

ANNUAL REVIEW



2009



European Handball Federation



HANDBALL EURO 2010 AUSTRIA

19. - 31. January



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Tor Lian
EHF President

This annual review aims at supplying you with a closer insight into the activities of the European Handball Federation and at showing you the steps taken as well as the impact they had on the image and development of handball throughout our continent over the past year. The EHF has undergone tremendous change in twelve months. Its visual identity has been upgraded through an improved homepage and new services provided to all handball functionaries and fans and so have our working practices. It is our wish, through this annual review, to supply you with full information concerning the work achieved by the elected personnel and professional staff of the EHF in order to ensure the further progress of handball in Europe.

Building on the sporting success of 2008, the European Handball Federation initiated a number of wide-ranging projects cementing its position within global handball. The European confederation has re-evaluated the needs of the handball community on the continent and undertaken to readjust its focus in specific areas always bearing in mind the requirements of all the actors of European handball.

The past year has not only been one of considerable challenge and change, it has also been a year of great success. Towards the end of 2008, the growing threat of financial instability became a reality for many of our member federations. The EHF made sure it was always present when difficulties had to be overcome and it answered numerous requests for technical assistance and development aid. Dialogue was also a key element in the resolution of financial issues when some federations were confronted by major difficulties. In terms of world handball competitions, the national teams of Europe continued to produce top performances. On a club team level, more spectators than ever before followed the exciting games which are the hallmark of our European and national competitions. The EHF is extremely proud of its club and national teams and their successes.

The conference of Presidents and the tenth extraordinary congress held in Cyprus was a healthy exercise in participative democracy. A rich dialogue took place and the executive committee of the EHF received a clear mandate to continue working on such an important issue as stakeholder involvement while bearing in mind its fundamental nature as a confederation of the national handball federations of Europe. This mandate will be fulfilled making sure that the flow of information and the dialogue with the national federations is on a sufficient level to guarantee a satisfactory outcome for all those involved at the 2010 ordinary congress.

In the time that I have served as President, I have had the opportunity to meet with many members and partners and see firsthand how handball keeps developing on a world level. It is our duty as Europeans to contribute to this development on the basis of our continental experience and fully respecting those who "make" handball in the other parts of the world.

It is my wish that this document should not only capture the work that we have achieved over the year, but that it should also convey the passion and commitment so well illustrated by our staff in Vienna. It must also be underlined that the achievements of European handball in 2009 could not have been reached without the dedication and support of our stakeholders whom I sincerely thank. It is a privilege and honour to serve European and world handball knowing the ambitions of each of you and making sure that the European Handball Federation strives to reach new heights with every undertaking, working with you and working for you.

On behalf of the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH, I welcome you to the 2009 EHF annual review. We are excited to share our progress with you and we look forward to accomplishing further steps in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tor Lian', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



ANNUAL REVIEW

SPORTING EXCELLENCE



2009



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EHF EURO 2010 MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



With approximately one month until the start of the men's EHF EURO 2010, the handball community has turned its full focus to Austria and the ninth edition of this men's top sporting event.

The competition will throw off on the 19th – 31st January 2010 with the Preliminary Round of the tournament taking place in the cities of Graz, Innsbruck, Wiener Neustadt and Linz. When the Preliminary Round comes to an end on the 23.01.10, the teams ranked 1-3 in groups A-D will progress to the Main Round of the competition. At this point, for the teams remaining, the intensity of the EHF EURO 2010 will continue to build as the excitement reaches fever pitch culminating in the semifinal and final matches that are to be held at the Stadthalle in Vienna. With so many great teams participating, just as it was two years ago, the outcome of the EHF EURO 2010 is impossible to predict.

Over the past three and a half years, the preparations that have led up to this event can only be described as intensive. From the moment that the Austrian Handball Federation were awarded the organisation rights for the EHF EURO 2010 in May 2006 at the 8th EHF Congress in Portugal, the Organising Committee has worked tirelessly to bring handball fans across the globe one of the most exciting and competitive sporting events in the EHF competition stable.

The Austrian Handball Federation has faced a tremendous task organising a competition of this magnitude. In cooperation with the European Handball Federation, EHF EURO Partners, the LOC and venue management in 5 Austrian cities, numerous meetings and workshops have been undertaken, in order to affect the best possible conditions for the competition and the athletes coming to Austria in January 2010.

As the host nation, the national team of Austria are excited to be appearing in the final tournament of an EHF EURO for the very first time and eager to put on a fitting performance. Denmark returns as defending champion and will embark upon their challenge to retain the title in Group B, where they will face Austria. Overall, the line-up of many of the participating teams has changed; the men's EHF EURO 2010 will showcase quite a few national teams coming through with a new generation of national team players and this only adds anticipation to a competition, where anything can happen!

With each event, the EHF EURO attracts attention from even more sports fans. In cooperation with the long-standing commercial partner, Infront Sports & Media AG and the host broadcaster ORF, the 9th edition of the championship hopes to exceed the record of the breathtaking global audience figure of 1.2 billion viewers, set at EHF EURO 2008 in Norway.



EHF EURO 2010 MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The Road to the Final Tournament

In April 2008 on the evening of the EHF Gala event in Vienna, 36 teams were drawn into seven qualification groups. The qualification phase was played over 10 rounds beginning October 2008 and ending June 2009. The teams ranked first and second secured their place at the EHF EURO 2010, the 9th edition of the men's championship. The final standings of the Qualification Phase were as follows:



**HANDBALL
EURO·MEN
2010
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Group 1

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Sweden	8	6	2	0	51	14
2. Poland	8	5	1	2	44	11
3. Montenegro	8	4	0	4	-11	8
4. Romania	8	3	1	4	-5	7
5. Turkey	8	0	0	8	-79	0

Group 2

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Russia	10	9	0	1	90	18
2. Serbia	10	7	1	2	79	15
3. Bosnia Herzegovina	10	6	1	3	20	13
4. Switzerland	10	4	1	5	7	9
5. Italy	10	2	1	7	-62	5
6. Faroe Islands	10	0	0	10	-134	0

Group 3

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Iceland	8	5	3	0	52	13
2. Norway	8	5	2	1	40	12
3. FYR Macedonia	8	4	1	3	8	9
4. Estonia	8	2	2	4	-25	6
5. Belgium	8	0	0	8	-75	0

Group 4

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Croatia	8	7	0	1	72	14
2. Hungary	8	6	0	2	62	12
3. Slovakia	8	4	0	4	-1	8
4. Greece	8	3	0	5	-24	6
5. Finland	8	0	0	8	-109	0

Group 5

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Germany	8	8	0	0	109	16
2. Slovenia	8	6	0	2	72	12
3. Belarus	8	4	0	4	20	8
4. Israel	8	2	0	6	-47	4
5. Bulgaria	8	0	0	8	-154	0

Group 6

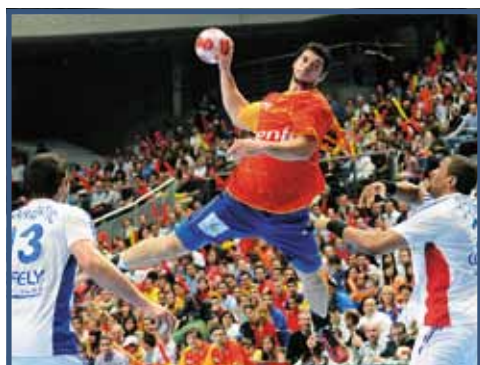
	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. France	8	6	0	2	59	12
2. Czech Republic	8	6	0	2	34	12
3. Portugal	8	5	0	3	5	10
4. Latvia	8	3	0	5	-22	6
5. Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	-76	0

Group 7

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Spain	8	7	0	1	58	14
2. Ukraine	8	5	0	3	13	10
3. Netherlands	8	3	2	3	25	8
4. Lithuania	8	3	2	3	0	8
5. Cyprus	8	0	0	8	-96	0

The line-up of the groups starting in the Preliminary Round of the Final Tournament is as follows:

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
CRO	DEN	GER	FRA
RUS	ISL	SWE	ESP
NOR	AUT	POL	HUN
UKR	SRB	SLO	CZE



EHF EURO 2010 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



With still over one year to go before the start of the women's EHF Euro, the preparations for this top event are experiencing its highest level of activity. For the first time in the history of the EHF Euro, the competition will take place in two countries. This unprecedented decision taken at the EHF Congress in 2006 meant that two supreme handball nations in the women's category are taking the joint responsibility for this spectacular sporting event.

The athletes of Denmark, who hosted the final tournament in 1996 & 2002, and Norway have proven their calibre time and again making European Championship history. In the previous 8 editions of this competition, Denmark has taken the title on three occasions and Norway has lifted the championship plate four times, the only team to put a stop to the DEN/NOR extravaganza was the national team of Hungary who took the title in 2000. Nevertheless, with three consecutive European championship titles, it is the national team of Norway which has set the bar in women's handball.

Taking place from the 9 – 19 December 2010, the 9th edition of the women's European handball championship has set new trends in how the competition is delivered to the sporting fans around the world. The path travelled so far is analogous to the men's qualification; the new qualification system for all upcoming and future EHF Euro events. What began in September 2009 will conclude in May 2010. At the end of the qualification phase, the top two ranked teams from each of the seven groups will make it through to the final tournament. With state-of-the-art the arenas in Lillehammer and Herning, the expectations for the EHF Euro 2010 are very high and Denmark and Norway are eager to welcome the remaining top fourteen national teams to this championship.

As the qualification phase progresses, the fortunes of the teams can be followed by visiting www.ehf-euro.com or www.eurohandball.com. The current position of the all the teams, excluding Denmark and Norway who directly qualified, can be seen on the next page.



EHF EURO 2010 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The Road to the Final Tournament

With a new qualification system firmly in place, the EHF EURO Events have taken on a more competitive air. The women's qualification phase began in September 2009 and will conclude in May 2010. With the sporting side of the competition currently on hiatus, in order to allow the national team players prepare for the forthcoming World Championships in China (IHF Event), the current standings of the teams are reproduced below. The qualification phase for the women's EHF EURO 2010 will resume, with round 3 & 4 in March 2010. The table standings, at the time of going to print, are as follows:



Group 1

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Romania	2	2	0	0	35	4
2. Ukraine	2	2	0	0	18	4
3. Portugal	2	0	0	2	-19	0
4. Switzerland	2	0	0	2	-34	0

Group 2

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Sweden	2	2	0	0	27	4
2. Hungary	2	2	0	0	20	4
3. Czech Republic	2	0	0	2	-11	0
4. Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2	-36	0

Group 3

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. France	2	2	0	0	35	4
2. Austria	2	1	0	1	6	2
3. Iceland	2	1	0	1	-5	2
4. Great Britain	2	0	0	2	-36	0

Group 4

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Germany	2	2	0	0	24	4
2. Belarus	2	1	0	1	0	2
3. Slovenia	2	1	0	1	-1	2
4. Italy	2	0	0	2	-23	0

Group 5

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Serbia	2	2	0	0	29	4
2. Spain	2	2	0	0	22	4
3. Turkey	2	0	0	2	-6	0
4. Greece	2	0	0	2	-23	0

Group 6

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Montenegro	2	1	1	0	10	3
2. Russia	2	1	1	0	7	3
3. Slovakia	2	1	0	1	-3	2
4. Poland	2	0	0	2	-14	0

Group 7

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Croatia	2	2	0	0	27	4
2. FYR Macedonia	2	1	1	0	8	3
3. Netherlands	2	0	1	1	-9	1
4. Lithuania	2	0	0	2	-26	0



2009 EUROPEAN BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 6th edition of the European Beach handball Championship took place on the beaches of Larvik in Norway from the 23 – 28 June 2009. The Norwegian Handball Federation took on the mammoth task of organising this edition of the beach championships in the Nordic port. Twelve men's and eleven women's teams played out their matches on three purpose-built beach courts. The country of Norway has totally embraced beach handball, investing heavily in the sport since the performance of the Norwegian team in Italy; Norway won the bronze medal in 2007.

The desire of the teams to take the championships titles in both the men's and women's categories was compounded by the fact that places at the 2010 Beach Handball World Championship were also up for grabs with four teams in both the men's and women's competitions qualifying for the 2010 World Championships in Turkey.

All teams in both categories displayed spectacular prowess across all three custom built courts, the matching were exciting from start to finish. In their opening matches, the men's team representing Russia were unbeatable and they continued in this form throughout the group phase and in the Main round, making it all the way to the finals only to be stopped in their tracks by Croatia, a formidable opponent. In the women's competition, due to the tremendous amount of skill shown, it was hard to differentiate between the Ukraine, Norway, Italy and Croatia. The athletes played such excellent handball in the opening matches that the desire to see more sport was palpable. In a tense and thrilling final, it was Italy that laid claim to the championship title in a dramatic finale shoot-out, which was watched by 2,400 spectators.

Beach handball fans across Europe and worldwide were able to watch the action live thanks to live streaming of the event via the Norwegian Handball Federation's dedicated beach site at www.beachhandball.no. All matches on centre court were broadcast live via the national station, TV2 and in addition to this the EHF Beach Team kept everyone up to date with the latest news on the www.eurohandball.com homepage, and fans of the social networking site, Twitter, this was the first time that the European Handball federation utilised such technology within the framework of a major competition.

The European Beach Handball Championships continue to be a catalyst for growth and expansion within the National Federations of Europe who continue to take interest in this branch of the handball sport.





“Honour and pride for a team of enthusiastic girls that, after numerous placing in continental and intercontinental events, for the first time realised the dream of gaining a European title! This competition gives a great impetus to the discipline in Italy!”

Francesco Purromuto
President of FIGH

“The triumph of Croatian beach handball team is a product of continuous involvement of Croatian handball federation. Each match, each Championship is a new challenge for us to put on a great performance.”

Siniša Ostoić
Head coach of Croatian team



2009 EUROPEAN BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Men's Results & Final Rankings

All results and details of each match can be found on www.eurohandball.com

1. CRO 2. RUS 3. HUN 4. DEN 5. ESP 6. NOR 7. TUR 8. POL 9. UKR 10. SUI 11. ITA
12. SWE

Quarterfinals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2nd Set	1st Set
Russia v Turkey	2:0	0:0	16:10	24:11
Croatia v Poland	2:0	0:0	24:16	23:10
Norway v Denmark	0:2	0:0	15:20	12:13
Spain v Hungary	0:2	0:0	21:24	20:21

Semifinals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2nd Set	1st Set
Croatia v Denmark	2:0	0:0	22:17	24:12
Russia v Hungary	2:0	0:0	21:12	26:22

Finals (Places 1/2 & 3/4)

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2nd Set	1st Set
Denmark v Hungary	0:2	0:0	10:15	18:23
Croatia v Russia	2:0	0:0	20:18	24:20

Women's Results & Final Rankings

All results and details of each match can be found on www.eurohandball.com

1. ITA 2. NOR 3. CRO 4. UKR 5. ESP 6. HUN 7. DEN 8. SUI 9. POL 10. SWE 11. TUR

Quarterfinals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2nd Set	1st Set
Italy v Spain	2:0	0:0	16:12	18:14
Ukraine v Hungary	2:1	4:3	18:15	15:18
Norway v Switzerland	2:1	7:3	15:16	17:6
Denmark v Croatia	0:2	0:0	11:15	18:19

Semifinals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2nd Set	1st Set
Italy v Croatia	2:1	4:3	11:10	15:16
Ukraine v Norway	0:2	0:0	18:22	14:16

Finals (Places 1/2 & 3/4)

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2nd Set	1st Set
Croatia v Ukraine	2:0	0:0	20:19	22:17
Italy v Norway	2:1	6:4	15:16	17:16



2009 EUROPEAN MASTERS HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 6th edition of the Men and Women's European Masters Handball Championships took place in Kolding, Denmark from the 26th – 28th June 2009. Thirty-seven teams from 12 nations participated in this event, which saw a high standard of handball played across the four age categories. The European Handball Federation and the Administration Department of Danish handball team KIF Kolding worked in close cooperation to bring this weekend tournament to fruition. The European Master Handball Championships continues to be a favourite in the tournament repertoire for former handball players. The 2009 Men's and Women's European Masters Handball Championships were supported with event documentation that included a photographic gallery of the event.



