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# MINUTES TO THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE WOMEN

**Date | Time:** Monday, 8 April 2024 | 11:00 – 16:30

**Venue:** Renaissance Hotel Vienna

**NCW Participants:**

Leonor Mallozzi	Vice Chairwoman   POR
Sarka Drozdova	Member   CZE
Pirje Orasson	Member   EST
Paola Fiorillo	Member   ITA

**EHF Participants:**

Attila Heim	Manager NT Competitions
Rima Sypkus	NT Competitions
Alenka Cuderman	Coordinator Women's Handball

**Excused:**

Nodjialem Myaro	Chairwoman   FRA
Cristina Varzaru	Member   ROU

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## 1. Welcome & Formalities

The Vice Chairwoman Mallozzi welcomed the NCW Members to the meeting encouraging them to provide the input to the EHF. She also informed that two members will not be attending the meeting, Myaro due to her business commitments and Varzaru due to the health reasons.

### 1.1. *NCW Meeting 10/2023 – Minutes and Follow-up* |

With no addition comment the minutes were adopted.

### 1.2. *Follow-up to Common Meeting* | Topics to be discussed under the relevant agenda points.

## 2. Women's National Team Competitions

### 2.1. *EHF EURO 2024 AHS (28/11-15/12 2024) | Qualifiers | Preview*

- The NCW discussed the **status of the EURO Qualifiers**. The delivery of the matches and the marketing implementation of the Qualifiers requirements by the Federations have been fulfilled with a few exceptions. The EHF support for the new EURO Qualifiers participants has been provided (additional workshop, marketing supervisor, venue video check, promotional activities, graphics). Various activities were undertaken to promote the highlight matches and to raise awareness for the upcoming EURO with the objective to get more spectators on-side. The results of few teams with a too high goal difference (> 20-30 goals) were discussed. The difference of the playing level of some teams is too big and their results may negatively affect future funding, TV, etc. Smaller nations are playing catch-up,

therefore the expectations of the newcomers must be realistic, and the media support is required, helping smaller nations to come closer step by step and a continuous investment, a high-level motivation and patience are of high importance. Positive examples of the new EURO participants Türkiye and Faroe Island were mentioned. Mallozzi presented the POR example, with long term investment in women's handball focussing on development of players, participation at international YAC events, ensuring TV broadcasting and social media promotion, reaching out to spectators also in cooperation with football and futsal federations (using their TV broadcasting platform, organise the F4 events at the same week/venue).

- With the respect to all known **EURO 2024** participants the draw event will take place in Vienna on 18 April 2024. On the same occasion the event mascot and the promo video will be launched. With 100 days prior to the EURO the content marketing will focus on promotion of the venues and respective venue packages for the spectators. The playing schedule and the nomination of the referee couples (18) were discussed. For all further details please see the minutes of the common meeting, AP 3.1.2.

#### **2.2. EHF EURO 2026 | POL/ROU/CZE/SVK/TUR (3-20/12 2026)**

*Please refer to the minutes of the common meeting AP 3.1.3.*

- Heim presented the proposed **qualification system for the EURO 2026** which will be presented to the EXEC for approval: EURO Cup with 5 organisers and 3 best teams from the EURO 2024 playing in two groups with 4 teams; two phases of Qualifiers, Phase 1 with lower organisational standards played in tournament format for up to two places in the Phase 2, and the Phase 2 with 6 groups of 4 teams, playing for the 16 positions. The registration will follow according to the sporting results with the commitment to follow the competition in all required phases. The registration will start after the EURO 2024 in January 2025 at the latest. NCW supports the proposal.

#### **2.3. EHF EURO 2028 | NOR/DEN/SWE (30/11-17/12 2028)**

*Please refer to the minutes of the common meeting AP 3.1.3.*

#### **2.4. Preview YAC Events 2025**

- With respect to the new product 'YAC EHF EURO' with 24 teams, starting in 2024 for men and in 2025 for women, the complex position of **the event organiser** has been discussed, also due to the logistics (three venues) and financial side of organisation.
- The NCW highlighted the importance of the **EHF support for the organisers and the participating teams**. Following the discussion the NCW supported the newly proposed daily rates for the YAC EURO/Championship of 170€/130€ with the view to get more YAC organisers under the new conditions, including the EHF support for the organisers: EURO – (up to 50.000€), Championship 1 (15.000€) and Championship 2 (10.000€). The participating teams are supported by the EHF: W17/M18 (50% of the daily rate, minimum

10.000€ to maximum 16.380€), W19/M20 (8.000€), which again helps the federations in preparation of their YAC national teams.

- NCW is of the view that whilst planning to develop and raise the profile of the YAC EURO (TV broadcasting, media and marketing, player name on playing kit, etc) the priority during the competition should be given to **further development of players** and officials (referees, delegates, coaches), especially in women's handball.
- The women's teams take longer to develop, it is important to develop young national teams, giving them continuous opportunity to participate at the YAC events (European Open, EURO/Championships, World Championships, IHF Trophy) **with the priority to develop players and to collect international experiences without pressure of winning**. In this respect an option of a levelled out European Open (WU18) competition from 2026 has been mentioned, whilst the top teams will be participating at the U18 World Championship.

### 2.5. *Other Events & IHF Competitions*

- **IHF Women's World Championship 2023 | DEN/NOR/SWE (29/11-17/12/2023)**  
The tournament has been organised with 32 teams, thereof 18 from Europe, with the final ranking of 9 European teams out of the 10 best. In the preliminary round, there were matches with larger goal difference involving the teams of different athletic level, however the final stage was very strong and competitive.
- **Olympic Games 2024 | FRA (25/7-11/8 2024)**  
Twelve teams will compete at the Olympics: FRA as organiser, NOR as 2<sup>nd</sup> at the WCh (after FRA), DEN as 2<sup>nd</sup> at the EURO (after NOR), KOR, BRA and ANG as continent champions, as well as 6 teams via 3 qualification tournaments (11-14 April 2024).
- **World Championship 2025 | GER/NED (27/11-14/12 2025)**
- **IHF WU18 World Championship 2024 | CHN (14-25/8 2024)** – with 17 European teams participating, including KOS directly qualified via the IHF Trophy tournaments
- **IHF WU20 World Championship 2024 | MKD (19-30/6 2024)** – with 15 European teams

## 3. Miscellaneous

3.1. *Emerging Nations Round Table | Follow-Up | Status Master Plan applications: MLT & GEO extended, BEL & GBR signed and ongoing, CYP application received and discussed, waiting for additional information, ALB received, waiting for additional information*

### 3.2. *Women's Handball Conference 2024*

The agenda topics were discussed and a few proposed: sustainable player development, player drop out, gender equality & player safeguarding.

Mallozzi concluded the meeting and thanked the members for participation and on the occasion of the upcoming retirement to Alenka Cuderman for her long-term support and dedication to women's handball.

Vienna, 10 April 2024

For the Minutes: Alenka Cuderman