure Greatness' and though hosted by three nations, it would be one championship. The preliminary round venues, the groups, as well as the allocation of the groups to the main round were reiterated. President Kare Geir Lio (NOR) thanked the National Federations for their support of the event and looked forward to welcoming them to Scandinavia.

4.3. 2024/2026/2028 Women's EHF EUROs

4.3.1. EHF EURO 2024 in AUT/HUN/SUI

On the eve of the Final matches of the Women's EHF EURO 2024, the representatives of the OC, Bernd Rabenseifner (AUT), Pascal Jenny (SUI), and Katalin Palinger (HUN) gave a general report of the event and spoke of the positive scenes in each event nation. Jenny spoke of impressive matches and sold-out venues, broader ticket distribution which brought people unacquainted with the sport to the venues, as well as reaching the main round. In Basel, the Swiss Federation also celebrated its 50th anniversary and contributed to the 'Day of Inclusion'. In Hungary, the Federation has taken much pride in being a EURO host for the third time and being part of handball's "great story". The Hungarian venues also celebrated sold-out status. Thanking the OC collaborators, Palinger expressed pride at being part of the event. Turning to the matches in Austria, Rabenseifner conceded that the figures during the main round in Vienna were not as hoped, due to the early exit of the Austrian team;

nonetheless, Vienna saw a cumulative in-person audience of 29000 people. Despite the challenges, many side events were hosted in the city such as a school handball tournament and the Women's Handball Conference. In closing, Rabenseifner spoke of the remainder of the Final weekend which is very positive for women's handball and will take place in a great atmosphere in a sold-out arena to be followed by the closing ceremony and the Players' Party to which the conference attendees were also invited.

4.3.2. EHF EURO 2026 in POL/ROU/CZE/SVK/TUR

On behalf of the five organisers, Radoslaw Wasiak, Chair of the OC POL in the quintet-OC conglomerate, addressed the Conference of Presidents and expressed his pleasure to be able to inaugurate the event, which is intended to change the history of the EHF EUROs and showed the promotional video of what can be expected in 2026. The unique event will be hosted in 6 cities, which will lead to much more involvement on the organisational level, but also it will open the market to the event. Each country will host one group of the preliminary round, the main round will take place in Romania and Poland, with the Final weekend being held in Katowice.

Wasiak reiterated that he looked forward to welcoming the European handball representatives to the event in 2026, adding that the venues had been carefully chosen and the quintet-OC are focused on delivering what will hopefully be the biggest women's EURO event and aim to inspire a new generation of players and fans by presenting an event that is passionate, confident, and cool.

Following the conclusion of the agenda point, the Chairmanship of the meeting reverted to the EHF President.

5. Preview 2025 Activities

5.1. EHF Beach Handball Round Table

Introduced by Michael Wiederer, EHF President and presented Gabriella Horvath, Chairwoman of the Beach Handball Commission

With many activities taking place in 2025, the first significant meeting will be the Beach Handball Think Tank which will target the issue of promoting the sport, exploring how to involve more countries, as well as how to attain better results in the sport and media world.

The short history of beach handball has provided the community with countless exciting moments, spectacular matches, innovative grassroots and player development strategies, and the opportunity to expand the base with new beginnings and opportunity and many unforgettable memories. It is now the time to engage in a deep and collaborative dialogue to shape the future of the sport. Taking place from 20-21 January 2025, the meeting aims to bring experts and stakeholders together to craft a comprehensive masterplan for the sport with the objective of undertaking an encompassing evaluation on the status of beach handball including the competition system, as well as to plan the future. The Beach Handball Commission together with the beach handball unit within the office are working together to deliver the facts and define goals to enable a new way forward. The handball community will be kept informed on the developments.

5.2. EHF Competitions Conferences

Presented by Michael Wiederer, EHF President

In 2008, an extensive conference took place during a phase where there was a clear differing of opinion on the sport; thus, stakeholders from all corners of the handball community were invited to participate in a discussion forum. Guests also included external experts who delivered information on sport and media from outside of handball. As a result, the competition structure and the international calendar were revised for better functionality in consideration of the IHF cooperation and the world handball calendar.