Men +35

1. HIK Copenhagen	DEN
2. Slovan Veterani	SLO
3. BK Ydun	DEN
4. Rødovre HK	DEN
5. Kolding IF	DEN
6. Odense Old Boys	DEN
7. Turbine Gfeuda Wien	AUT
8. Brno	CZE
9. Veterans Handbol Sant Quirze	ESP
10. Masters Handball Puerto Sagunto	ESP
11. Handbol Matadepera	ESP

Women +33

1. Fredriksberg Idreats-Forening	DEN
2. Kolding IF	DEN
3. Angyalok	HUN
4. Avedøre	DEN

Men +45

1. Kolding IF	DEN
2. Zvezda	RUS
3. MHK Martin	SVK
4. Slask	POL
5. Zaporozhye	UKR
6. Italian Master Team	ITA
7. Fredericia KFUM	DEN
8. Trionfale Roma	ITA
9. Budapest Old Boys	HUN
10. Brno	CZE
11. RTU Riga	LAT
13. AB	DEN
14. MAFC Old Boys	HUN
15. Pogon Oldboys Szczecin	POL
16. Saline Boys de Bochezna	POL
17. Handbol Matadepera	ESP

Women +43

1. Lessz Vigasz	HUN
2. Gladsaxe	DEN
3. Fredriksberg Idreats-Forening	DEN
4. ETO XXL	HUN
5. Angyalok	HUN

2009 MEN'S EUROPEAN OPEN

The third edition of the Men's 19 European Open took place from the 30th June – 4th July in Gothenburg, Sweden. The participating teams played a total 88 matches over the course of the 5-day tournament. Under the auspices of development and with the diligent coordination of the Additional Activities department, the YAC national teams of Kuwait and Qatar were invited to play the European Open.

In the final match, the YAC national team of Portugal played in their first medal match in international competition. Though the teams were evenly matched, 15:15 at the end of the first half, it was Slovenia proving that they were the better team on they day by a hair's breadth; winning the match by only one goal.

With the Younger Age Category competitions, the European Handball Federation continues to nurture the champions of tomorrow. The next edition of the European Open will feature the rising stars in the women's category in the summer of 2010.



Final Ranking

1. SLO	2. POR	3. NOR	4. RUS	5. NED	6. SWE	7. ISL	8. UKR
9. BEL	10. AUT	11. SUI	12. HUN	13. ROU	14. BLR	15. FIN	16. ISR
17. POL	18. CZE	19. SVK	20. MDA	21. KUW	22. QAT	23. TUR	

Final Results

Place 1 / 2	POR:SLO	28:29	(15:15)
Place 3 / 4	RUS:NOR	24:26	(13:11)

2009 WOMEN'S 17 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP



The cities of Nis and Vrnjacka Banja in Serbia hosted the 2009 Women's 17 European Championship from the 25 June – 5 July. Sixteen teams qualified for the event and over the course of the tournament fifty-six matches were played out. The national handball federation of Serbia excelled itself, organising this top Younger Age Category event to a very high level. The next EHF event to take place in Serbia will be the men's EHF Euro 2012 – for which the preparations are well under way!

On the final weekend, in front of 1000 spectators in the sports hall "Cair" in Nis, Denmark threw-off against Russia in a very exciting match. Russia was decidedly stronger in the first half of the match and kept Denmark at bay. As is typical in a fast-paced sport, anything can happen. As Denmark caught their second wind in the second half, Russia had visibly run out of steam. The final thirty minutes were very challenging for Russia, proven by their one goal defeat. The third edition of the W17 closed with Denmark taking their second title in this YAC event.

Final Ranking

1. DEN	2. RUS	3. NOR	4. FRA	5. HUN	6. NED	7. SWE	8. ESP
9. GER	10. ROU	11. CRO	12. SRB	13. SVK	14. CZE	15. LTU	16. MKD

Final Results

Place 1 / 2	DEN:RUS	24:23	(10:16)
Place 3 / 4	NOR:FRA	42:28	(20:14)

2009 WOMEN'S 19 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP



On the 23 August, the last event of the Younger Age Category summer came to an end. The 2009 Women's 19 European Championship was played out from the 14 – 23 August across three venues in Hungary.

The Hungarian Handball Federation is no stranger to hosting EHF youth, senior and beach handball competitions. The success of the event is unrivalled in the YAC realm of competitions. The media interest was unparalleled with the TV channel RTL-SportKlub broadcasting to over 3 million people over the 9 competition days. The final match was watched by approximately 379,000 viewers.

With over 2800 fans in attendance, the final match of the competition between Hungary and Norway began in Győr's Mihály Magvassy Sportshall. In a match where both teams put on a superb display of sportsmanship, Norway defeated Hungary 29:27 (15:16), thus winning their first ever continental title in a game that was close from start to finish. Both finalists, the national teams of NOR and HUN, directly qualified for the U20 World Championship (IHF Event) hosted by South Korea in 2010. In the bronze medal match, Russia took third place after easily taking Germany out of the running with 29:24 (14:11). The next edition of the W19 will take place in the Netherlands in 2011.

Final Ranking

1. NOR	2. HUN	3. RUS	4. GER	5. FRA	6. ESP	7. SWE	8. NED
9. MNE	10. SLO	11. SRB	12. POL	13. DEN	14. ROU	15. AUT	16. SVK

Final Results

Place 1 / 2	HUN:NOR	27:29	(16 : 15)
Place 3 / 4	RUS:GER	29:24	(14 : 11)

2008/09 EHF MEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



MAIN ROUND – GROUP 1		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1	GER HSV Hamburg	5	0	1	185:169	16
2	RUS Chehovskie Medvedi	3	0	3	196:190	6
3	ESP Portland San Antonio	3	0	3	174:174	0
4	DEN FCK Handbold A/S	1	0	5	180:202	-22

MAIN ROUND – GROUP 2		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1	GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen	3	2	1	188:164	24
2	CRO HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb	3	2	1	176:158	18
3	FRA Chambéry Savoie HB	4	0	2	177:178	-1
4	SLO Celje Pivovarna Lasko	0	0	6	149:190	-41

MAIN ROUND – GROUP 3		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1	HUN MKB Veszprém KC	4	0	2	170:163	7
2	GER SG Flensburg-Handewitt	3	0	3	170:172	-2
3	ESP Reale Ademar	2	1	3	177:178	-1
4	FRA Montpellier HB	2	1	3	154:158	-4

MAIN ROUND – GROUP 4		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1	GER THW Kiel	5	0	1	210:174	36
2	ESP BM Ciudad Real	5	0	1	195:173	22
3	ESP F.C. Barcelona Borges	2	0	4	181:183	-2
4	DEN GOG Svendborg TGI	0	0	6	156:222	-56

Men's Quarterfinals

CRO HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb 28:28, 27:31 (55:59)	ESP BM Ciudad Real 29:24, 29:32 (58:56)
GER THW Kiel	HUN MKB Veszprém KC
GER SG Flensburg-Handewitt 25:28, 31:29 (56:57)	RUS Chehovskie Medvedi 33:31, 28:36 (61:67)
GER HSV Hamburg	GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen

Men's Semifinals

GER HSV Hamburg 29:30, 31:33 (60:63)	GER THW Kiel 37:23, 30:31 (67:54)
ESP BM Ciudad Real	GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen

Men's Finals

GER THW Kiel 39:34, 27:33 (66:67)
ESP BM Ciudad Real

Men's 08/09 Champion

ESP BM Ciudad Real

2008/09 EHF MEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



The EHF Champions League is the epitome of sporting excellence in the realm of handball. The 2008/09 season saw the further implementation of the new playing system in the men's competition with the addition of quarterfinals where the top two teams from each group qualified for this new knockout phase. The new developments had a knock-on effect in the area of media.

EHF Champions League Show

Television viewers as well as visitors to the *ehfTV.com* website were treated to a new addition to their handball viewing starting in the 2008/09 season, thanks to the introduction of a new EHF Champions League Show. This half hour television show, offered to all TV partners, gives handball fans the chance to catch up on all the action from the round as well as watch exclusive features and interviews with the stars of the EHF Champions League.



"This is a dream come true, it's impossible to put into words what I'm feeling"

Ólafur Stefánsson
BM Ciudad Real

ehfTV.com

Since the launch of *ehfTV.com* in 2008, the CL product has developed and the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH have continued to take advantage of popular media outlets; since the start of the 08/09 season, video clips of the men's and women's Champions League handball is now available to millions of users on www.youtube.com/ehftv.

Winners of the 2008/09 Men's Champions League

BM Ciudad Real won the EHF Men's Champions League title for the third time, defeating THW Kiel in a repeat of the 2007/08 Final.

The defending champions managed to recover from a 34:39 defeat in the first leg in Kiel to take the title. An amazing feat by Ciudad Real when you consider that Kiel were still in the lead 20:16 after 39 minutes of the second leg.



2008/09 EHF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Positive developments also continued in the EHF Women's Champions League with more teams playing with the official "blue lagoon and black" floor. The success of the EHF Women's Champions League Final also underlined the huge interest in the women's game, both final matches were completely sold out and over 200 media representatives were accredited for the crucial second leg in Hungary.

New official adidas ball

The 2008/09 season saw the introduction of a brand new look for the EHF Champions League official ball from long-standing partner, adidas. The new "STABIL CHAMP" with its distinctive blue and yellow colours and EHF logo was used in every men's and women's EHF Champions League match, and forms an important element of the Champions League identity.



*"This was a massive match with an atmosphere I've never experienced before.
This is the greatest moment in my whole career!"*

Anja Althaus
Viborg HK

TV and media coverage

Interest in the EHF Champions League from television viewers and broadcasters worldwide continued to grow throughout the 2008/09 season. EHF Marketing signed a new deal with Dubai Sports, bringing Europe's premier club handball competition to an additional 100 million households in the Middle East. More than 30 TV stations across Europe broadcasted matches from the men's and women's EHF Champions League.

Winners of the 2008/09 Women's Champions League

Viborg HK was crowned EHF Champions League winner in a tense match in Veszprém, Hungary against the home side, Győr. It was the Hungarian team that went into the second match as favourites, having won the first leg 24:26, but in front a huge capacity crowd it was to be the Danes' day. Viborg took the EHF Champions League title for the second time in their history.



2008/09 EHF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



MAIN ROUND – GROUP 1		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1	DEN Viborg HK	5	0	1	196:166	30
2	AUT Hypo Niederösterreich	5	0	1	195:166	29
3	CRO HC Podravka Vegeta	2	0	4	177:186	-9
4	DEN Ikast-Brandø EH	0	0	6	154:204	-50

MAIN ROUND – GROUP 2		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1	HUN Györi AUDI ETO KC	4	1	1	182:173	9
2	ROU C.S. Oltchim Rm. Valcea	3	0	3	179:166	13
3	MNE Budućnost T-Mobile	2	1	3	163:177	-14
4	SLO RK Krim Mercator	2	0	4	196:204	-8

Women's Semifinals

RUS C.S. Oltchim Rm. Valcea
28:34, 21:21 (49:55)

AUT Hypo Niederösterreich
26:25, 21:29 (47:54)

DEN Viborg HK

HUN Györi AUDI ETO KC

Women's Finals

DEN Viborg HK
24:26, 26:23 (50:49)

HUN Györi AUDI ETO KC

Women's 08/09 Champion

DEN Viborg HK



EHF EUROPEAN CUP THE FIGURES

The European Cup remains at the epicentre of handball in Europe. Spanning across four competitions in both the men's and women's categories, the 2008/09 season was a resounding success.

The continuous interest in the European Cup is a source of excitement among the Member Federations who, with dedication, take part in these competitions, exemplified by the EHF Champions League, EHF Cup, Challenge Cup and Cup Winners' Cup, each season.

The European Cup season saw a minor reduction in the key figures in the men's category. A total of 43 Member Federations registered 159 teams across the competitions. A staggering 430 matches were played during the 9 months of contest. Over 843,000 spectators (-2% on last year) watched the action live in the arenas and sports hall across Europe, the previous season boasted approximately 23,000 more handball fans in the halls. The amount of goals scored in the Men's European Cup saw a 5% reduction, seeing only 24,549 goals hit the back of the net.

On the contrary, the women's European Cup season saw small increases in all areas. In 2008/09, 141 teams from 38 Member Federations played 368 matches in front of over 400,000 hardcore fans, who saw their teams' score a sum of 20,245 goals.



Men 2008/2009

EHF Champions League:	40 teams from 30 different nations
EHF Cup:	43 teams from 32 different nations
Challenge Cup:	40 teams from 24 different nations
Cup Winners' Cup:	36 teams from 35 different nations

Women's competitions

EHF Champions League:	32 teams from 23 different nations
EHF Cup:	47 teams from 34 different nations
Challenge Cup:	34 teams from 20 different nations
Cup Winners' Cup:	28 teams from 27 different nations



EHF CUP 2008/09



Men's EHF Cup

The 2008/09 edition of the EHF Cup was one of the most memorable seasons that has ever played out on European soil. The EHF Cup title was deservedly won by VfL Gummersbach. For the 14,400 spectators in the Lanxess Arena in Cologne, this was truly a breathtaking moment as they bore witness to Gummersbach win their first title in 26 years. The medals were handed over by German national coach Heiner Brand who was member of the team that won the last European Cup title for the team in 1983. Teams from Germany have dominated the EHF Cup. On 11 separate occasions, it has been a German team that has lifted the trophy, and the Cup has made its home in Germany since 2004.

Men's Semifinals

SLO	RK Gorenje 27:20, 25:27 (52:47)	GER	VfL Gummersbach 39:25, 28:32 (67:57)
SUI	TSV St. Otmar St. Gallen	ESP	CAI BM. Aragon

Men's Finals

SLO	RK Gorenje 28:29, 22:26 (50:55)
GER	VfL Gummersbach

Men's 08/09 Champion

GER VfL Gummersbach

Women's EHF Cup

The Spanish team S.D. Itxako took the EHF Cup title with an aggregate result of 52:45. The second leg match against HC Leipzig was held at the Leipzig Arena in front of 7100 enthusiastic handball fans. This was a great victory for the team who lost out in the 07/08 final to HC Dinamo (RUS). Itxako, who started the 2008/09 season in the women's Champions League qualification tournament, is the second Spanish women's team to win this competition.

