
MINUTES TO THE 177TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Date | Time: 13 December 2024 | 09:00 – 12:15

Venue: Andaz Hotel Am Belvedere

Executive:	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Francisco V. Blázquez Garcia	Member
	Franjo Bobinac	Member
	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Leonor Mallozzi	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board
Office:	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes
Excused:	Bente Aksnes	Member

President of the Austrian Handball Federation, Markus Plazer, welcomed the Executive Committee to Vienna for the Final weekend of the Women’s EHF EURO 2024. Opening his address, he spoke to the success indicators from the event so far, specifically mentioning the figures arising from Innsbruck. Giving the example of football and hockey being the prominent sports in terms of spectators in the region, the matches of the Preliminary Round experienced more spectators combined. Plazer also mentioned the sold-out status of the Final on 15 December and expressed that he was looking forward to a thrilling Final weekend despite the home team not progressing as hoped.

Thanking President Plazer for his words of welcome, EHF Secretary General, Martin Hausleitner added that based on the data available, the Women’s EHF EURO 2024 is on track to become the third most successful women’s championship in the history of the event. In keeping with the spectator numbers in Innsbruck, Hausleitner also spoke of the excellent figures out of Basel and the figures in Debrecen, a venue having seen lots of events before.

EHF President Wiederer remarked that although the Final weekend was originally not foreseen in Vienna, the arrangement turned out ideal as the EHF was able to use the opportunity presented to host the various fringe events. Wiederer thanked the Presidents of the Austrian, Hungarian, and Swiss Handball Federations for the good cooperation, and hoped for a continuation thereof.

1. WELCOME, PROGRAMME, AGENDA

President Wiederer opened the meeting; he noted the full schedule of the Final weekend. No additional input was given to the programme or the agenda.

2. EXEC 09/2024 – MINUTES / FOLLOW-UP

With no further comment or questions raised to the document, the minutes were adopted by the Executive Committee.

3. BUSINESS REPORTS

3.1. Secretary General

From the comprehensive report at hand, Secretary General Martin Hausleitner highlighted the following points:

- **Learn Handball** | based on the information given to the Executive Committee (EXEC) at the last meeting and with approval of the Finance Delegation (FD), the EHF is in contact with the Norwegian start-up, 'Learn Handball,' which provides training to grassroots trainers, to determine the type of cooperation to be entered. The dialogue will continue in January; the next update will be provided to the FD and EXEC at the meetings in April 2025.
- **Partnerships** | currently there are three contracts pending approval; in the case of the **Hummel** cooperation, the newly negotiated agreement sees a significant increase in 'Value in Kind' in exchange for EHF EURO merchandising rights. Also included are social responsibility activities. Negotiations with **Swiss Timing** have been finalised and will see the agreement cover the 2026 and 2028 EHF EURO events. Though the **Kinexon** basis agreement is in alignment with the needs of the organisation, the development programme element will be further elaborated.
The Executive Committee approved the signing of the agreements.
Hausleitner also provided the EXEC with information to the situation with Sportradar; in a next step, the EHF will escalate the issue.
- **Masterplan** | a brief overview to the status of the Masterplan (including applicants Czechia, Israel, and Andorra) was given; it was underlined that the projects are very different. The budget for the coming year was also made available. **The Executive Committee approved the CZE and AND Masterplan concepts as written.**
Following the summary, MC Chairman Sequeira underlined the importance of receiving exact data (and not approximations) from MP recipients when submitting development reports to enable an efficient evaluation of the projects.
- **Respect Your Talent** | the app is undergoing further development to be more engaging (collect coins for rewards); the availability of the app is broad, and the usability can be adapted to the needs of National Federations.
- **Project EOS (IT Partner)** | a dialogue to a potential future partnership was initiated. Overt benefits include a better pricing agreement as well as shares. Talks will continue and an update will be given in April.
- **EHF Media** | on the eve of the semi-finals, Hausleitner provided interim media figures giving indication to the success of the event. Across the digital event channels, 82.000 new followers were reached (altogether currently 3.6 million), and on the EHF EURO Instagram channel a solitary reel had 32 million views. In Scandinavia, the TV market

share reached 60% and in Switzerland, the EHF EURO amassed a 9% market share which is very significant in the country. There have been over 180.000 spectators in the venues putting the EHF EURO 2024 in Austria, Hungary, Switzerland on track to be the third most successful women's event in the history of the competition.