In the years since, there remains a difference of opinion concerning the competitions i.e. number of matches, importance of different activities, etc. Therefore, the EHF has scheduled such a meeting once again; the Men's Competitions Conference will be held in April 2025 where a focus will be the future of club competitions in the understanding that after 2026 there might be a change in the competition system and as well the analysis of the national team activities. The Women's Competitions Conference will follow in May 2025; due to the nature of the different needs, it was important that the messages did not get lost in one setting. Moreover, in 2027, the EHF plans to tender the media and marketing rights for the period after 2030 and this means that in the mid-term, the organisation must be "fit for the market" in terms of the product on offer.

5.3. EHF Emerging Nations Conference

Presented by Martin Hausleitner, EHF Secretary General

Development is a constant challenge; the Masterplan projects launched in 2021, and the 1st Emerging Nations Conference took place in 2023, and now in 2025, the Federations will once again meet at the second edition of the Conference that will be held under the banner of 'Emerging Nations vs. Small Nation', as it can be attested that they are not the same. The topics to be discussed will also include player and organisational development, education, visibility, financial resources, infrastructure projects, as well as integration in the sport-political landscape. The event will take place within the framework of the Women's EHF Final4 in Budapest on 1 June.

5.4. 17th Ordinary EHF Congress

Presented by Michael Wiederer, EHF President

In 2023, there was no direct application to host the event, which in 2025 is also an election congress, thus the awarding right reverted to the Executive Committee, which opted to organise the Congress in Austria, but outside of Vienna. Located approximately 40 minutes from Vienna International Airport, the Scheiblhof Wine & Spa Resort in Andau (Burgenland) was chosen as the location from 19-20 September 2025 as it can accommodate the needs of such an event. In preparation of the election congress, the representatives are informed that procedure is moving forward in accordance with the statutes reiterating that the registration deadline for candidates is 19 June 2025.

5.5. 2025 IHF Congress / European Meeting

Presented by Predrag Bošković, First Vice President

The 40th Ordinary IHF Congress is also an election congress for the period 2025-2029; the event will be organised by the Egyptian Handball Federation, and although not confirmed, it is foreseen to take place in Sharm El Sheikh in the period between 3 – 9 November 2025. Therefore, the corresponding registration deadlines will fall within the same date timeframe three months prior to the event in early August. From the EHF standpoint, prior to the event, a European meeting should take place to define the viewpoints to represent the best interests of the sport, before the future of handball is determined by the members of the IHF.

5.6. 8th EHF Scientific Conference

Presented by Pedro Sequeira, Chairman of the Methods Commission

The next edition of the biennial event will be hosted in cooperation with the Croatian Handball Federation and the Union of University Handball Teachers. From 13-14 November 2025, the event will take place in Zagreb. The theme of the event will be “Empowering the sustainable future of handball – from grassroots to top-level play” and the preliminary information has already been distributed to the National Federations.

6. Various Issues

6.1. Open Floor | Italian Handball Federation | President Stefano Podini

Opening his statement, Podini completed the marketing analysis presented under agenda point 4 and requested that it be shared with the National Federations.

In Italy, the Federation (FIGH) was approached by the NOC (CONI) on the topic of ‘Sky Handball’. This is a seemingly new development within the game recently introduced in Italy; it presents as a standard handball game but played by players with special and non-special needs. Currently, ‘Sky Handball’ has attracted over 5000 athletes in ten months. There are playing rules in place, and education material for coaches, etc. Podini mentioned that it is in keeping with the ESG principles are described within the EHF’s fields of sustainability. CONI has requested of FIGH to introduce ‘Sky Handball’ formally; however, it will need the recognition of an international governing body. Thus, the question of FIGH to the Conference of Presidents is how to go about attaining such recognition. In response, President Wiederer requested that FIGH submit a formal request to the EHF to which it could, in a first step, be treated by the EHF Methods Commission.

6.2. Special Awards

Moving into the next agenda point, President Wiederer acknowledged the arrival of the IHF President, Dr Hassan Moustafa; the Conference of Presidents welcomed him with applause.

On behalf of the European Handball Federation President Wiederer conferred the EHF Special Award in recognition and honour of many years of service and dedication to the sport of handball and presented the persons receiving the award.