Women's Semifinals

ESP	S.D. Itxako 23:23; 28:27 (51:50)	GER	HC Leipzig 25:15; 20:24 (45:39)
ESP	C.S. Rulmentul-Urban Brasov	RUS	HC Dinamo

Women's Finals

ESP	S.D. Itxako 27:19; 25:26 (52:45)
GER	HC Leipzig

Women's 08/09 Champion

ESP S.D. Itxako



CHALLENGE CUP 2008/09

Men's Challenge Cup

The 2008/09 Challenge Cup saw UCM Sport Resita once again successfully defend their title. Having lost the first leg of the match at home, Resita put on a very strong performance in the second leg. For three consecutive seasons, the Romanian club has defeated all comers to keep the cup against all odds which is an unprecedented success in Romanian handball. Another highlight of the Challenge Cup was the all Romanian final – a first in the history of this competition.



Men's Semifinals

TUR	Besiktas JK 26:26; 21:32 (47:58)
ROU	UCM Sport Resita

ROU	CSU Suceava 35:31; 34:26 (69:57)
SUI	Bern Muri

Men's Finals

ROU	UCM Sport Resita 25:27; 25:20 (50:47)
ROU	CSU Suceava

Men's 08/09 Champion

ROU UCM Sport Resita

Women's Challenge Cup

Handball Cercle Nimes reclaimed their Challenge Cup title after two clear victories against the German club Thüringer HC. The last time the French club won the title was in 2000/01. The return match was played in Erfurt and though Thüringer had home court advantage and the support of a passionate crowd, it was not enough. Handball Cercle Nimes won the match easily by five goals.

Women's Semifinals

GER	Thüringer HC 34:28; 27:32 (61:60)
TUR	Izmir BSB SK

GER	ProVital Blomberg-Lippe 23:22; 24:26 (47:48)
FRA	Handball Cercle Nimes

Women's Finals

FRA	Handball Cercle Nimes 26:22; 30:25 (56:47)
GER	Thüringer HC

Women's 08/09 Champion

FRA Handball Cercle Nimes



CUP WINNERS' CUP 2008/09



Men's Cup Winners' Cup

Pevafersa Valladolid faced HSG Nordhorn in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup in Spain and for the first time, by hoisting the cup also earned their first title in a European Cup competition. Both final matches were thrilling for the fans that packed into the arenas and both teams seemed on a very even footing throughout the matches. A one-goal victory for Pevafersa at home meant the scores were tied and the Cup Winners' Cup final was decided on away goals in favour of the Spaniards.

Men's Semifinals

SUI	Kadetten Handball 28:30, 29:34 (57:64)
GER	HSG Nordhorn

SUI	ZMC Amicitia Zürich 35:31, 27:33 (62:64)
ESP	Pevafersa Valladolid

Men's Finals

GER	HSG Nordhorn 31:30, 23:24 (54:54)
ESP	Pevafersa Valladolid

Men's 08/09 Champion

ESP Pevafersa Valladolid

Women's Cup Winners' Cup

Twice winner of the Cup Winners' Cup, the legendary handball club Larvik reached the final of the competition in the spring of '08. Facing Danish FCK Handbold A/S, top trainer Anja Andersen and well known international players; the Norwegians won the first leg of the final by a slim margin of two goals. The return leg of the match was not played out in favour of the favourites; FCK Handbold A/S put on a skilled sporting performance and was rightly rewarded with the CWC title.

Women's Semifinals

GER	TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen 9:21; 18:22 (27:43)
DEN	FCK Handbold A/S

NOR	Larvik HK 37:23; 37:20 (74:43)
NOR	Gjerpen

Women's Finals

NOR	Larvik HK 23:21; 21:26 (44:47)
DEN	FCK Handbold A/S

Women's 08/09 Champion

DEN FCK Handbold A/S



2009 IHF/EHF MEN'S CHALLENGE TROPHY

After successful dialogue, the Challenge Trophy, beginning with the 2009 edition, is now a joint cooperation between the International Handball Federation and the continental federations. The culmination of the continental tournaments is the IHF Intercontinental Challenge Trophy.

This year, the EHF carried on with the tradition of hosting the competition across two regions as it continues to be of benefit for the organisers and the developing handball nations that take part in the Challenge Trophy. The group matches of the 2009 IHF/EHF Men's Challenge Trophy took place in Moldova and Malta from the 30th October – 1st November.

The Challenge Trophy hosted eight teams and it was the national teams of Finland and Georgia who put on the best sporting performance, winning all three matches. In Group 1, Georgia, winner of the previous edition of the competition, defeated Moldova in front of 1,300 supporters by 38:34 to take the top spot. At the University Hall in Msida, Finland proved to be the strongest team with a 37:20 victory at a thrilling match in front of 1,000 fans.

Georgia and Finland will meet within the framework of the EHF EURO 2010 on January 23 in Linz for the final of the 2009 IHF/EHF Challenge Trophy. The victor in this match will take part in the IHF Intercontinental Challenge Trophy to be played at the end of 2010, where the winning team will meet teams from the other Continental Federations.



2009 IHF/EHF Men's Challenge Trophy – Final Results

Group 1 – Moldova

Team	M	W	D	L	G	GD	P
1. Georgia	3	3	0	0	123:76	47	6
2. Moldova	3	2	0	1	116:81	35	4
3. Azerbaijan	3	1	0	2	84:93	-9	2
4. Armenia	3	0	0	3	50:125	-73	0

Group 2 – Malta

Team	M	W	D	L	G	GD	P
1. Finland	3	3	0	0	113:53	66	6
2. Malta	3	2	0	1	90:78	12	4
3. Ireland	3	1	0	2	74:103	-29	2
4. Scotland	3	0	0	3	64:107	-43	0

Moldova

Best Defence Player Rati Mskhvilidze (Georgia)
 Most Valuable Player Alexandr Pervanciuc (Moldova)

Malta

Best Defence Player Scott Frew (Scotland)
 Most Valuable Player Benny Broman (Finland)



DRAW HIGHLIGHTS

Club competitions, national team events, indoor handball and beach handball... There is a wide compendium of events falling under the auspices of the European Handball Federation authority.

Each year from time to time, all European teams and handball fans turn their attention to draw events as they are eager to find out their opponents in the next rounds of competitions. 2009 was no exception in this respect.

Altogether 10 draw events were organised in European Cup events. On such occasions one to four competitions (EHF Champions League, EHF Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and Challenge Cup) are drawn at a time.

The national team events gave just as much work for the competition organisers. Including qualification and final tournament draws, senior and Younger Age Category events, the playing schedule was defined by draw for another eight competitions.

And let's not forget about the increasingly popular discipline of Beach Handball: the national teams of the 2009 European Championship and the club teams of the 2009 EBT Masters also had their share of watching the bowls and the draw balls impatiently.



CHAMPIONS' DRAW

The most spectacular draw event of 2009 took place in the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna. The Champions' Draw on 24 June 2009 was attended by over 300 invited guests. The occasion was a gala evening organised jointly by the European Handball Federation, EHF Marketing and the Austrian Handball Federation.

Players and coaches, National Federation representatives, club leaders, EHF and EHF Marketing partners, guests of the Austrian Handball Federation and representatives of the political and economic circles of Austria were present at the gala event featuring art entertainment alongside with the three major draw events.

The Champions' Draw included the draws for the EHF EURO 2010 Final Tournament and the Men's and Women's 2010 EHF Champions League Group Phase.

At the same time, the European Handball Federation has recognised outstanding performances on and off the handball courts. The top scorers of the 2008/09 season, Grit Jurack from Viborg HK and Filip Jicha from THW Kiel, received awards for their brilliant season. The EHF has also issued an inaugural award for Outstanding Contribution to European Handball. The award went to Klaus Anders, key business partner of EHF from Infront Sports and Media AG.



2008 EUROPEAN BEACH TOUR MASTERS FINALS

The European Beach Tour Masters Finals is the season showdown to the EBT. This year the setting was the delightful shores of Greece in Meliti-Issos. On the final weekend in May 2009, a total of sixteen teams in the men's and women's category played the final tournament of the 2007/08 Beach Handball season. In front of 1,500 spectators on Saturday and 2,000 spectators on Sunday, the matches came to a spectacular finish as Greece, in the women's category and Croatia, in the men's category, took championship gold.

In the men's final, the young and ambitious Detono Zagreb have beaten a more experienced opponent, Balonmano Playa Barbate by 2:0 and took the trophy for the first time in the team's history. The triumph of the Greek women's club, Avant Garde closed the tournament with a rare Greek success to much of the satisfaction of the home fans.

The long established motto of Fair Play, which is sets Beach Handball apart from other beach sports, was respected by all teams. The men's team of Camelot from the Netherlands and the women's team of Detono Zagreb from Croatia were the most remarkable in this aspect and were decorated the Fair Play award at the end of the tournament.

The top three Beach Handball club teams in Europe, based on their performance in Greece are named below. The next edition of the EBT Masters Finals will take place in May 2010.

Final ranking - 2008 EBT Masters Finals in Meliti-Issos

Men		Women	
1	Detono Zagreb CRO	1	Avant Garde GRE
2	Balomano Playa Barbate ESP	2	Detono Zagreb CRO
3	MEGA SPORT/OMCJ POR	3	OVB Beach Girls HUN

2009 EUROPEAN BEACH TOUR

The handball summer belongs to beach handball and specifically the European Beach Tour. The EBT, as it is known, is the equivalent to the indoor European Cup Season. The competition, always played in the spirit of Fair Play, saw 234 teams compete in 59 tournaments organised in 11 countries across the beaches of Europe for their chance to play in the EBT Masters Finals.

The EBT began as a pilot project successfully executed in 2003 and since then the tournament has become a cornerstone of the EHF Beach Handball repertoire. The season that ran from 1 October 2008 – 30 September 2009 saw 165 men's and 69 women's teams from 17 Member Federations taking part making this the largest and most successful EBT to date. With the competition growing from strength to strength, we are already looking forward to what summer 2010 will bring!



IHF COMPETITIONS

XXI Men's World Championship in Croatia

Croatia was the setting for the 21st edition of the Men's World Handball Championship played out from the 18th January to the 1st February 2009. The title was won in spectacular fashion by the national of France; who from the very first round of the competition faced down the strongest national teams in the world to lift the championship trophy, presented to Captain Jerome Fernandez by IHF president Dr. Hassan Moustafa. Though it would have been a dream come true for the national team of Croatia to win the WC title again on home soil (the team won the title in 2003 in Portugal), the team were proud of their high class performance and the Silver medal that honoured it. Organised by the International Handball Federation, the competition proved once again that Europe was at the top of the game as the continent once again dominated the top ten places in the final ranking.

The overall ranking from the championship is listed below with the European teams in **BOLD** print:

1. FRA	2. CRO	3. POL	4. DEN	5. GER	6. HUN	7. SWE	8. SRB
9. NOR	10. SVK	11. MKD	12. KOR	13. ESP	14. EGY	15. ROU	16. RUS
17. TUN	18. ARG	19. ALG	20. CUB	21. BRA	22. KUW	23. KSA	24. AUS

XIX Women's World Championship in China

The XIX Women's Handball World Championship will be held in China from the 5th – 20th December, 2009. The province of Jiangsu in eastern China, near Shanghai, will host 24 national teams across 6 venues in the cities of Nanjing, Changzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi, Yangzhou, Zhangjiagang. Sixty matches will be played in the Preliminary Round spread across 4 venues and ten European teams will be starting on the 5th December. The national team of Russia is back defending its title in group B of the Preliminary Round in Zhangjiagang. Spain will start in group D, being played in Changzhou, as the only European team in the group. In group C of the preliminaries, 2007 runner-up, Norway and fellow European group mates, Hungary and Romania; will take on the likes of Japan, Chile and Tunisia in the city of Suzhou. France throws off against Brazil in the first match of group A in the town of Wuxi.

The teams ranked 1-3 at the end of the first competition week will meet in the Main Round that will be carried out in the Yangzhou and Suzhou venues. The final and semifinal matches will start on 18.12.2009 and conclude on Sunday 20th December 2009 in the city of Nanjing. The 19th edition of the Women's World Championship will still be in progress as the 2009 EHF Annual Review goes to print. The results of the competition will be available on www.eurohandball.com as soon as the competition reaches its conclusion.

The 2009 Women's World Championship European contenders are listed in their groups below:

<i>GROUP A</i>	GER, FRA, SWE, DEN, CGO, BRA
<i>GROUP B</i>	RUS, ANG, AUT, UKR, THA, AUS
<i>GROUP C</i>	NOR, ROU, HUN, JPN, TUN, CHI
<i>GROUP D</i>	ESP, KOR, CHN, CIV, ARG, KAZ



IHF COMPETITIONS

III Men's Youth World Championship in Tunisia

In sports arenas in Tunis, Nabeul and Hammamet, the 3rd edition of the Men's Youth World Championship (U19) took place in Tunisia. Once again, the teams representing Europe performed strongly and all ranked within the top ten. From 20 – 31 July 2009 across the three venues, 64 matches were played. It was Croatia who showed enough sporting prowess to come out on top and win the gold medal. From the outside looking in, it did not seem like Croatia had to work too hard to win. Dominating the matches from the very early stages, Croatia thrashed Iceland in the final by 40:35. Courageous Iceland, at no point in the match gave up trying to close the gap and fought to the final whistle.

The hosts, Tunisia lost out to Sweden in the bronze medal match and Germany lost out in their efforts to retain their title and could only manage 7th place. The final ranking with the European participants in **BOLD** print can be seen in below:

1. CRO	2. ISL	3. SWE	4. TUN	5. DEN	6. ESP	7. GER	8. NOR
9. FRA	10. IRI	11. ARG	12. EGY	13. QAT	14. ALG	15. BRA	16. LBA
17. PUR	18. VEN	19. KUW	20. MAR				

XVII Men's Junior World Championship in Egypt

It was time once again for the younger male athletes to step into the sporting spotlight. The 17th Men's Junior World Championship (U21) took place across three venues from the 6th – 19th August 2009. Twenty-four intercontinental teams participated in this competition and the fourteen European teams performed well, all ranking within the top twenty. Over the course of 13 days, 98 matches were played. Sweden launched a bid to retain their title, but unfortunately had to settle for 5th place. Another surprise at this tournament was the absence of Russia, the most successful nation in this age category having won the competition on seven occasions, who failed to qualify.

When it came down to the wire, it was Germany who walked away, for the very first time in this category, with the championship title. From the outset, Germany showed that they were the stronger side, putting out a very strong defence from the very beginning. In a match full of thrills, Denmark did not manage to come any closer than two goals behind. The final ranking is listed below with the European participants in **BOLD** print:

1. GER	2. DEN	3. SLO	4. EGY	5. SWE	6. ARG	7. POR	8. ESP
9. BRA	10. CZE	11. FRA	12. EST	13. ISL	14. NED	15. BLR	16. NOR
17. IRI	18. GRL	19. QAT	20. ALG	21. TUN	22. MAR	23. KUW	24. LBA



ANNUAL REVIEW 2009 ROUND TABLE



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9th EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS



Limassol, Cyprus was the location for the 9th Conference of Presidents and the 10th Extraordinary Congress, as over 100 representatives from 47 EHF Member Federations and the Associated Federation of Kosovo convened 23rd-25th October to partake in both events.

International guests were also welcomed by high ranking representatives from Cypriot authorities: Ouranios Ionnidis, President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, Costas Papacostas, General Director of the Cyprus Sport Organisation and Titos Christofides, Under Secretary of the President of Government.

The IHF was represented by President Dr. Hassan Moustafa and Vice President Miguel Roca at the conference. Underlining the importance of the event as an opportunity to bring the handball nations together, Dr. Moustafa touched upon in his speech that *“Europe plays a leading role in the game worldwide”*, as well as reporting on current IHF matters.