- **Infront** | the Executive Committee was also informed on the outcome of the most recent Strategy Committee meeting that took place on 12 September in Vienna. In addition to the contracted parties, the foreseen representatives from the Nations Board and the Men's/Women's Club Board were also present. Considering the known situation, Infront in a meeting during the EURO has pushed to bring the contractually scheduled evaluation meeting forward to Spring 2025 instead of Autumn of the same year; the request of Infront was rejected by the EHF (and the Club representatives) due to the EHF internal timetable.

3.2. Legal Management

The full report was submitted to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, and Wiederer elaborated on the following points.

- **ECA** | Contractual Matter | Obvran: payment was received. Through the case, the financial constraints of the Federation were illuminated leading the EHF to believe that initial non-payment was not ill-intended.
- **CoA** | Match Irregularities, Non-Reporting | Nachevski: payment of the imposed fine was received on 12 December 2024; the case is closed.
- **CoA** | Anti-Doping ebt Finals | Adriano & Wludarczak: due to an intervention from WADA (supported by the IHF), two previously resolved cases have been officially reopened on the direction of WADA.
A summary of the situation, including the position of the authorities involved (WADA-IHF-CAS-ITA-EHF) are reiterated for the Executive Committee; this case also serves as an element to the reframing of the BH Think Tank planned for 01/2025.
- **CoA** | Violation of EHF RINCK Convention | ROU: the EHF/MC are keen to see resolution in the matter; at this time, the oral hearing has been postponed.
- **Other Cases** | Tribunal Judiciaire | Christophe Saidi: though the EHF is not a liable party to the case, there are attempts to invoke a co-liability status on the part of the Respondent Club PSG. In the light of this incidence, the competition regulations will be amended to ensure Clubs that do not fulfil security and organisational obligations cannot take part in EHF Competitions.

3.3. European Anti-doping Unit

No supplementary report was given; but it was noted that the report document submitted also contained an overview of the budget for the coming season of which the construction thereof reflects normal procedure.

3.4. Sustainability Board

Chairman of the Board, Franjo Bobinac reported on the most recent meeting that took place on 12 December and referred to the document submitted. Mentioning the latest Olympic Games, he mentioned that the OG Paris were able to prove that the event was sustainable, and promises made were kept i.e. Olympic Village to be repurposed for social housing. Turning to upcoming top events, Bobinac said that there is concern that changes in political structures on an international level would impact the interest in sustainability issues.

Continuing, the topic of the NF Survey prepared and confirmed by the Sustainability Board is to return to the agenda at the first meeting in 2025; a key focus remains education and spreading awareness. Bobinac also mentioned that, according to the information available, a firm is readying to enter the realm of sport education and support sustainability courses. Upon successful application, 25 institutions will be granted EUR 25k for sustainability education purposes and the European Handball Federation is on the short list. The distribution of the funds, if granted, can be determined by the EHF leadership.

Additionally, Bobinac spoke of activities within other international sporting organisations which include exploring commercial partnerships and underlined that the athletes remain the largest asset in the promotion of sustainability. Resulting from recent dialogue, a well-received proposal suggested that all NOCs select an athlete to serve as a 'Sustainability Ambassador;' here, the EHF could be the role model for handball, and it is anticipated that such an option will be discussed internally. Bring the report to a close, it was mentioned that the Sustainability Board will meet four times in 2025 blending in-person and online meetings.

The Executive Committee took note of the report.

3.5. EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH

The Executive Committee are informed that the EHF SI is operational, and the first rental income is expected in December. Moreover, the first repayment is also to be made in 2024; however, a decision to a fixed or variable financial condition is to be taken. As of 2025, repayments will be made on a quarterly basis.

The guests to the Final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 have also been invited to the official opening of the EHF House; as the EHF gets ready for the visit, it is noted that there remains some cosmetic work in need of completion. Over 450 persons are expected to view the new building on 15 December as the EHF uses the best opportunity for a larger group to experience the European Handball House.