Jörgen Holmqvist

Jörgen Holmqvist continues to serve handball as the Vice President of the Swedish Handball Federation; this is the current status to an illustrious career that has spanned decades. It all started at the Lugi Lund Handball Club; within the club he served as a Board Member, Vice Chairman, Chairman, and eventually Honorary Chairman. A special mention in this congratulatory reference is his 20-year service in youth handball. Holmqvist was also the South Sweden Regional Director where he serves as an Honorary Member today. Within the Swedish Handball Federation, he has also held several functions including his current mandate. At the European level, Holmqvist served the ECA Council as President for two periods; and at the level of the International Handball Federation, he holds another honorary title following his work within the IHF Arbitration Tribunal and various working groups. Jörgen Holmqvist is a loyal steward of handball, and always ready to support the sport when needed and asked for a valuable contribution.

President Wiederer welcomed Jörgen Holmqvist to the stage and handed over the award.

Per Otto Furuseth

With a sporting resume that stretches back over 40 years, and most of them engaged for handball, Per Otto Furuseth has worn nearly every label that handball can offer starting with 'Player' at both the national and international stage. The next was 'Coach' having led youth, junior, and senior national teams. He had been involved in over 30 (IOC, IHF, EHF) Championship events between 1982 and 2002, as well as being a key figure in the organisation of conferences and congresses on a leadership level. Furuseth also served the Norwegian Handball Federation for 32 years; an enviable career for a man who now continues to serve as a senior advisor. In addition to all of this, Per Otto, a pure asset to the sport, also worked with and for the EHF and for the EHF EURO events at all times as an organiser or participating in a different function, but always positively contributing.

President Wiederer welcomed Per Otto to the stage and handed over the award.

Andrzej Kraśnicki

After an injury sidelined his career as a (youth, junior, and senior) national team player, Andrzej Kraśnicki began his career at the organisational level. His engagement saw him take top leadership positions – President of Club Poznan, President of the Polish Sports Confederation, as well as the Polish Sports Association where he served as President from 2002 – 2005. In 2006, he transitioned into his leadership role in the Polish Handball Federation and from 2010 – 2021 he was chosen to serve as the President; following his term, he was awarded with the Honorary Presidency. Parallel to his role with the ZPRP, Kraśnicki's dedication to handball and sport also saw him elected as President of the Polish Olympic Committee; he stepped down from this role in 2023. Andrzej Kraśnicki clearly pledged his allegiance to sport, and this has been reflected in many positions and memberships held in high level sporting organisations such as WADA, ANOC, and the EOC; he is the recipient of many Orders and titles.

In Poland, handball has benefitted from his patronage as he played a pivotal role in improving structures and performance, as well as bringing visibility to handball in the country especially through international involvement and specifically the Men's EHF EURO 2016. This event took handball in

Poland to another dimension in terms of promotion and activation, and the event still holds the record in TV viewership with over 1.6 billion viewers. Further recognition must also be given for his contribution to getting beach handball to the 2023 European Games in Małopolska, Krakow. Andrzej Kraśnicki is a handball all-rounder who has contributed to the sport in all functions.

The award was collected by Slawomir Szmal, President of the Polish Handball Federation, as Andrzej Kraśnicki was unable to be present in Vienna.

Miguel Roca I Mas

Hailing from Granollers and moving through Catalunya, then Spain, across Europe, and eventually around the globe, Miguel Roca Mas has always represented handball with the utmost competence. As a former player and coach, he has won sporting titles with Alicante and FC Barcelona. Beginning his foray into becoming a top handball executive, he served as the manager, and later the sport director of the Catalan Handball Association. Roca Mas was also the director of the handball competition at the 1992 edition of the summer Olympics held in Barcelona.

A prominent figure in Spanish handball serving as an RFEBM Board Member, Roca Mas also managed the ASOBAL for 15 years before ascending to the presidency where he served for three years until 2006. His solidarity with handball continued at the level of the International Handball Federation where over 17 years, he served first as a COC Member and then as the Treasurer of the organisation. Throughout his career, he has also partnered with European handball on many occasions bringing his expertise to Champions League Working Groups as well as hosting ASOBAL club championships in various cities and introducing the first handball Final4 in Spain. A true handball enthusiast, Miguel Roca Mas has worked at every level of handball and left a legacy.

The award was collected by Francisco Blazquez Garcia, President of the Spanish Handball Federation, as Miguel Roca Mas was unable to be present in Vienna.