The morning session opened with words of welcome from President Tor Lian. The conference was then addressed by the President of the Cyprus Handball Federation, Charalambos Lottas. General Lottas has served the sport of handball since 1993; recognising his active participation in sports in general and in European handball in particular, he was presented with the EHF Special Award.

EHF Marketing GmbH

The marketing arm of the European Handball Federation held a meeting of the EHF Advisory Board, where information on the most important daily matters, including TV and marketing contracts, business plans and highlighting the Men’s Champions League season climax - FINAL4, was given. The 6th EHF Advisory Board General Assembly convened on 23rd October, Managing Director Peter Vargo reported to the board on the 2008/09 Business Year and the 2009/10 budget was ratified.

EXEC Meeting

As it has become a tradition over the years, the EHF Conference of Presidents and the Extraordinary Congress is preceded by an Executive Committee Meeting. The members of the EXEC met on Friday 23rd October, and made the final preparations before the start of the conference.

9th Conference of Presidents

The first major event on Saturday, 24 October 2009, was the Conference of Presidents. Serving as a discussion forum for the exchange of information and opinions on highest sport-political level prior to the 10th Extraordinary Congress, the items on the agenda included a report from the President; a summary on the EHF Integrity Programme presented by Erling Grimstad of g-Partner; and an analysis of the new EHF EURO Qualification format. A focus area was the exchange of information and the subsequent discussion pertaining to *“European Handball and its stakeholders”*.

Qualification draws & Development programmes

Within the framework of the 9th Conference of Presidents, the qualification draws for three younger age category competitions (2010 M18 – MNE; 2010 M20 – SVK; and WU21 WCh – KOR) were carried out by the Chairman of the Competitions Commission Jan Tuik. As detailed on page 50, a number of federations joined important development initiatives (Rinck Convention, SMART Programme and Foster Project) marked by the formal act of signing.

Conclusion

The representatives of the member federations in attendance voiced their opinions on a number of current handball affairs; the discussions on certain topics continued at the afternoon session that was the 10th Extraordinary Congress.



10th EHF EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

Extraordinary Congress

The Congress of the European Handball Federation is the highest body within the federation. Seven motions were tabled by the EHF Executive Committee. The Congress served as a discussion and decision making platform for the motions proposing changes to the EHF Statutes and regulations.

With the intention of shaping the future of European handball, President Tor Lian chaired the afternoon session with the assistance of Vice President Jean Brihault. Below is an overview of the outcome of the 10th Extraordinary Congress



Motion 1: Removal of the restrictions regarding the civil procedure

In order to achieve conformity with common law, the congress moved that all provisions excluding or restricting recourse to civil proceedings be removed from the EHF Statutes; this motion was approved by Congress.

Motion 2: Implementation of Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act

The EHF Executive Committee moved that corruption, bribery, manipulation as well as other kinds of undue influence be expressly named in the EHF Statutes as constituting a violation of the EHF's fundamental principles. This was supported by Congress.

Motion 3: Implementation of Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act

To implement the amendment to the EHF Statutes proposed in Motion 2, the EHF Executive Committee moved to adopt and implement detailed provisions relating to corruption, bribery, manipulation and other types of undue influence in the EHF Arbitration Regulations and in the list of penalties of the Arbitration Regulations. This was ratified by Congress after input and adaptation.

Motion 4: "Acts of Grace"

After listening to the inputs of representatives of the Member Federation, the EHF ExeC withdrew Motion no. 4, a proposal to give the tool called "Act of Grace" for the Executive Committee.

Motion 5: Professional Handball Board

The Congress, voting with simple majority for Motion no. 5, and by that did not decide in favour of setting up the Professional Handball Board in its proposed form. The passing of the proposal would have needed a two-thirds support. At the same time, the Congress participants underlined their interest in the Executive Committee continuing its work on the project of implementing a platform for the different stakeholders in European handball.

Motion 6: Change of Allocation Mode for the EHF EUROs in the future

The EHF Executive Committee moved to change the awarding procedure for future EHF Euro events and to entrust the awarding of such events, in accordance with defined conditions, to the EHF Executive Committee. The vote did not achieve the two-third majority needed for Congress to ratify the motion 6.

Motion 7: Adaption of the qualification system for the Men's and Women's EHF EUROs after 2010

The congress approved motion 7, after the Executive Committee moved to divide the qualifications for the Men's and the Women's European Championships into two phases, with the first phase played in tournament format and the second phase will be played as home and away matches.

Conclusion

The next EHF Congress will be hosted by the Danish Handball Federation in Copenhagen in September 2010.



MEETINGS

In 2009, a myriad of meetings took place, it would be a mammoth task to summarise them all. Therefore, over the next four pages you will find an abstract from selected meetings.

April 2009 – Meeting with the International Handball Federation

The European Handball Federation places great emphasis on the good cooperation that it shares with the International Handball Federation. On April 1, an EHF delegation was invited to Basle to discuss various topics of high importance to the sport of handball on a European level respectively on an international level.

Presidents, Dr. Hassan Moustafa and Tor Lian, shared concerns regarding the allegations of manipulation, especially the allegations aimed at the international referees. Both Federations agreed with measures aimed at damage limitation.

In the area of competitions, in addition to the global competition schedule and the harmonisation of the international calendar which was extremely productive; the Challenge Trophy was also discussed and it was agreed upon that the International Handball Federation would take stronger role, thus transforming the competition with the winners of the continental tournaments participating in the IHF Intercontinental Challenge Trophy; in which the first edition will take place in 2010.

Cooperation Visits

March 2009 - Federata e Hendbollit e Kosoves

The President of the European Handball Federation, Tor Lian, and Secretary General Michael Wiederer visited the Associated Federation of Kosovo in March. After detailed organisation, the EHF delegation used the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the Kosovo Handball Federation, public authorities, and discussed a number of important matters such as the ongoing complex subject of the status of Kosovo in European handball.

Clubs regulated by the Kosovo Handball Federation have been participating European club competitions since the 2005/06 season and are keenly involved in the development programmes. The European handball community looks forward to the further development of Kosovo handball.

April 2009 - Rukometni Savez Srbije

At the signing of the Women's 17 European Championship, the EHF delegation led by President Lian and Secretary General Wiederer, met with the President of the Serbian Handball Federation, Velimir Marjanovic, and Secretary General Bozidar Djurkovic to fortify the partnership between the EHF and the Rukometni Savez Srbije and discuss a number of common activities.

The Men's EHF EURO 2012 was the focal point of the agenda. On meeting the EHF delegation, the Serbian Minister for Youth and Sports, Mrs. Snezana Samardzic Markovic, spoke about the construction of a new sports hall in Nis for the EHF EURO 2012. On this occasion, the EHF representatives were also welcomed by the Mayor of Belgrade, Mr. Dragan Djilas as well as by the President of the National Olympic Committee of Serbia, former top basketball player, Mr. Vlade Divac.



MEETINGS

March 2009 - Meeting with DERBYSTAR in Vienna

In the area of beach handball, the EHF has a new official supplier of beach handballs. Jürgen Kurz from DERBYSTAR met with Secretary General Wiederer and Peter Fröschl from the Beach Handball Business Unit and expanded upon the benefits of the new partnership. DERBYSTAR, a subsidiary of SELECT, signed an agreement of cooperation starting with the EBT Masters in Meliti-Issos in Greece and the 2009 Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championships in Norway. The new beach handballs will be branded with the corporate identity of respective beach handball competitions.

June 2009 – Meeting of the Team Sport Federations in Vienna

As a follow-up to the TSF meeting in Zurich organised by the International Ice Hockey Federation in Zurich in April, the representatives of the European Team Sports Federations UEFA, IIHF, FIBA Europe and CEV met at the EHF headquarters to discuss the legal issues put forward by some European handball clubs had submitted to the European Commission – DG Competition in Brussels.

Various topics, such as the conditions of release of players to national teams, the representation of top clubs in the European Team Sports Federations and centralisation of the competitions marketing rights were considered in the light of the applicable European law and regulations of each of the represented federations. All federations recalled the importance of the recognition of the specificity of sport at the European level, in particular in the European regulations and committed to promote it whenever possible.

September 2009 - EHF EURO 2010: TV Host Broadcaster Tour

ORF, the host broadcaster of EHF EURO 2010, alongside Infront Sports & Media, Telekom Austria, the Austrian Organising Committee and the local organisers held in-depth discussions with the unilateral TV broadcasters of EHF EURO 2010 and explained technical details for the upcoming EHF EURO.

The national TV channels were shown the TV areas at the venues, camera, commentator, studio and TV compound positions and other technical specifications in a organisational step before the start of EURO. The visiting national channels, TV2 Denmark, ARD/ZDF Germany, TV4 Sweden, TV2 Norway and HRT Croatia, attended four venues (Vienna, Graz, Linz and Innsbruck) and viewed the facilities and informed upon individual requirements.

October 2009 - EHF EURO 2010: Head of Delegations Conference

The heads of the EHF EURO 2010 teams visited Vienna for the Heads of Delegations Conference. This was viewed as an initial technical meeting that has become a traditional preparatory event for all parties involved. The Heads of Delegations Conference is a platform provided by the EHF Euro Events team for the organisers to address the teams, also giving the team leaders the opportunity to check the conditions awaiting their teams upon their arrival at the European Championship.

The EHF and the Austrian Central Organising Committee provided the national team representatives with all necessary details such as information on tournament and competition regulations, logistic questions and infrastructure, ceremonies, accreditation, training schedule, ticketing, team guiding, etc. All delegation leaders were also given the chance to view their respective Preliminary Round venues (Linz, Graz, Innsbruck and Wr. Neustadt).



MEETINGS

March 2009 – Men’s Champions League Round Table

Prior to the quarterfinal draw held at the EHF Office in March, the EHF Marketing GmbH held a Round Table meeting for thirty-seven representatives from the Men’s Champions League clubs. The meeting opened with a status update of the 2008/09 season followed by a detailed look at the 2009/10 season. The participants had the opportunity to voice the opinions about the Champions League in a round of discussions. The marketing team also officially unveiled the FINAL4 project.

August / September 2009 – EHF Men’s & Women’s Club Committees (MCC & WCC)

The Men’s and Women’s Club Committees led by their respective Chairmen met in 2009 at various meetings to discuss issues that focused on the technical side of men’s and women’s club competitions. The meetings began, as always, with a common meeting joining the MCC and the WCC with participation from the NTC, where the motions of the 10th Extraordinary Congress were up for discussion. Topics on the 2009 agenda covered questions arising from the Champions League and the European Cup, Regulations and the format and number of competitions in European Cup.

August 2009 – EHF National Team Committee (NTC)

Prior to the meeting of the Competitions Commission, the third meeting of the National Team Committee convened in Vienna and was chaired by Morten Stig Christensen. The items on the agenda encompassed Younger Age Category competitions as conflicts in the scheduling had arisen; however, the corresponding amendments to the sporting calendar were made. The members of the National Team Committee deliberated over numerous suggestions with regards, to the EHF EURO; ideas that will be treated further by the NTC in 2010.



MEETINGS

September 2009 – Meeting with Group Club Handball in Langenlois

The European Handball Federation places great emphasis on building and nurturing relationship with handball stakeholders, bearing in mind at all times that all the work is undertaken with the common goal of promoting and developing the sport on all levels. The EHF continues to work in close cooperation with numerous groups. One such stakeholder is Group Club Handball, led by President Joan Marin. In 2009, an EHF delegation led by Vice President Jean Brihault, met with the leadership of Group Club Handball. Of the several items on the agenda, the parties discussed organisational matters relating to the Professional Handball Board, sporting calendar issues, compensation and insurance amongst other topics. Cooperation with GCH and all EHF stakeholders will resume in 2010.

September 2009 – Men's Champions League Club Workshop in Cologne

Prior to the start of the 2009/10 Men's EHF Champions League season, the participating team representatives and members of EHF Marketing GmbH met at the Maritim Hotel in Cologne, setting for the FINAL4, to have the final meeting before the first matches of the season played out.

The workshop cemented the details of the season for the team leaders present. A press conference for the season finale - FINAL4 - was given.

November 2009 – Opening of the FIBA Europe new Offices in Munich

President Tor Lian and Secretary General Wiederer were invited to partake in the celebrations of the FIBA Europe as the officially opened their new office in the Bogenhausen district of Munich. Official representatives of FIBA, UEFA, and CEV among other were on hand to for the event. The members of the Team Sport Federations also used the opportunity to hold informal talks prior to the signing of the MESGO Convention.

November 2009 – Meeting at the UEFA HQ in Nyon

The signing of the MESGO Convention (more details on page 47), was carried-out at the UEFA HQ in Nyon. Secretary General Wiederer, representing the European Handball Federation had the honour of being present at the threshold of this new agreement of cooperation. Once again, the members of the TSF on hand were available for an informal meeting.

November 2009 – 5th Women's Mediterranean Championship

EHF Treasurer Ralf Dejaco represented the European Handball Federation at the 5th Women's Mediterranean Championship. The competition, organised by the Mediterranean Handball Confederation, was held in the region of Lignano Sabbiadoro – an area of Italy steeped in handball tradition.



WORKSHOPS

The coordination of the European Championships for men and women, branded under the distinctive EHF EURO banner, is project of immense proportion. The moment a European Championship is awarded to a member federation the organisational wheels begin to turn. From the planning phase of an EHF EURO to the opening ceremony, a minimum of three years has been invested by the EHF and the Local Organising Committee. Part of the working process entails carrying out workshops.

During the organisational period, the European Handball Federation and the LOC work in close cooperation to ensure that the final tournament of the EHF EURO is presented and implemented to the highest standard.

EHF EURO 2010 in Austria

Five workshops and several preparatory meetings were conducted in 2009 between the EHF and the Austrian central organising committee in Vienna and the local organising committees in the venues of Graz, Linz, Wiener Neustadt and Innsbruck. The meetings carried out at the EHF Office dealt with numerous intricate issues relating to questions of infrastructure, personnel, accreditation and ticketing. In addition to the organisational measures discussed, the peripheral and promotional activities were refined.

EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark / Norway

There is still over one year to go before the first match throws off at the 9th edition of the women's European Championship co-hosted by the national federations of Denmark and Norway. In 2009, very important workshops took place in Vienna and Copenhagen and were organised to clarify and finalise details relating to the venues and infrastructure in addition to other key topics. It has been an intensive year of preparation, cooperation and specification of event related details. An EHF delegation undertook site visits from 5 to 7 August in the cities of Aalborg and Herning in Denmark and Larvik and Lillehammer in Norway, nevertheless, in 2010, the preparations will intensify culminating in what is expected to be, the best women's final tournament to date!

2010/2011 European Championship Organisers' Workshop

Workshops are not limited to EHF EURO events, the organisation of the European Championships in Younger Age Category competitions require the same level of organisation. In March, the EHF held a two-day workshop for the organisers of the upcoming YAC European Championships. Representatives from Slovakia (M20 in 2010), Montenegro (M18 in 2010), Bulgaria (W17 in 2011) and the Netherlands (W19 in 2011) participated in a general meeting covering the basic points of organisation regarding infrastructure and the scheduling of the YAC Euro event. The EHF also held meetings with the individual organisers where the needs and specific requirements were discussed.