The Executive Committee took note of the report.

3.6. EHF Marketing GmbH

The General Assembly of EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM) took place prior to the 177th meeting of the Executive Committee, where invited guests of EHFM were in attendance and, also, many EXEC members. Managing Director, David Szlezak informed the Assembly on the successful completion of the 2023/2024 business year with the amounts granted to the Club (and EHF) being paid out and the additional result was distributed accordingly. In consideration of the report at hand, a status update on the situation with Infront, as well as the activities around competitions from the EHFM perspective, was also given. Furthermore, the actual budget 2024/25 was approved.

The Executive Committee took note of the report.

4. FINANCES

Prior to the start of the Women's EHF EURO 2024, the members of the Finance Delegation met in Vienna; the minutes of the meeting are at hand.

4.1. Finance Delegation 11/2024 – Minutes and Follow-Up

Considering the upcoming Congress where the status of National Federation accounts can carry weight on the voting process, it was mentioned that the BUL and ENG NFs had an open balance. For ENG, an Associated Federation with no voting rights (those belong to GBR), the EHF took no action due to the small outstanding amount. Furthermore, due to BUL hosting the 2024 beach handball events, the NF requested a delay to settle the account which was granted.

The Finance Delegation postponed the decision on the BC proposal to collect entry fees as well as deposits in the EBT competitions. Also, the support for both the Men's and Women's EURO Qualifiers 2026 Phase 1 was aligned to EUR 50k. Additionally, compensation payments to the EHF professional staff and elected representatives according to the budget, and based on the results, was confirmed by the Finance Delegation.

Other actions taken by the Finance Delegation included the confirmation of donation flooring, support requests from NFs, as well as open payments to event organisers arising the Men's EHF EURO 2022.

4.2. Update 2024 Budget / Accounting

The 2024 budget was updated mid-November and encompasses the known adaptations resulting from the Women's EHF EURO 2024; looking to income and expenditure, the result is stable at EUR 26.55 million. Reduced partnership income has been offset by increased transfer and entry fees, as well as fines.

Expenses have increased by EUR 49k, bringing total projected expenditure to EUR 29.64 million. This is accounted for through increased development spending (e.g. Masterplan) and increased expenses within competitions (daily allowances, etc.). Government grants are not reflected in the updated budget as, though granted, it has not yet been received.

Subsequently, for the two-year period, revenues are projected to reach EUR 48.34 million (+9.4%), and expenses have risen at the same level. The final accounting for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 will be concluded in January 2025; a comprehensive intermediate financial report will be given at the Ordinary EHF Congress in September 2025.

4.3. Preview 2025/2026 Budgets

The preliminary budget for 2025/2026 reflects all Congress decisions (since 2021) as well as all contractual obligations. Therefore, compared to the 2023/2024 budget, an increase in revenues of 6.2% is calculated totalling EUR 49.23 million. On the expenses side, the Personnel line item encompasses the expected inflationary increases of 3.5% in both 2025 and 2026; this and other slight changes project a slight loss of EUR 137k. Closing the report, it was underlined that the preview of the budget was for information only; this 2025/2026 budget is to be presented at the Ordinary EHF Congress in Andau, Austria.

The Executive Committee took note of the report.

5. COMMISSIONS – REPORTS AND DECISIONS

5.1. Competitions Commission (CC) | Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC)

In the period since September, there have been no meetings of the Technical Commissions; however, a meeting of the TRC was held in Vienna at the end of September; CC Chairman Djurković referred to the minutes from that meeting that were submitted to the Executive Committee.

Club Competitions | the first half of the current season is concluded, and all matches have been played according to schedule and with no major incident; the women's club competitions will resume on 11 January 2025 and the men's club competitions will continue following the conclusion of the World Championship in February.

National Team Competitions | Round 1 & 2 of the Men's EHF EURO Qualifiers concluded in November according to schedule. Venue issues for specific matches (ISR, UKR) were all resolved satisfactorily; Round 3 commences in March 2025. Phase 1 of the Women's World Championship Qualification Europe concluded in October with ISR and ITA reaching the Play-Offs, which will be drawn on 15 December 2024 with the matches starting in April 2025.