Morten Stig Christensen

The sudden passing of Morten Stig Christensen left the handball community in shock. Morten Stig Christensen, an upstanding person and devoted family man, dedicated so much of his life to handball. A national team player with 190 caps, a part of World Championship delegations, and with three Olympic appearances as well, Christensen transitioned out of active playing and continued in the world of sport working in media where his career took him from the role of a commentator to the head of TV2 Sport.

In 2007, he was chosen to serve as the Secretary General of the Danish Handball Federation and over 14 years he played an important role within Denmark, and also on a European level. Morten always viewed handball from the broader perspective – grassroots to elite – both locally and internationally. In 2021, he was elected to serve as Chairman, the highest position in the DHF, and performed the role with much success. Within the EHF system over the years, he was deeply involved through his functions in various committees and boards, and ultimately in the Professional Handball Board. It was in the PHB that Morten introduced a key phrase when he stated that “the EUROs are the sports window to the world”.

Expressing the deep loss, President Wiederer stated that “we have lost one of us”. Christensen was a driving force around grassroots handball. The Grassroots Charter was created to ensure that structural matters within the sport have a lasting impact; there for with the agreement of the Christensen Family and the Danish Handball Federation, the EHF Executive Committee were able to rename the Grassroots Charter, moving forward to be known as the Christensen Grassroots Charter. *The posthumous award was accepted by Jan Kampman, Chairman of the Danish Handball Federation and will be transmitted to the Christensen Family.*

All award recipients were acknowledged by the Congress with applause.

7. Closing Address

Bringing the biannual Conference of Presidents to a close and addressing the participants for the last time of the session, EHF President Wiederer hoped the representatives found the information useful. He also thanked the persons who did prepare and deliver the presentations and indicated that the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress would commence following a short break.

The 17th EHF Conference of Presidents was officially closed.

~ END ~

**17TH EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
PARTICIPANTS LIST | 14 DECEMBER 2024 | VIENNA, AUT**

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

NATION	NAME	FUNCTION
ALB	Armand Cakalli	Secretary General
AND	Gerard Pifarré Ros	President
	Jose Besada Garrido	Secretary General
ARM	excused	
AUT	Bernd Rabenseifner	Secretary General
AZE	Orkhan Abbasov	Vice President
	Ernest Aghakishi	International Relations Manager
BEL	Jean-Francois Hannosset	President
	Dries Boulet	Secretary General
BIH	excused	
BLR	not registered	
BUL	Rosen Dobrev	President
	Teodor Iliev	Secretary General
CRO	Tomislav Grahovac	President
	Lidija Bojic-Cacic	Women's Handball Responsible
CYP	Constantinos Filaretou	President
	Nestoros Nestoras	Treasurer
CZE	Ondrej Zdrahala	President
DEN	Jan Kampman	President
	Heino M. Knudsen	Managing Director
ENG	Mike Bain	CEO
ESP	Elena Borrás Alcaraz	International Relations Manager
EST	Kristina Kallas	President
	Pirje Orasson	Secretary General
FAR	Andrass Thomsen	General Manager
FIN	Jari Laine	President
	Andreas Frejborg	Vice President
FRA	Philippe Bana	President
GBR	Stephen Neilson	Chairman
	Mark Hawkins	Board Member
GEO	Vakhtang Meipariani	President
	Ketevan Koberidze	Secretary General
GER	Andreas Michelmann	President
	Ingo Meckes	Sports Director
GRE	Konstantinos Gkantis	President