EHF PARTNERS

This year has proved to be a landmark year for the EHF and its relationship with its three long-standing partners. The ever-growing presence of handball on the international sports market has paved the way for stronger, more mutually beneficial agreements between the European Handball Federation and adidas, Infront and Gerflor. The presentation of the game to such a high standard would not have been possible with the close cooperation of the EHF partners, whose specialist areas, when drawn together, portray the complete picture of handball.

adidas

EHF Partner since 1992

In handball circles, adidas is renowned for supplying EHF competitions with the official match ball of the season. At the EHF EURO 2010 in Austria, adidas has designed the official competition ball to correspond with the national colours of the host nation, as seen in FYR Macedonia in 2008. A sports supplier of the highest calibre, adidas has supplied the men's and women's Champions League since the 04/05 season. Throughout 2010 and beyond, adidas will continue to provide sports clothing and equipment for EHF events and officials; this area of cooperation also includes providing equipment to the EHF EURO Volunteers.



Infront Sports & Media AG

EHF Partner since 1993

In 2009, Infront played a prominent role at the EHF EURO 2010 workshops and the TV Inspection Tour of the championship venues in Austria, Denmark and Norway. As the exclusive commercial partner of the EHF EURO, Infront Sports & Media market the television and media rights in addition to sponsorship packages including the commercial rights for the rotating board advertising. For years and during the numerous editions of the EHF EURO, Infront Sports and Media has continued to contribute to the development of the EURO brand by providing services such as TV graphics and statistics, in addition to Website programming and development.



Gerflor

EHF Partner since 2004

Since 2004, the trademark "blue and yellow" no line flooring system has become synonymous with the EHF EURO. In keeping with the development of EHF EURO events, it is intended that over the course of time, the use of the unique floor will be extended to the EHF EURO qualification process. Gerflor is one of the most prominent sports flooring supplier; who in 2006 added to the corporate identity of the EHF Champions League providing the exclusive blue lagoon and black flooring system for selected matches in the group phase and in all venues as of the last sixteen to the final matches.



EHF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION



Siân Rowland
1975 – 2008

Dear Reader,

The EHF would like to take a moment to remember and pay tribute to Siân Rowland who died on the 19th December 2008, at the age of 33. Siân was not only a well respected member of staff at the EHF Office; she was the driving force behind the EHF Communication Strategy, but above all, she was a dear friend.

With a dynamic personality and an infectious smile, Siân joined the EHF in 1999 and began making her mark in the area of communication looking after sport-political correspondence and taking responsibility for the EHF news, we are sure that a few of you can remember a time when it was sent by fax. In the nine years that Siân was at the EHF, her professionalism kept her moving with the times and implementing innovative and efficient techniques; highly skilled, she shaped the area of Corporate Communication.

One of the biggest undertakings in her handball career was overseeing the area of media at EHF EURO events. From liaising with partners and host broadcasters to accrediting and monitoring hundreds of journalists, this was just another area that highlighted the expertise she possessed.

At the time of her death, Siân Rowland was successfully leading a team of three in her role as manager of the Corporate Communication Business Unit. The EHF will never forget what Siân did for communication within the federation; simply she is missed.

The sport of handball, especially within the European continental borders, has grown extensively over the past years. Fast development can not only be measured by TV audience figures, it is also mirrored by a soaring media interest in the everyday life of European handball.

The European Handball Federation has long been practicing a proactive and open communication on all matters – whether we think about club or national team competitions, sport political or legal matters. The EHF strives to fulfil the mission to deliver information as concisely, as accurately, as quickly and as cost effectively as humanly possible to all members of the European handball community.

At the same time, handball business no longer revolves just around results and figures. The news, the stories, the personalities and the stars play a huge role in today's sports journalism. To deliver this part of the game to the satisfaction of all, a variety of channels are utilised.

The web, for example, has been identified as being a key communication tool for European handball, a platform to present the sport at its best, serving all parties in our sport. The EHF invests a great amount of resources in its web platform. Accordingly, a number of websites are running parallel to each other under the eurohandball.com umbrella to cover the various areas of EHF activities. Also, the EHF, together with its daughter company EHF Marketing, is determined to use all modern and popular tools such as well-known video sharing websites or social networking pages to promote the game.

Using state-of-the-art technologies does not mean the end of traditional communication channels. The "good old" E-NEWS service delivers the latest news and information to the mailbox of the handball community and media. The messages sent by mail include a number of newsletters designed according to the look and feel of the different competitions. The subscribers of the service receive weekly updates throughout the year. At the same time, news is also broken in the form of official statements and press releases, and in addition to the on-line communication, a number of print publications are just as much part of the daily business.

However, people sometimes need the human voice behind communication structures. A direct and open dialogue with the journalists also belongs to media services. Though this year was challenging in this respect, EHF proved to be ready to give the answers for the individual media enquiries. Electronic and print media representatives, who play a leading role in handball promotion, were welcome to take part at a number of press conferences in 2009.

EHF PUBLICATIONS

As the sport of handball continues to grow on a European scale, the EHF continues to utilise all mediums to bring information to the sporting public. In 2009, the EHF printed the well know Blue Book for the final time. The printing of the Green Books were discontinued, as the EHF moves over to other mediums. Nevertheless, in 2009, the amount of publications increased slightly. An overview of the 2009 publications has been reproduced below.

Publications 2009 – Other mediums

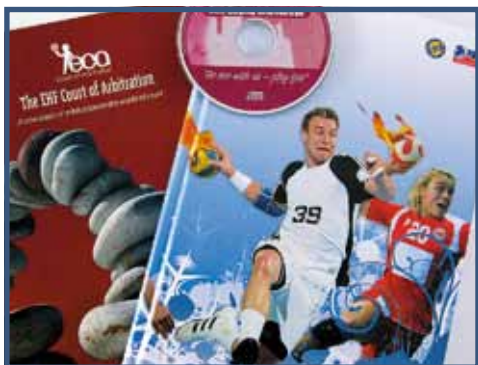
5th EHF Referee Candidates Course / GRE
6th EHF Referee Candidates' Course / SLO
10th EHF Congress
2008 EHF Top Coaches' Seminar (Dec.08) / MKD
2008/09 EC RESULTS & 2009/10 European Cup Club Package
2009 EHF Youth Coaches' Course / HUN
2009 EHF Top Referee Seminar / AUT
2009 EHF "Rinck" Convention Seminar for Non-Signatory Nations
2009 European Handball Championships Analyses (W17 / W19)
2009 European Masters Championships for Men & Women
2009 European Masters HB Championships for M/W – Masters Box Set
2009 Web Periodical
2009/10 EHF Course for Delegates / HUN
ECA – The EHF Court of Arbitration
EHF Anti-Doping information pamphlet incl. Mini CD
EHF Lecturers' Manual (2nd Edition)
EHF EURO 2010 – AUT Promotional Trailer
EHF Lecturers' Seminar / AUT
EHF Course No 6 EHF Beach Handball Referees' Course
EHF Course No 5 Beach Handball Delegates' Course
EHF Course No 3 Beach Handball Coaches' Course
Handball 4 all
Handball the game

Corporate / Event Identity Products

Various event banners, flags, pennants, etc.
European Cup Roll-Ups
EHF EURO 2010 Pocket sized match schedule card
EHF Champions League 2009/2010 season
EHF Men's Champions League Regulations
EHF Women's Champions League Regulations
EHF Men's Champions League Corporate Identity Manual, Host Broadcaster Manual & Floor manual
EHF Champions League Promo trailer, TV Master, On-Screen Graphics & Intro and Outro trailer
EHF Champions League Final 4 Elements

Event Publications

EHF EURO 2010 Championship Guide - AUT
Women's 17 European Handball Championship Guide - SRB
Women's 19 European Handball Championship Guide - HUN
Men's 20 European Open Championship Guide - SWE
2009 Men's and Women's European Beach Handball Championships Guide – NOR
2009 IHF/EHF Men's Challenge Trophy – MDA/MLT



EHF WEBSITES

EHF Events on the net

eurohandball.com has become a household name for web users looking for handball news, results and stories. The page is essentially a gateway to all the websites of the EHF covering the various areas of activities such as club and national team competitions, technical areas or sport political information. Also, there are several new and popular trends on the internet that the EHF makes use of in order to promote handball on an ever wider basis.

eurohandball.com

The EHF portal received a fresh look in 2008. Today *eurohandball.com* is a point of reference providing a mixture of official information, results, facts and quick access to stories and news. Handball fans gave a positive feedback and have been reading Champions League stories, EHF EURO event news or EHF information in ever growing numbers.

ehf-euro.com

The handball fans looking for detailed information on the EHF EURO Events are familiar with the *ehf-euro.com* domain already. This page is a common denominator for all EHF EURO Event websites also providing a quick look back at the EURO history. EURO qualification games and Final Tournaments are all covered by *ehf-euro.com*. Currently the fans can visit the websites of the next two EHF EURO Events, coming up in Austria and in Denmark/Norway. You can also purchase tickets online for the EURO that will be covered from the venue by live streams, live tickers, photo galleries and statistics as well as with the stories of a network of specialised journalists.

ehfCL.com

Handball fans know it by now: the EHF Champions League website offers up-to-date information on the men's and women's CL games. An expert network of journalists contributes to the page, which has earned its reputation as one of the most reliable international handball websites in English. However, stories and articles are not everything you can find on *ehfCL.com*: you can access the statistical database of the Champions League and find out individual player records. The page also features videos and photos for you bringing the Champions League alive.

www.ehfTV.com

The free-of-charge internet streaming platform of the EHF shows a number of games each week from the men's and women's EHF Champions League. National Team games and selected European Cup top matches were also on the programme in 2009 reaching out to a wide handball community. Taking the pictures of European competitions in the homes of people all around the world proved to be a giant step for handball promotion.

In addition to the games available live and on demand, *ehfTV.com* offers highlights, interviews, video clips as well as the Champions League Show, a high quality 30-minute programme uploaded after every CL round.



EHF WEBSITES

ehfFinal4.com

The official website of the EHF FINAL4 was launched in September 2009. Fans planning a trip to Cologne for the event can find hotel and travel information or purchase tickets online. Needless to say, they can also find FINAL4 news and stories.

YouTube channel

Millions using the world's number one video-sharing platform can get an insight to European top handball. This was made possible by the new dedicated channel in EHF CL YouTube channel launched in 2009. The platform is an ideal promotion tool with dozens of video clips showing the best of the game.

European Handball on Facebook

As of 2009, handball is present on the popular social networking website, www.facebook.com. Thousands of facebook friends are registered for the two pages, Champions League and ehfTV, where they can meet and share their passion for handball.

Twittering handball

Though Twitter.com is a brand new online communication gadget, EHF already experimented with twittering the 2009 Beach Handball European Championship for the fans. Regular tweets were posted on the games from Larvik including news, photos and background stories.

Other EHF domains

activities.eurohandball.com with a vast library of technical information which cannot be match anywhere else in the world.

europeancup.eurohandball.com with all the match data and news from the European Cup.

ebt.eurohandball.com with information from the Beach Tour and the Masters.



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ANNUAL REVIEW

FORMING THE FUTURE



2009



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EHF COMPETENCE ACADEMY & NETWORK (EHF CAN)



EHF Competence Academy & Network



Licensing

Due to the rapid advancement of handball on the sporting market and the subsequent growth of handball related products and services, the EHF CAN has developed a licensing system whereby the potential licensees can approach the EHF and prospective cooperation can be identified. All licensing requests are handled by the EHF Methods Commission. The goal of the new licensing system is to associate the EHF with top products and services that assists the company in attaining its core objectives of developing and promoting European handball.

In order to be granted a license, minimum standards and conditions, as defined by the EHF MC have to be met without exception. Naturally, the licenses available to potential licensees are categorised according to the intended use of the handball related product or service. In 2009, two cooperation agreements were endorsed.

The Norwegian company "Secret to Sports AS" operates online sports coaching programs specifically aimed at supporting, coaching and training at grassroots levels. The cooperation between S2S and the EHF is twofold. The program is to be adapted in order to comply with EHF policy and standards; this will in turn support the future commercialisation phase.

QuSED NV of Belgium enables users to perform a video analysis of indoor and beach handball matches using its SportVAS system. This product is geared towards teams of scouts and players during professional indoor and beach handball competitions. QuSED NV has obtained the support of the EHF in the promotion of the SportVAS systems.

Anti-doping

In 2009 the European Handball Federation intensified their work in the area of anti-doping. The EHF not only performed doping tests throughout the EHF competitions for club and national teams, the European federation also produced an anti-doping information flyer in June 2009, which was sent out to national federations, clubs and players. This new initiative continues to be supported by top European players such as Grit Jurack/GER, Katalin Palinger/HUN, Nikola Karabatic/FRA and Arpad Sterbik/ESP as laid out in their testimonials taking a stand against doping for a "clean" handball.

The EHF anti-doping information pamphlet (Be one with us – Play Fair) complete with a mini-disc containing detailed information on doping, doping test procedures and alternatives to doping, has been distributed Europe-wide. The EHF took the opportunity to saturate the Younger Age Category competitions with information as the flyer was distributed to teams and young players at the European Championships in Serbia (W17) and Hungary (W19) as well as the 2009 EHF European Open in Sweden.

2008 EHF EURO in FYR Macedonia – Injury study published

In cooperation with Prof. Hans Holdhaus (IHF MC), the European Handball Federation conducted a study within the framework of the women's EHF EURO 2008 in FYR Macedonia. The objective of the study was to analyse current data to obtain an overview of the number, type and severity of injuries in addition to direct consequence of the injury insofar as the duration a player is unable to train as a result.



EHF COMPETENCE ACADEMY & NETWORK (EHF CAN)

MESGO

The Executive Master in Sport Governance (MESGO) is a vocational education programme for executives and elected officials working in sports institutions created by the French institutions, "Centre de Droit et d'Economie du Sport" in Limoges and the University "Science Politique Paris" based in Paris. The main objective of the programme is the development of competence in sport governance in Europe based on in-depth analysis of legal and economic issues as well as the key challenges faced by the European sport organisations.



Three additional academic partners have joined this project: Birkbeck Sport Business Centre and University London (England), Institut Nacional d'Educasio Fisica de Catalunya and Lleida University Barcelona (Spain), Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Germany). Five European team sports federations FIBA-Europe, UEFA, EHF, FIRA-AER and CEV also committed to support MESGO as sports partners. MESGO is also a platform designed to bring together and foster cooperation between the main stakeholders together in the European world of sport. The first academic year of the Executive Master programme is 2010/11.

EHF Lecturers' Manual, 2nd Edition 2009

On the occasion of the 2009 EHF Lecturers' Course from 7-9 August in Vienna/AUT the 2nd edition of the EHF Lecturers' Manual was issued. Based on the 1st edition published in 2006, the personal data, rights and duties of the EHF Lecturers in the field of coaching, refereeing and Beach Handball and EHF Corporate Identity presentation guidelines are illuminated on a CD. A comprehensive overview of the EHF educational curricula as well as teaching tools as well as a summary of EHF Competence and Network activities is also given.

Web based EHF Publication Language Localisation Toolkit

Following a proposal by both the EHF Competitions Commission (CC) and the EHF Methods Commission (MC) the EHF Executive Committee approved the production of a "short rule version" of the handball rules for promotional purposes only. The work is based on the "Rules of the Game" by the International Handball Federation (IHF), for details and references please visit www.ihf.info. In 2009 the EHF MC provided a free online tool to create a localised (non-English) PDF version of the booklet on <http://activities.eurohandball.com> and within a short period of time approximately 200 registered versions were produced in more than 30 languages world-wide.