YAC Competitions | the W17 EURO 2025 Qualification Tournaments took place in November with POL, LTU, SVK and TUR qualifying for the W17 EURO; the draw for all four 2025 YAC events will take place in Vienna in January.

Officiating | in the period August to December there were no major issues in this area; the level of complaints was not above regular standards.

Due to cancelled flights as well as a health issue, a scheduled match of the Women's Champions League took place without a delegate; however, the game concluded without issue.

The preparatory seminar for the Women's EHF EURO Officials took place at the end of September. Additionally, three referee pairs had to be replaced after they were originally nominated; the pairs from TUR, GER, and AUT were replaced by DEN, POL, and AUT.

Other Topics | at the Women's EHF EURO, in the arenas there will be in-picture replays with slow-motion visuals on the big screens; the reaction and experience from this will be analysed after the event to evaluate potential further use at the Men's EHF EURO 2026.

5.2. Methods Commission

MC Chair, Pedro Sequeira highlighted the following points out of the full report submitted.

Methods & Coaching | the **YAC Analysis** was concluded and published at the end of October. The **EHF Injury Prevention Manual** was created in collaboration with three EHF experts; the project is on schedule to have the first edit ready in the first quarter of 2025. The **Players' Index Project** is ongoing; technical implementation has been initiated with the IT department. More transparency is needed from Handball.ai regarding the algorithm.

Education & Training | the final **Webinar** of 2024 is on 17 December; preparations for the planned 2025 webinars are ongoing. Faroe Islands will become the next Level 3 signatory of the **EHF 'RINCK' Convention** on 14 December, the same day of the second relaunch

(competency-based education). The documentation will be distributed at the Conference of Presidents, and the next seminar will be from 28.02. – 01.03. 2025. The **Players’ Index Project** is ongoing; the technical implementation has been initiated with the IT department. Module 3 of the **2024 EHF Master Coach PRO Licence course** was concluded in Vienna in early December 2024. The **8th EHF Scientific Conference** will be presented under the banner of “Empowering the sustainable future of handball: From Grassroots to top-level play”. This conference will take place in Zagreb, Croatia in November 2025. The **EHF Goalkeeper Summit** is planned for October 2025 in Vienna and a goalkeeper specialisation workshop is planned.

Youth, School & Non-competitive Sports | the EHF Women’s Handball Conference titled ‘From Grassroots to Professional Sport and Beyond’ successfully concluded on 11 December 2024; the event boasted 32 speakers and over 100 registered participants. In the area of **Wheelchair Handball**, the MC continue to work on a conceptual approach concerning the future of the sport; based on the IHF approach, the focus is on four-a-side. The MC sees the need for a comprehensive information process towards the National Federations on how wheelchair handball can be developed (e.g. Masterplan), and it was also noted that LTU is interested in enlarging its wheelchair handball activity. To a potential European Wheelchair Handball Championship in 2025, bid documents are to be prepared, and the interest of two potential organisers was also noted. Feedback from the Executive Committee included the advice not to split resources as not to hinder any development.

In closing, Chairman Sequeira spoke of his attendance at the Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) Coaches’ Seminar in DEN in early November; praising the organisation and the efficient exchange of information, he mentioned the scope of the organisation i.e. connected to over 1 million athletes of which over 5000 come from 17 European countries. A collaboration with such an organisation is an opportunity to grow the handball community. The MC sees another potential topic for inclusion with an idea to bring athletes from different areas together working through the education paths; the topic will return to the MC agenda in February 2025.

5.3. Beach Handball Commission

BC Chair, Gabriella Horvath highlighted the following points out of the full report submitted.

EHF Champions Cup 2024 | following the successful execution of the event, the OC, as well as the Municipality of Porto once again expressed interest in extending the agreement and hosting the 2025 edition of the event. (See Motion 5.3.1.).

ebt Finals 2025 | with the site visit as well as the OC/LOC workshop completed, the registration for the event will commence in January; 14 teams per gender are expected.

EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2025 and EHF Beach Handball EURO 2025 | both events were awarded to TUR and will take place in the first two weeks of July. The site visit as well as the OC/LOC Workshop were positively concluded; the event has the full support of the Municipality, and an agency will assume the event organisation. Event registration will open in January to be followed by the draw event in February 2025.

EUSA Beach Handball 2025 | the event is planned to take place in Granada, ESP in July 2025; the small number of participants is to be addressed.

European Beach Handball Tour (ebt) 2024/2025 | the ebt season 2024/2025 officially started on 1st December 2024. The criteria for the tournament were revised with a focus on the promotion and the website is updated with the new regulations.

Beach Handball Competition 2025 | the Executive Committee was made aware of the 2025 international beach handball calendar as it was presented in the report.

Other Topics | Horvath underlined that beach handball continues to fight for its place at the **2027 European Games** in Istanbul, TUR. To the upcoming **Excellence Awards**, the Chairwoman expressed pleasure at the inclusion of beach handball players among those to be awarded. With reference to the **Beach Handball Think Tank**, the Executive Committee were provided with the full programme. The intent is to discuss the future of the sport and to define strategies and plan goals with the input of the National Federations, stakeholders, and experts. It was noted that the initial idea of a Round Table was amended to a Think Tank – a smaller group consisting of experts.

BC MOTION I | CHAMPIONS CUP 2025 – EVENT AWARDING

The POR Federation with the full support of the Municipality of Porto Santo, as the only applicant, applied to host the 2025 edition of the tournament.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion.

BC MOTION II | EHF BEACH HANDBALL CANDIDATE REFEREE PROGRAMME

The vision of the new strategy regarding the EHF Beach Handball Coaches' Education is to train a new generation of highly qualified and competent Coaches, with a focus on the competences and the diverse needs of the NFs in Europe. This proposal sees the BC collaborate with the MC (RINCK Convention).

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion.

6. BOARDS AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS | MEETINGS 10/2024

With the minutes from all meetings made available to the Executive Committee, the Chairpersons of the Boards delivered a brief highlight report.

6.1. Nations Board / Nations Committees

NB Chairman Schober reported on the content of the meeting and noted that based on discussions within the Nations Committees resp. Nations Board it would be appreciated if a member of the NCM/NCW was present at the Beach Handball Think Tank scheduled for 20-21 January 2025 – referencing the information imparted at the end of AP5.3, as well as the men's and women's Competitions Conferences taking place in April and May 2025 respectively. Also, both the NCM and NB discussed the next edition of the Emerging Nations Round Table (1 June 2025, Budapest).

Taking reference to the collection of data via an online survey aimed at identifying areas of development and evaluating the gaps between men's and women's handball, Schober underlined the importance of having more numbers for the future.

6.2. Men's League Board / Women's League Board

With no EHLB representative seated in the Executive Committee, the Members took note of the submitted report. Wiederer mentioned that in October, the first official meeting of the Women's European Handball League Board (WEHLB) took place. Within the framework of the stakeholder meetings, a common meeting of the EHLB and WEHLB was also held.

It was mentioned that due to its recent inception, it is imperative that the WEHLB is not absorbed by the men's leagues counterpart.

6.3. Professional Handball Board

PHB Chairman O'Callaghan gave a nominal mention to the common meeting of the PHB & WHB that took place prior to the individual sessions, and directly relating to the information provided in the session of the PHB, he noted that the Club stakeholder could not find agreement with the National Federation stakeholder concerning the National Team Week proposal. The PHB were satisfied with the increase in use of game technologies and hoped that the usage increased in the Champions League; nonetheless, the education of the referees/delegates in the use of such technologies is imperative.

Also mentioned during the PHB meeting was the change at the administration level within the Forum Club Handball (G. Butzeck in Consultant role, G. Planteu to MD role) as of 1 July 2025, as well as the hold on the US project due to an unreliable cooperation at the present time; however, the parameters concerning the US players in Europe currently remains in place.