HUN	Ferenc Ilyes	President
	Katalin Palinger	Vice President
IRL	Fintan Lyons	President
ISL	Gudmundur Olafsson	President
	Robert Geir Gislason	Secretary General
ISR	Avraam Kachlon	Vice President
	Shay Simon	Secretary General
ITA	Stefano Podini	President
KOS	Eugen Saracini	President
	Muhamet Arifi	Secretary General
LAT	Aleksandrs Babra	President
LIE	excused	
LTU	No Participation	
LUX	Romain Schockmel	President
	Christian Schmitt	Secretary General
MDA	Nicolae Vizitiu	Secretary General
MKD	Filip Miloshevski	Secretary General
MLT	Daniel Tabone	President
	Matthias Azzopardi	Internal & Regulatory Affairs Officer
MNE	Petar Kapisoda	President
	Emir Beslija	Secretary General
MON	Eric Perodeau	Vice President
NED	Roel Goffin	President
	Tjark de Lange	HFE Coordinator
NOR	Kare Geir Lio	President
	Erik Langerud	Secretary General
POL	Slawomir Szmaj	President
	Radoslaw Wasiak	Vice President
POR	Miguel Laranjeiro	President
ROU	Constantin Din	President
	Ioana Victoria Voinescu	Board Member
RUS	not registered	
SCO	Ewan Hunter	Chief Operating Officer
	David Watt	Board Member
SLO	Bor Rozman	President
	Goran Cvijic	Nat. Teams Director
SRB	Nenad Jankov	President
	Jovan Popadic	International Relations Manager
SUI	Pascal Jenny	President
	Alexander Konstantinidis	Member Board of Directors

SVK	Jaroslav Holesa	President
	Ernö Kelecsenyi	Vice President
SWE	Frederik Rapp	President
	Robert Wedberg	Secretary General
TUR	Mesut Cebi	President
	Ismet Yigit Senocak	International Relations Manager
UKR	Oleksandr Gladun	Secretary General

Additional participants from NFs:

FRA	Remy Levy	Vice President
FRA	Georgine Delplanque Kuntz	Assistant to the President
FRA	Sophia Touiker	Legal Adviser
FRA	Vincent Gerard	Former Player
POL	Tomasz Lewtak	Vice President Marketing
ROU	Nicolae Luca	Secretary General
ROU	Sorin Laurentin Dinu	Board Member

Guests

IHF	Hassan Moustafa	IHF President
IHF	Anna Rapp	IHF Treasurer
IHF	Michael Scarpellino	PA to the President
EHF	Jean Brihault	EHF Honorary President
EHF	Arne Elovsson	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Ralf Dejaco	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Karl Guntzel	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Frantisek Taborsky	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Jan Tuik	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Laszlo Sinka	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Jerzy Elias	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Ole Jorstad	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Rui Coelho	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Panos Antoniou	EHF Honorary Member
EHF	Jeannot Kaiser	EHF Honorary Member
NOR	Per-Otto Furuseth	Guest
SWE	Jörgen Holmqvist	Guest
PHB	Nikolas Larsson	Guest
PHB	Frank Bohmann	Guest
PHB	Torben Vinther	Guest
WHB	Marta Bon	Guest
WHB	Nodjialem Myaro	Guest
WHB	Jelena Eric	Guest
WHB	Monika Listkiewicz	Guest

Guests

WHB	Christoph Wendt	Guest
WHB	Karolina Bryl-Prokop	Guest
EHFM	Janos Szabo	EHFM Advisory Board Member

EHF Commissions

EXEC	Michael Wiederer	President
EXEC	Predrag Boskovic	First Vice President
EXEC	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
EXEC	Bozidar Djurkovic	Chairman Competitions Commission
EXEC	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
EXEC	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
EXEC	Stefan Lövgren	Member
EXEC	Francisco Blazquez	Member
EXEC	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
EXEC	Xavier O'Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
EXEC	Leonor Mallozzi	Chairwoman Women's Handball Board
COMPT	Robert Prettenthaler	Member
COMPT	Thomas Ludewig	Member
COMPT	Janka Stasova	Substitute
CoH	Ioannis Karanasos	President
CoA	Markus Plazer	President
ECA	Michele Colucci	President

EHF Office

EHF	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
EHF	Vesna Lazic	PA to the President
EHF	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison
EHF	Danuta Kluz	Executive Assistant
EHF	Anna Lamprecht	Senior Administrative Assistant
EHF	Christoph Gamper	Senior Director Information Technology
EHF	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
EHF	Monika Flixeder	Senior Director Legal Management
EHF	Nico Julian Hofer	In-House Lawyer
EHF	Thomas Schöneich	Director Media & Communications
EHF	Doru Simion	Senior Director Sport & Game Services
EHF	Johannes Müller	Director EURO Events
EHF	Mate Kozma	Event Organisation
EHF	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
EHF	Tobia Pisani	Beach Handball Manager

External

EXT	Erhard Hofbauer	Electronic Voting System
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