2009 EHF Top Referee Seminar

Fifty-five EHF top referees attended the 2009 EHF Top Referee Seminar that took place from 28-30 August 2009 in Vienna. Based on the decision of the EHF Executive Committee in Istanbul, the EHF Competitions Commission, in coordination with the EHF Competence Academy and Network, organised a pre-season Top Referee Seminar. Over the three days, a wide range of topics were presented by experts of specific areas, at the same time the physical fitness of the referees was assessed by a specific shuttle run lactate test.

The objective of the seminar was to achieve a standardised level among the top match officials in physical and psychological preparation. Methods of stress management, dilemma training and the importance of coherent behaviour and action were in the focus of the seminar. A number of presenters addressed the referees over the weekend, including CC Chairman Jan Tuik, EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer, CC member and refereeing expert Sándor Andorka, Director of the Austrian Institute for Sportsmedicine/Science Prof. Hans Holdhaus, g-Partner consultant Erling Grimstad and former Dutch National Team coach Bert Bouwer.

EHF Beach Handball Courses

The Beach Handball Commission of the EHF in cooperation with the EHF CAN organised three beach handball courses for referee candidates (6th edition), delegates (5th edition) and coaches (3rd edition). The courses took place in Meliti-Issos (GRE) from 28 – 31 May 2009. BC members Marco Trespidi and Ole Jorstad and EHF Lecturer, Sasa Kuburovic led the courses.

COURSES & SEMINARS

“The EHF Technical Commissions have designed curricula for all educational courses under the umbrella of EHF CAN. The EHF Referee, Delegates and Coaching courses are formulated to foster dialogue between referees and coaches with the respective agenda topics carried out by both refereeing and coaching lecturers. This can be regarded as a big step forward for European handball on technical level!”

Wolfgang Pollany, EHF MC Member - Education and Further Training

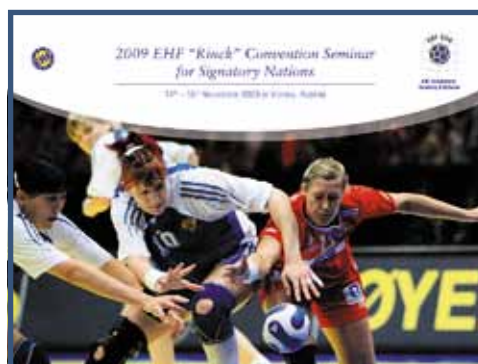
2009 IHF/EHF Men’s Challenge Trophy Educational Courses for Referees & Coaches – MDA/MLT

Within the framework of the 2009 IHF/EHF Men’s Challenge Trophy and in cooperation with the EHF Competence Academy and Network (EHF CAN), courses for referees and coaches in each hosting country were organised reaffirming our dedication to education. The EHF Lecturers Alexander Ascinte (ROU) based in Moldova and Zoltan Marczinka (HUN) situated in Malta, successfully executed coaching clinics for the participating team coaches as well as for approximately 30 local coaches in venue. Peter Olsson (SWE), assisted by Panos Antoniou (CYP) in Malta and Jiri Konecny (CZE) in Moldova held courses for the referees nominated from the Young Referee Programme.

2009 EHF “Rinck” Convention Seminars for Non-Signatory and Signatory Nations

The 2009 EHF “Rinck” Convention Seminar for Non-signatory Nations took place at the European Handball Federation Office in Vienna from 10th – 11th January 2009. The course was organised in cooperation with the EHF Competence Academy and Network. All together, ten EHF member federations were represented by their educational experts. Various aspects of coaching education were presented during the two-day seminar. Piotr Maranda, from the European football governing body, UEFA, talked about the concept of the UEFA Coaching Convention. Methods Commission member Wolfgang Pollany and EHF Lecturer, Ton van Linder introduced the basics of the “Rinck” Convention in detail in order to attract more nations to join.

Later in the year, nineteen representatives from the “Rinck” signatory nations gathered in Vienna to debate new tendencies such as ENSSEE (European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment) and options for introducing a coach licensing and certification system in European handball. During the course of discussion proposals were made for changing the traditional “Rinck” philosophy to a more pro-active approach which would allow a more effective accommodation of all member nations’ needs in the future; one of the major goals in the future will be to secure a high standard of coaches’ education on national and European level in addition to facilitating the mobility of top coaches within Europe based on a recognised EHF licensing system.



COURSES & SEMINARS

2009 EHF Course for Delegates in Balatonfüred/HUN

During September, the EHF Delegates Course was held in Balatonfüred (HUN) for the fourth time. Organised by the Competitions Commission with the assistance of EHF CAN and in cooperation with the Hungarian Handball Federation and MKB Veszprém KC, the course played host to sixteen EHF delegates from 13 member federations. In addition to written assessments on rules and event management, the delegates listened to lectures on various aspects of the job. Mental approach, conflict management, hall inspection, event safety and referee guidance – among other areas – were discussed by lecturers from the EHF Technical Commission, Frantisek Taborsky, Sándor Andorka and Wolfgang Pollany. A high level international handball tournament with top teams (MKB Veszprém, Chehovski Medvedi, Croatia Zagreb and Cimos Koper) provided the opportunity for the participants to contribute in the practical exercise, thus gaining experience.

EHF Lecturers' Seminar in Vienna/AUT

Under the direction of EHF Beach Handball Commission chairman Laszlo Sinka, twenty EHF lecturers met for a two-day seminar at the EHF Headquarters in order to discuss fundamental aspects of their activities in handball, generating an exchange of know-how. The seminar got underway with the signing of the EHF Code of Conduct. The attendees also received the 2nd edition (2009) of the EHF Lecturers' Manual; in order to follow a common set of principles during daily business, the EHF educational presentation guidelines were discussed and fixed according to the overall EHF Corporate Identity for indoor and beach handball. The participants also had the opportunity to discuss the rule changes ratified by the IHF in detail and to explore interdisciplinary connections.

EHF Youth Coaches' Course in Győr HUN from 20 – 23 August 2009

The 2009 EHF Youth Coaches' Course was held on the occasion of the Women's 19 European Championship in Hungary. Győr was chosen, once again, for the venue where seventy-five participants from 18 nations (including 20 non-European participants) attended this course. The main topic was "*Specific legwork in offence and defence*" introduced by the EHF Lecturers Bogdan Macovei (ROU); Zoltan Marczinka (HUN); Peter Kovacs (HUN) and Tamas Neukum (HUN).

Special lectures on the topic of injury prevention were held by Erwin Reiterer (track and field coach / AUT), Patrick Luig and Thomas Henke (University Bochum/GER) as well as Sandor Andorka who also spoke on referee matters.



DEVELOPMENT

National support

In 2009, the EHF Methods Commission supported 12 member federations by means of short term projects. In all, twelve beach handball goals, six line systems for beach handball, 500 beach handballs, 1,750 indoor handballs; as well as limited financial support for national federation projects were distributed. Additionally, seven EHF lecturers were sent to various EHF events to lead courses and seminars focusing on different areas of handball.

EHF FOSTER Project

The Foster project is a contract of cooperation between handball nations; a nation with more experience is paired with a developing handball nation; the objective of the project is for the two nations to create a joint project with the aim of giving support to the less experienced nation. The European Handball Federation supports each of these projects with material and financial aid. In addition to the existing Foster agreements, new partnerships between DEN-ALB, CZE-ARM and ESP-ITA were founded. The agreements were signed within the framework of the 9th EHF Conference of Presidents.

Denmark & Albania

“Based on the aim of this mutual agreement, the Albanian Handball Federation aims and wishes to promote and continue the development of handball on all levels through the exchange of information, experience and also through the financial support granted.”

Miftera Myftari, President - ALB

Spain & Italy

“In the programme of Technical Development forecasted by FIGH, the agreement with RFBM, close to us in tradition and culture, plays a strategic role in the growing up path of our National Teams and of our coaches.”

Francesco Purromuto, President – ITA

Czech Republic & Armenia

“We think that cooperation between one developed handball country and a developing country will be useful for our federation. Two coaches from Armenia have already participated in a Young Age Coaches seminar in Litovel and we also expect to see a further three coaches, who are less experienced than the coaches from the Czech Republic, attend another seminar. We also expect material aid in the form of balls, nets etc. from our partners within the bounds of the projects.”

Erik Arevshatyan, International Relations Coordinator – ARM

SMART Programme

Since the foundation of the SMART Programme in 2001, the programme has supported numerous developing handball nations, such as Bulgaria, Malta and Scotland. In 2009, three more handball nations; Armenia, Belgium and Moldova, joined the project and signed the SMART contract in order to gain focused support geared towards the development of handball in the respective nations. The SMART programme is limited to three years of support. To qualify for the support of the SMART programme, the objectives have to be specific and measured. In the future, the EHF will endeavour to expand the area of support in view of structural support directly within the national federation itself.

“Prolonging our EHF SMART programme agreement for another three years, until 2011, means a lot to us; the goals that we had, when we started at grass root and youth level over three years ago; are now being realised, e.g.: We have had the opportunity to participate in training camps and international competition in Romania. Our men’s national junior team is benefitting from the SMART programme; we are also being additionally supported by the Romanian Handball Federation, our partner in development in the EHF Foster programme.”

Nicolai Vizitiu, Secretary General – MDA

“Our ultimate goal is the popularisation and development of handball all over Armenia. Based on the progress and results achieved so far, it must be said that the EHF SMART Programme, over the past three years as well as its prolongation is at this time the right method of support that is needed within the Armenian Handball Federation to sustain our national endeavours.”

Armen Grigoryan, President – ARM

TRANSFERS

All licensed handball players have freedom of movement and it is the responsibility of the EHF transfers department to ensure that all international transfers conducted within Europe are made in accordance with the regulations of the International Transfer System as set by the International Handball Federation.

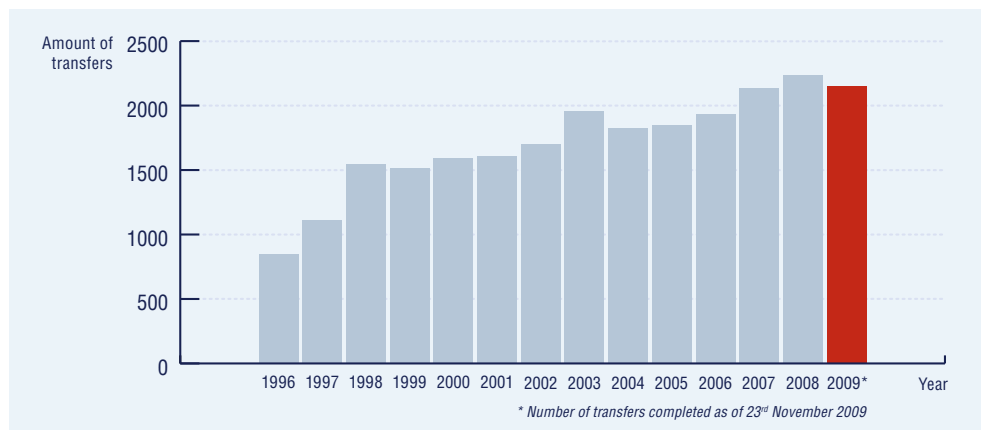
Over the past ten years, there has been a steady rise in the number of international transfers across Europe. In order to facilitate transfers systematically, an adaptation to the regulations became necessary to safeguard the rights of the player and the clubs involved.

The transfer department of the European Handball Federation also deals with the transfer of players who are in full time education and registered with affiliated programmes such as “*da VINCI*”, “*ERASMUS*”, “*SOCRATES*” etc. In 2009, there was a sharp increase in the number of students undertaking an international transfer; thirty players/students transferred clubs and in each case the fees were waived. In regards to the area of Education Compensation, no cases of non-agreement were lodged with the EHF.

At the time of publication, the EHF completed 2, 0153 international transfers. Among the transfers of 2009 some of the more noteworthy cases handled included Olafur Stefansson transferred from BM Ciudad Real to Rhein-Neckar Löwen in Germany. Goalkeeper Terese Pedersen signed with current Champions League participants Hypo Niederösterreich.

The top German club, THW Kiel, saw a lot of action on the transfer front! On the back of the media frenzy that surrounded numerous rumours, both Nikola Karabatic and Vid Kavtchnik made a move from THW Kiel to Montpellier HB. After 2 years with Chambéry, back player and national team star player, Daniel Nacisse signed on with the Zebras at the start of the 2009/10 season. Left back Momir Ilic said goodbye to VfL Gummersbach (winners of the 08/09 EHF Cup) and joined the club; 26-year old Christian Sprenger also followed suit, the right winger from Magdeburg took his place in the 2009/10 line-up with Kiel.

The countries that saw an increase in transfer action in 2009 were Austria, France, Germany, Hungary and Norway. In comparison with the previous year, the national federations of Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Iceland among others, saw a dramatic decrease in the number of transfers.



REFEREES

In the distinct working area of referees, supervised by Sándor Andorka of the Competitions Commission, great emphasis is placed on the Young Referee Programme. In 2009, in a bid to add to the ever-growing pool of referees with EHF status, two referee candidates courses were conducted in Veria/GRE (March 2009) and in Ljubljana/SLO (June 2009). Based on their success, the following new couples are qualified to officiate as of the 2009/10 handball season.

CRO	Dalibor JURINOVIC / Marko MRVICA
DEN	Malene K. LYTHJE / Karina CHRISTIANSEN
GRE	Andreas BETHMANN / Michail TZAFEROPOULOS
GRE	Ioanna CHRISTIDI / Ioanna PAPAMATTHEOU
KOS	Erdoan VITAKU / Arsim VITAKU
POL	Joanna BREHMER / Agnieszka SKOWRONEK
SLO	Bojan LAH / David SOK
SWE	Alexandra DELLE / Natasha ENGBERG

Further candidates will be observed during a referee course to be held in Switzerland from 16 to 20 December 2009:

ESP	Javier Alvarez MATA / (Partner of Ion BUSTAMANTE)
FRA	Said BOUNOUARA / Khalid SAMI
ISL	Arnar SIGURJONSSON / Svavar PETURSSON
NOR	Havard KLEVEN / Christian RAMBERG
SUI	Samuel BERNET / Dominique WICK
SUI	Robin SAGER / Stefan STYGER

New IHF Referees from Europe

In connection with two courses within the IHF Global Referee Training Program held in Mersin/TUR and Granollers/ESP, the following referees from Europe were awarded IHF status:

ROU	Diana-Carmen FLORESCU / Anamaria DUTA
RUS	Evgenij ZOTIN / Nikolaj VOLODKOV
TUR	Kursad ERDOGAN / Ibrahim ÖZDENİZ
TUR	Pinar ÜNLÜ / Mehtap SIMSEK

Referees who have finished their career

The European Handball Federation is pleased to announce that 144 international referee couples from 41 Member Federations were registered with the EHF for the start of the 2009/10 season. However, the EHF also takes this opportunity to say farewell to the following referees who, at the end of the 2008/09 season decided to hang up their whistles for a variety of reasons. The European Handball Federation wishes them all only the very best in their future endeavours.