Input from the Players' stakeholder (EHPU) mentioned the burden on the players due to the density of the international calendar. O'Callaghan provided the example of several National Federations inviting players outside of the agreed schedule and mentioned that Clubs have an obligation to protect the players and refuse the release request (e.g. early January) due to the necessity of the requisite free days and potential insurance issues.

A more detailed discussion, with the involvement of several EXEC members stressing examples, took place. The EHF pointed out the complex process with the coordination with IHF and participation of National Federations and the stakeholders.

6.4. Women's Handball Board

Supplementing the minutes from the previous meeting of the Women's Handball Board, Chairwoman Mallozzi elaborated upon the following topics including the inclusion of the new WHB Members from the League stakeholder WEHLB (C. Wendt & K. Bryl-Prokop) and additional key focuses such as assessing the situation within the Leagues and player retention with League activities.

The group also discussed the competition framework at the national team level and agreed that more participation is needed in the YAC events, and noted the concern that many NFs are only interested in Phase 1 of major competitions (i.e. due to financial restrictions). Additionally, the WHB also conferred on the consequences of the financial difficulties being experienced by some club teams. Moreover, Mallozzi raised the ongoing discussion of making the sport more attractive to young female players and intends to promote the EHF Masterplan to all the Federations.

The report from the Women's Handball Conference, where 32 countries were represented, will be given at the 17th EHF Conference of Presidents. However, the number of participants underlines the interest in the subject and the programme presented.

6.5. Other Stakeholder Groups

No further remarks.

7. ORGANISATION OF EVENTS | COMPETITION TOPICS

7.1. Report Events

A comprehensive event report covering all current and future activities until 2032 was submitted to support the agenda point.

- **EHF EURO 2026** | concerning the men's event, the cooperation with the OC is very good. To date, there are no major issues and the meetings have been running smoothly. Turning to the women's event, the ambition of the project was noted, and the big interest in the success of the event was underlined.
- **EHF EURO 2028** | to the men's event, organisational meetings have commenced and ambitious ideas concerning the opening of the event are being discussed. To the women's event, it is too early to initiate the preliminary organisational steps.
- **EHF EUROS 2030 & 2032** | the awarding of the events (except for the Women's 2030 EHF EURO) will take place during the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress on 14 December. Following the withdrawal of one applicant, only solo bids remain; thus, the contracts have been adapted based on the input received and the respective coordination with the applicants.

At the close of the agenda point, Member Blazquez referenced the recent natural catastrophe in Spain, and thanked the Executive Committee for their understanding around the moment of silence held in Valencia.

7.2. National Team Activities

Turning to the awarding of several YAC events, on behalf of the National Teams Department, CSO Markus Glaser presented an overview of the Bids. It was noted that for each Championship event there was only one applicant whereas the 2026 EURO events saw several interested nations. The events were unanimously awarded as follows:

- **W17 Championship 2025** | Awarded to the Handball Federation of Kosovo
- **W19 Championship 2025** | Awarded to the Handball Federation Georgia
- **M18 EURO 2026** | Awarded to the Handball Federation of Serbia
- **M20 EURO 2026** | Awarded to the Handball Federation Romania

7.3. Club Competitions

With the competitions running in accordance with the season schedule, no further report was given.

7.4. Other Competitions/Topics

The Executive Committee received four written motions for deliberation; the outcome is as follows:

- **Motion I - EHF Competition Calendar season 2026/27** | following the distribution (10/2024) of the season 2026/27 draft calendar, the EHF Competitions Department returns to the Executive Committee requesting approval of the updated version which leaves the spring National Team Week unchanged. **The Executive Committee unanimously approved the Motion 7.4.1. as written.**

- **Motion II - Playing System for 10 teams in the YACs** | the EHF National Team Competitions department seek approval of the proposal to implement a new playing system for 10 teams within the framework of the YAC EHF Championships commencing with the 2025 events (M20/M18 & W19/W17) and allowing a balanced match sequence for all teams. **The Executive Committee unanimously approved Motion 7.4.2. as written.**
- **Motion III - EHF Youth Club Competition** | the EHF Competitions Department presented the proposal to introduce a new club competition (tournament format) geared at the age group 2006-2007 (U18) to commence in 2025. **The Executive Committee approved Motion 7.4.3. as written.**
- **Motion IV - EHF Quality Programme - Licensing pricing/use of approved balls in National Team Competitions** | the Business Development and Marketing department requested approval of the EHF Quality Programme specifically with reference to licensing fees for companies and the use of only EHF approved balls in EHF National Team Competitions as of September 2025 starting with the 2026 Women’s EHF Qualifiers to be continued at all subsequent EHF National Team Competitions. **The Executive Committee approved Motion 7.4.4. as written.**

8. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

8.1. International Handball Federation | Council Meeting 09/2024

The minutes of the most recent IHF Council meeting were distributed to the EXEC Members, and it was noted that it did contain many statistical, technical, and referee reports from the summer YAC events and the Olympic Games. The IHF Competition Regulations were amended according to the decisions.

For the benefit of the Executive Committee Members, it was also mentioned that during the Women’s EHF EURO Preliminary Round, Wiederer used the opportunity to have a short and unofficial meeting with the IHF President in Basel. Moreover, President Wiederer has also accepted the IHF invitation to the Final weekend of the Men’s IHF World Championship in January 2025 for a meeting on a continental level.

In closing, it is mentioned that the IHF President will be present at the 17th Extraordinary EHF Congress and address the participants.

8.2. Other Institutions

- EXEC Member Blazquez represented the EHF at the 41st Union Sportive des Polices d’Europe (USPE); from the written report at hand, it was highlighted that the women’s handball competition will take place in Hungary in September 2025 and the men’s competition is scheduled for 2027; though the exact location is to be defined, it is thought that it could take place in Spain.
- EHF President Wiederer attended the Conference, and the 25th anniversary celebration, of the European University Sports Association (EUSA) in November at the University of Vienna, where the EHF was invited to receive an award. He participated in the Round Table (‘Sport has the power to change the world. University sports between mission and reality’). With a broad and interesting representation (all countries), Wiederer stated to the Conference that education of both beach and indoor handball is needed in the universities to ensure a continuity of handball education in schools; thus, going forward, the EHF

Member Federations are to be encouraged to engaged with their local university sport organisations to this end.

9. CONFERENCES | CONGRESSES | EVENTS

With the EHF Honorary Members present in Vienna, a meeting of the Social Fund (with the presence of the Vice President Finances) has been scheduled to take place on 15 December 2024 prior to the official opening of the new EHF House. The programme for the remainder of the Final weekend is the same as previously published.

9.1. 16th EHF Conference of Presidents

The organisational aspects of the conference have been taken care of; at the end of the meeting, it is foreseen to honour a few persons with awards of service including a posthumous awarding of Morten Stig Christensen. The Executive Confirmed to name the 'Grassroots Charter' to be named after him; the Federations will be informed accordingly.

9.2. 17th Extraordinary EHF Congress

With the expected absence of EXEC Members Aksnes and Bobinac, it was noted that La Cour and Colucci would present the respective motions; with that exception recognised, the rest of the task distribution remains unchanged.

9.3. EHF Excellence Awards Gala

Wiederer provided a short preview of the event and highlighted the intensely challenging organisational aspects specifically regarding the availability of the players.

9.4. Inauguration European Handball House

With the Executive Committee being aware of the pertinent details of the gathering, the departure time to the event on Sunday, 15 December was reiterated.

9.5. Preview 2025 Events

Reference was made to the proposal submitted for representation by Executive Committee Members at 2025 events; Wiederer requested that should anyone be unable to accept a nomination to inform the EHF as soon as possible.

9.5.1. Ordinary EHF Congress 09/2025

With the preliminary organisational measures already taken and the respective information distributed to the Executive Committee, it was mentioned again that the registration deadline for EHF electoral candidatures is three months prior to the Congress and therefore, 19 June 2025.

9.5.2. IHF Congress 11/2025

A brief reiteration of the information available was given; the 40th Ordinary IHF Congress is announced to take place between 3 – 9 November 2025 in Sharm El Sheikh.

With no additional topics on the agenda, President Wiederer thanked the Executive Committee for their contribution and closed the meeting.

For the Minutes | M. Brown
19 December 2024