AZE	Isgandar ASKEROV
BIH	Andrijan KNEZOVIC
CRO	Tihomir KASUNIC / Drazen MATOVINA
CRO	Damir SARAJLIC / Gordan VUKUSIC
CRO	Vladimir SOKOL / Josip POSAVEC
CYP	Michael ARGYROU / Loizos LOIZOU
ESP	Fermin PASCUALENA
FRA	Sylvie BORROTTI / Odile MARCET
GRE	George BEBETSOS / Ioannis MEIMARIDIS
GRE	Nikolaos KORRES / Sotiris MIGAS
NED	Ferry VAN DER HELM / Cornelius WIEBRANDS
POL	Michal MALEK / Arkadiusz NOWAK
RUS	Viktor POLADENKO
SRB	Slobodan VISEKRUNA / Zoran STANOJEVIC
SUI	Philippe VON ESCHER
TUR	Vahit ERSAN / Faruk AKMAN
UKR	Sergey SHAL

REFEREES

Young Referees

In 2009, the EHF used six events as an educational platform for the following young referees. EHF referee experts were on hand to coach and assess the members of the YRP during the following tournaments:

Prague Cup - Prague/CZE (09-13.04.09)

AUT	Ana MAKSIMOVIC / Marlies WENNINGER
CZE	Milos FOGL / Richard MENSİK
RUS	Anton ANTASHEV / Denis MUSATOV
SVK	Milos BRISKOVIC / Stefan TOKARCIK
SLO	Karmen POZVEK / Karmen ZUPAN
UKR	Olena TOMAREVA / Marina SLEPTSOVA

European Open Men 19 took place in Gothenburg/SWE (30.06.-04.07.09)

BEL	Tobias SCHMACK / Torsten SCHMACK
BIH	Aleksandar JOVIC / Nedim ARNAUTOVIC
FIN	Sami KINNARI / Jonas LAITINEN
FRA	Cedric MEYER / Jean Loup OUDIN
KOS	Iir BYTQI / Syart KASAPI
LAT	Arturs KOPANANS / Mareks SAKOLA
NOR	Mats HAAKENSTAD / Stian STENSRUD
POR	Daniel FREITAS / Cesar CARVALHO
SRB	Marco PESIC / Radoman RADOJEVIC
SUI	Patrick HESS / Pirmin ZIMMERMANN
SVK	Boris MANDAK / Mario RUDINSKY
SWE	Christoffer MÖLLER / Kaspar SJÖBERG

European Youth Olympic Festival - Tampere/FIN (19-24.07.09)

CRO	Sinisa BOSAK / Zejko HERCEG
DEN	Jakob HANSEN / Martin HJORTSHOJ
ESP	Gonzalo MIRANDA / Alberto HERMOSO
FIN	Sami KINNARI / Jonas LAITINEN
GER	Robert SCHULZE / Tobias TÖNNIES
NED	Ruud GERAERTS / Paul GERAERTS
NOR	Stine JOHNSEN / Guro ROEN
RUS	Victoria ALPAIDZE / Tatyana BEREZKINA
SRB	Marko BORICIC / Dejan MARKOVIC
SVK	Martin PASTIERIK / Boris CIPOV

Men's Cell Cup - Veszprem/HUN (17-21.08.09)

CRO	Davor LONCAR / Zoran LONCAR
CZE	Lenka PETRUZALKOVA / Barbora MESTANKOVA
HUN	Gabor DOMBOVARI / Peter VARGA
ITA	Luca VERARDI / Simone ZENDALI
POL	Malgorzata GUTOWSKA / Urszula GUTOWSKA
ROU	Vasile COSTIN / Marian VICEA
SLO	Tomislav PAJIC / Benjamin PAJIC
SUI	Arthur BRUNNER / Morad SALAH
UKR	Olena TOMAREVA / Marina SLEPTSOVA

2009 IHF/EHF Men's Challenge Trophy - Chisinau/MDA & Msida/MLT (30.10.-01.11.09)

BEL	Tobias SCHMACK / Torsten SCHMACK
BIH	Alexander JOVIC / Nedim ARNAUTOVIC
CYP	Marios ANDREOU / Georgios PANAYIDES
ITA	Luca VERARDI / Simone ZENDALI
MDA	Sergey NAZARCO / Victor SERDIUC
ROU	Alexandru Daniel ANTON / Silviu Ionut SAVU



HANDBALL HITS NEW HEIGHTS



Infront Sports & Media wishes all the players in the 2010 Men's European Handball Championship (EHF EURO) in Austria good luck and success.

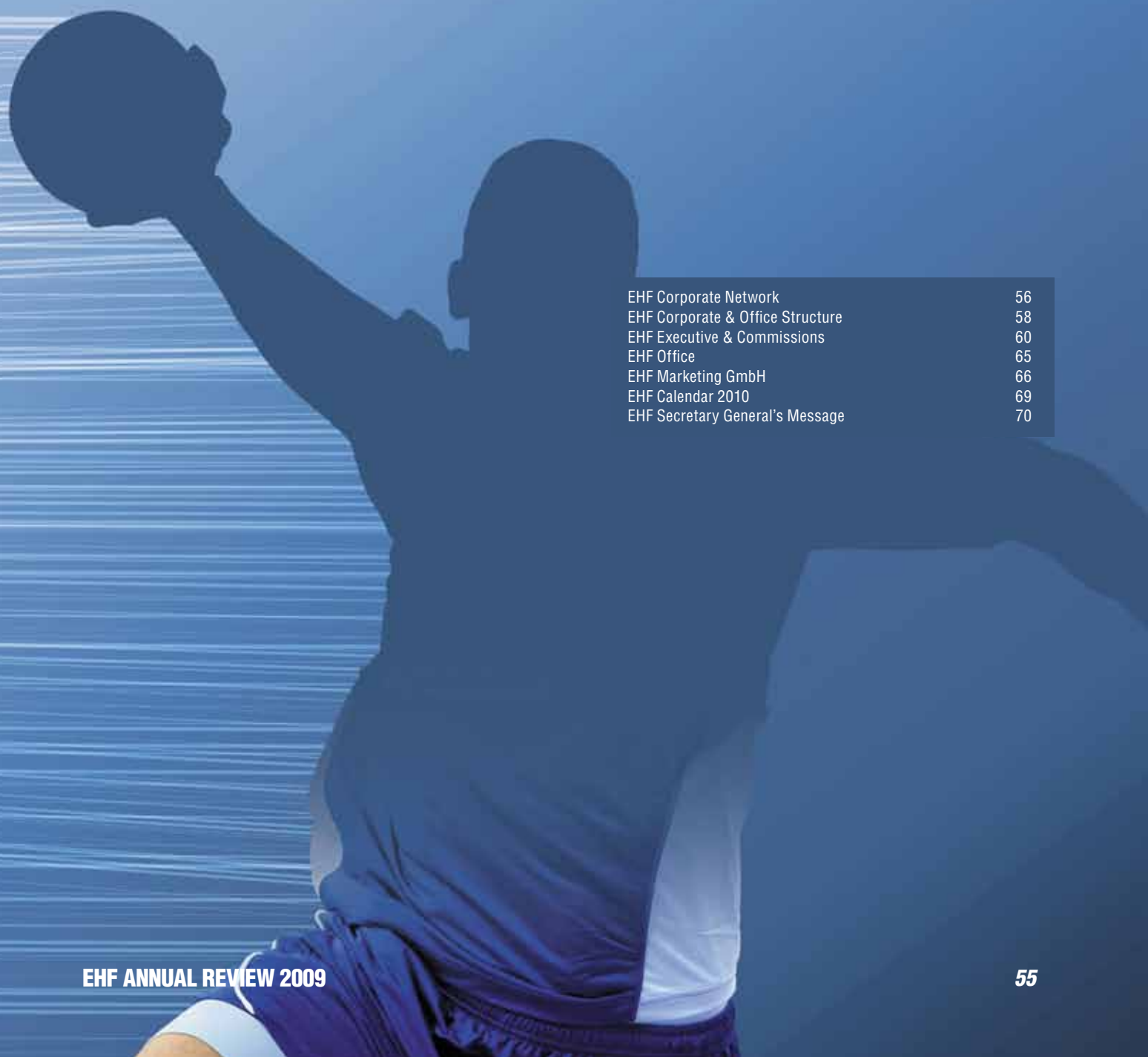
As the competition goes from strength to strength, so does the following for the sport, with global television coverage and record viewer totals. The 2008 men's and women's events together achieved a total cumulative audience in excess of 1.5 billion, which is an all-time record for the events.

The European Handball Championships are more popular than ever before.

Planning, teamwork and long term partnerships continue to bring the best marketing results. Infront is looking forward to working with the EHF for many years to come as its exclusive Marketing and Media Partner for the EHF EURO events.

Handball action at its best!

ANNUAL REVIEW 2009 THIS IS THE EHF



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EHF CORPORATE NETWORK

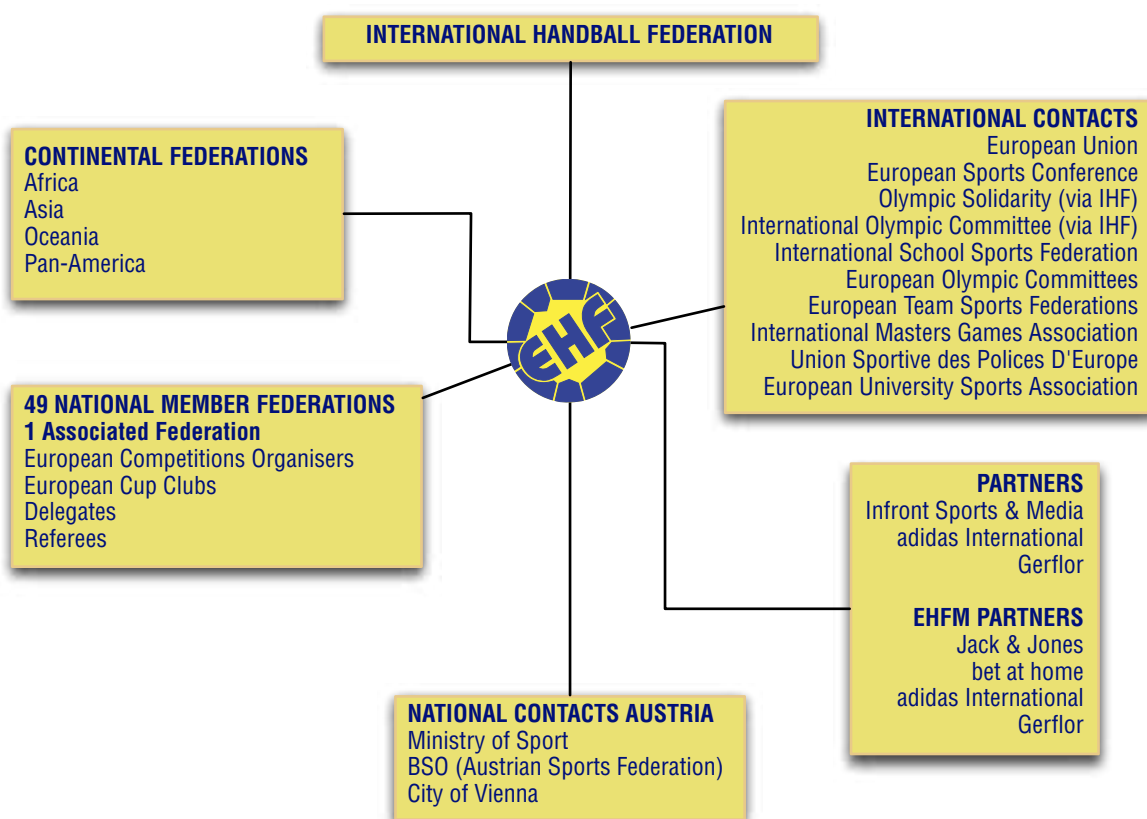
The European Handball Federation, in its role as administrator of the sport on the continent, is wholly responsible for the strategic planning and execution of competitive and administrative sporting events. The benefits, reaped by the stakeholders in handball, can be attributed to first-rate collaboration between the EHF and its partners, who are committed to working together for the future of the sport.

The EHF values the ability to facilitate cross-cooperation between the business units that share common objectives. In order to accomplish the goals of the company, as stated in the Statutes of the European Handball Federation, strengthening the internal operational structure is undertaken when necessary. This has seen the workforce steadily expand from a two-man operation in 1991 to 39 full and part-time employees at the end of 2009.

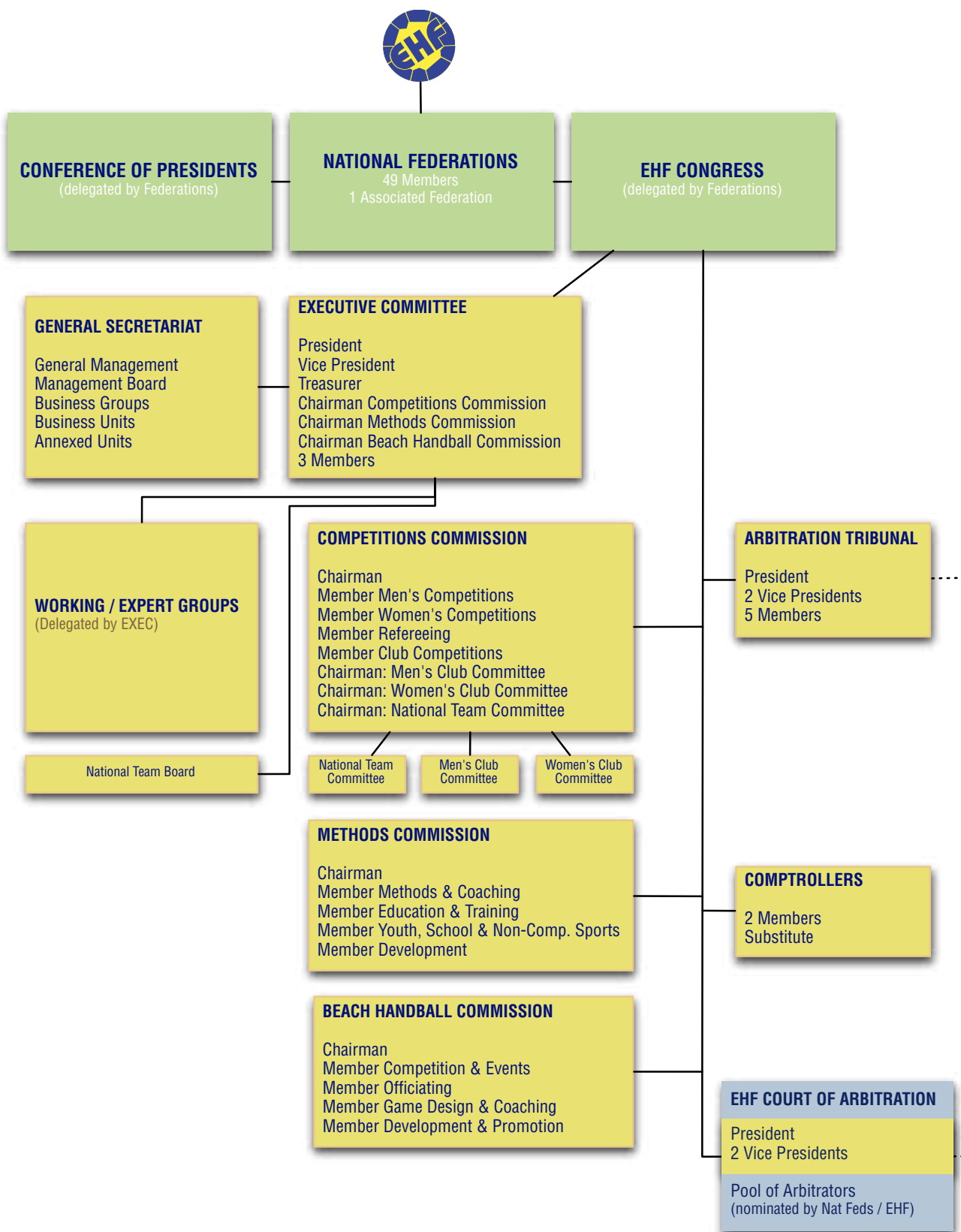
The EHF remains a non-profit organisation created for the continued development and promotion of handball in Europe and the sectors encompassed in the EHF Corporate Network benefit from continuous reciprocal dialogue, which in turn enhances the sport on a global scale. The continued accomplishments of the European Handball Federation lies in its ability to act when structures, systems and practices begin to hinder the development of handball in Europe. To work efficiently, in a decidedly project based environment, the organisation has reformed. The extent of the modification to the EHF structures is presented on the following pages.

The Corporate Network of the European Handball Federation is unified in its aim of pursuing development and progress of handball on a European level. The rapid growth of the EHF has necessitated the expansion of some and amalgamation of other internal bodies. In 2009, the daughter company that is EHF Marketing GmbH has improved the position of handball in the sporting market and has secured strong long-term partnerships and sponsorships; the manoeuvres of EHF are reflected in the increased popularity of the sport in Europe.

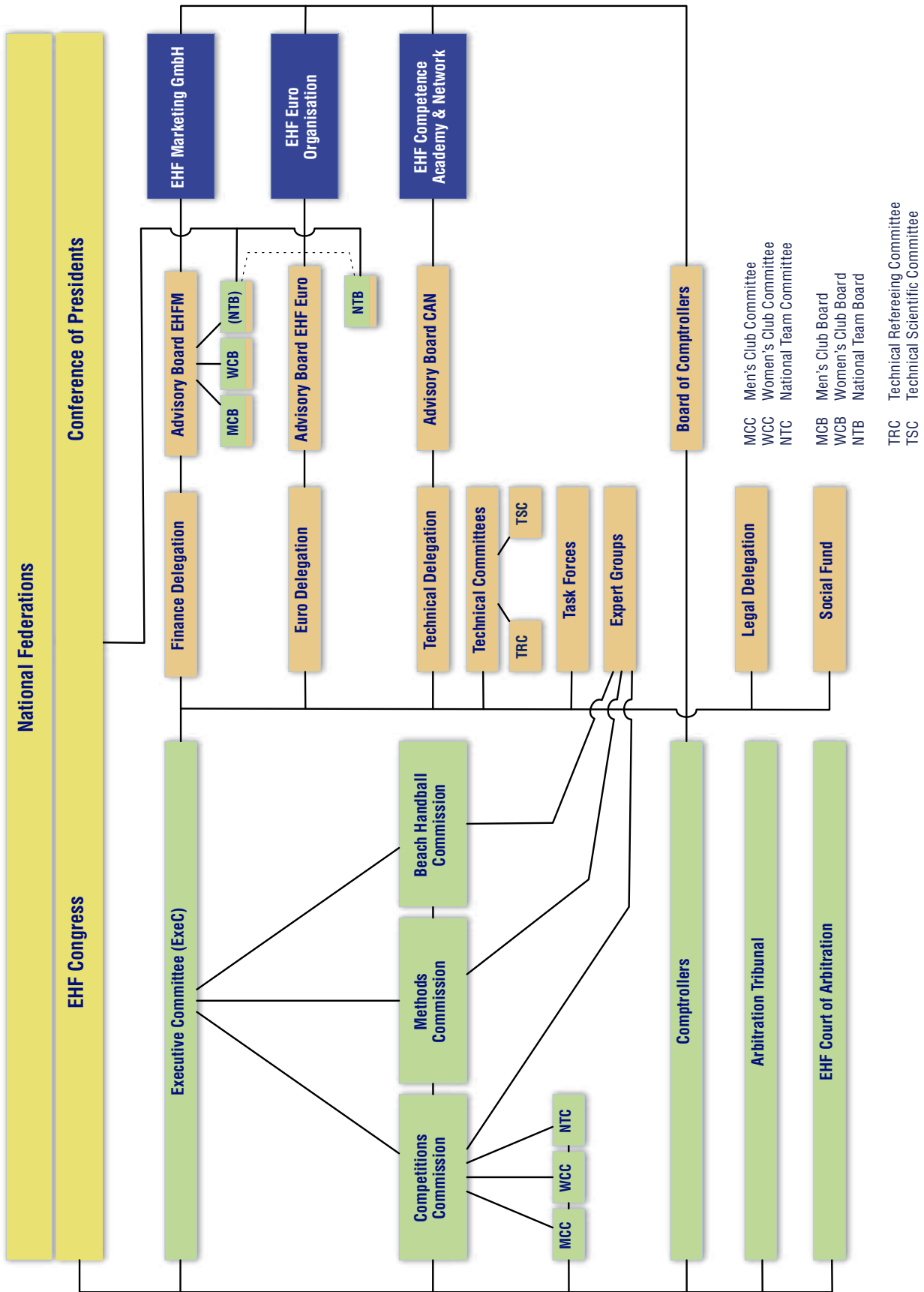
The core organisational structure of the European Handball Federation, in order to support the commitment to the advancement and endorsement of the sport, has required solid management and policies to affect the efficiency and growth that has followed the success of the company over the past eighteen years. In terms of Member Federations; the status of 49 member nations and an associated federation (KOS), remains the same. From Albania to Ukraine, the EHF continues to nurture the relationships that have been built over time. Through the continued cooperation with the leasers and administrators of the national federations, handball transcends borders.



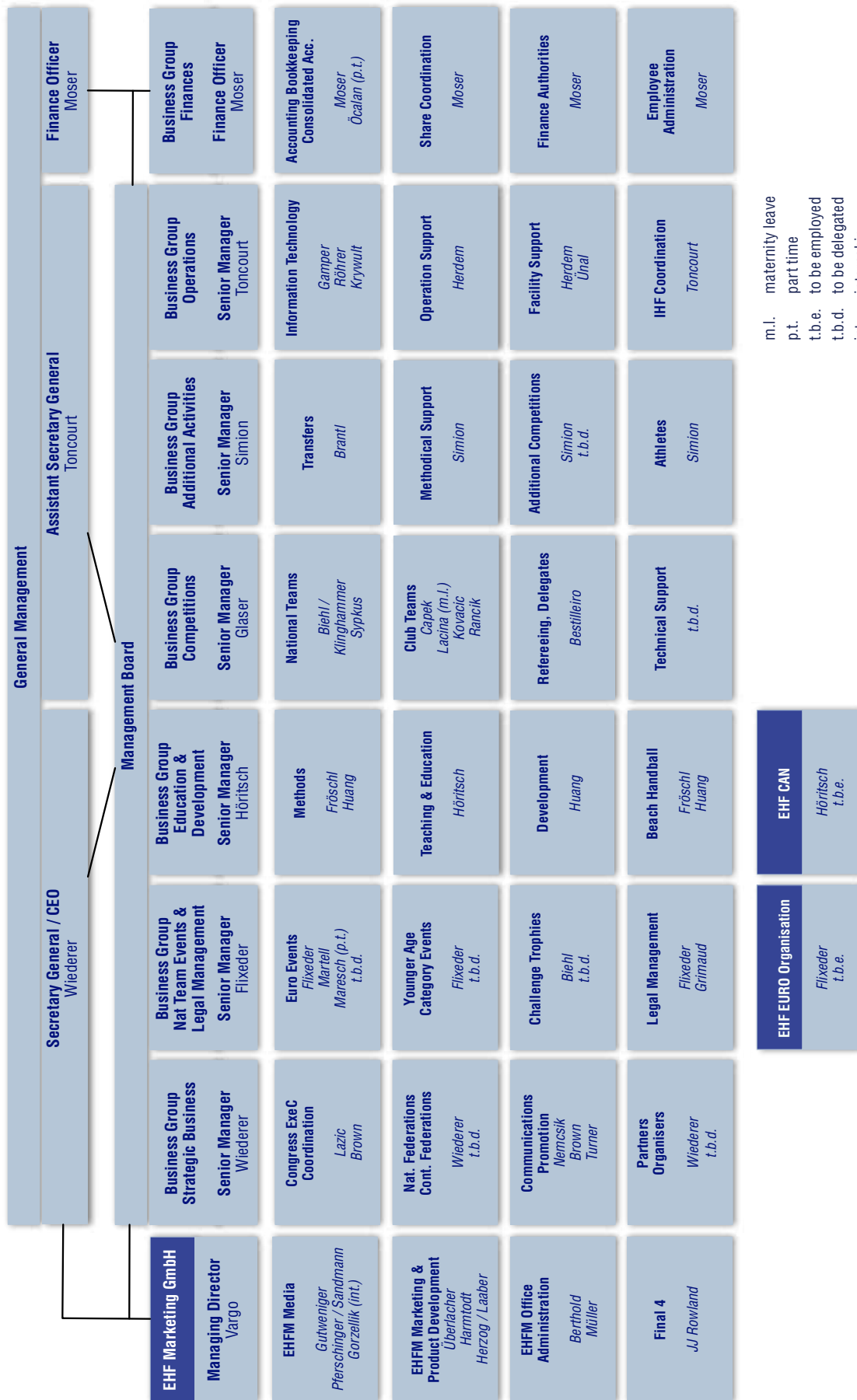
EHF CORPORATE NETWORK



EHF CORPORATE STRUCTURE



EHF OFFICE STRUCTURE



EHF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

“As the sport continues to gain strength and popularity on the sports market; handball in Europe is benefitting from increased TV coverage, improved revenue, in addition to new and renewed long-term dedicated partnerships. Handball is strong and it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the EHF to make the decisions that not only benefit the individual stakeholder, but handball as a whole.”

Tor Lian
EHF President

In March 2009, the handball community was rocked by the revelations of undue influence and allegations of manipulation. The reputation of the sport was called into question as the outcome of top matches from previous seasons came under the spotlight. The Competitions Commissions, working in close cooperation with the Executive Committee of the EHF, reacted swiftly by introducing measures such as reforming the travel organisation of the referees. External experts were introduced and the EHF Integrity Programme was launched focusing on a comprehensive process that will prevent future manipulation attempts. A press conference was called at the end of March to reassure handball stakeholders that all the appropriate steps had been taken by the Executive Committee.

As a direct result of the alleged manipulation in handball, the EHF Executive Committee has focused on measures to ensure the integrity of the sport. An initial step in this process was the instigation of cooperation with external expert g-Partner. The commission of the “EHF Integrity Concept” was approved and developed. The Integrity Concept deals exclusively with the “three lines of defence”. The guidelines layout the channels to be taken by the EHF should the company be faced once again with allegations of undue influence.

Parallel to the EHF Integrity Concept, the leadership of the EHF concentrated on the creation of the EHF Code of Conduct. Implemented to preserve and encourage professionalism from all persons involved in handball on a European level, the EHF Code of Conduct has been signed by all the clubs participating in the 2009/10 European Cup competitions, the agreement has also been signed by all members of the Executive Committee during their final meeting of the year in Copenhagen. All the other commissions within the EHF Structure will also sign the document.

In 2009, the Executive Committee of the EHF met on five occasions and the agenda points discussed over the past 12 months covered all working areas of the European Handball Federation. Numerous decisions have been taken in the area of competitions. Not only overseeing the implementation of the modified playing and qualification systems, or the expanded cooperation in the area of the Challenge Trophy with the International Handball Federation; in previous years, the responsibility for this competition lay firmly in the working area of the continental federations. Therefore, the Challenge Trophy will now conclude with the IHF Intercontinental Challenge Trophy.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2010 will take place on the final weekend of the EHF EURO in Austria.



Tor Lian



Jean Brihault



Ralf Dejaco



Jan Tuik



Frantisek Taborsky



Laszlo Sinka



Tarik Cengiz



Arne Elovsson



Andrey Lavrov

EHF COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

“From modifying the playing system in the EHF Champions League to overcoming the challenges faced with the allegations of manipulation, the Competitions Commission of the European Handball Federation continues to work for the betterment of the handball sport. Our achievements in 2009 will be surpassed in 2010”

Jan Tuik

Chairman of the EHF Competitions Commission

An ongoing procedure was the modification of the playing system. Based on a suggestion of the Men’s Club Committee in November 2008, presented at the EHF Champions League Workshop, and the subsequent handling of the proposal in early 2009; the men’s CL was reduced from 32 to 24 teams and the introduction of the FINAL4, the season final of the men’s CL. A motion from the Women’s Club Committee was also accepted, which saw Round 4 of the Women’s CL moved to November. The competition calendar was adjusted accordingly.

The Competitions Commission is pleased, by and large, with the progress of the tasks conducted over the past 12 months. Working in close collaboration with club representatives and interest groups, the clubs are now in a better position than in previous years with regards to TV coverage, marketing and revenue aspects. The work will continue especially in the area of the overall structure of the Club Competitions.

The aforementioned working areas reinforce the value of the input of the three Club Committees.

The newly introduced playing system for the National Teams came to a successful completion in June with the last matches of the qualification for the Men’s 2010 EURO in Austria. The qualification for the Women’s 2010 EURO in Denmark and Norway started in September and so far, has been a resounding success.



Jan Tuik



Jesus Guerrero



Helga Magnusdottir



Sandor Andorka



Leopold Kalin



Joan Marin



Gunnar Prokop



Morten Stig
Christensen

EHF Representation in IHF Bodies in 2009 (after IHF Congress 2009)

Council Vice President Europe – Tor Lian
Member Europe – Jean Brihault

Commissions COC – Jan Tuik
PRC – Sandor Andorka
CCM – Frantisek Taborsky
MC – Hans Holdhaus
CCP – Helmut Höritsch

EHF METHODS COMMISSION

“This year, priority has been given to the topic “Handball at School” by providing approx. 1000 pre-selected European schools with the 2nd EHF Handball at School Package consisting of info folders and e-learning CDs and DVDs. Both physical education teachers and university handball lecturers, as educators, will be our major target groups for promoting handball at school in the future.”

Frantisek Taborsky
Chairman of the EHF Methods Commission

The Methods Commission, the technical body for methodical matters of the EHF, has the mammoth task of overseeing the many developmental aspects of European Handball. In 2009, the commission focused on developing the game working in cooperation with the different sporting institutions and partners. The outcome of the work concluded in the Methods Commission has had a clear effect in many areas of handball. Placing emphasis on education, many coaches and referees in Europe have benefited from the numerous courses and seminars that have been executed in cooperation with the EHF CAN.

Handball continues to gain popularity in European schools. This area of development has been progressively measured. Five years after the first “Handball-at-School” package a new package was sent to approximately 1,000 schools in 20 member federations. Whereas the first package was focused on the distribution of Handball related sports goods, the second package concentrated on publications designed for teachers.

In 2009 the member federations of ESP, ITA, MNE and TUR signed the EHF “Rinck” Convention joining AUT, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, FRA, GER, HUN, NOR, POL, POR, SLO, SVK, SWE & SUI. The “Rinck” Convention is committed to developing technical standards in handball. The education of athletes and the permanent development of handball are of prime interest and of great significance to European Handball. The objective of the “Rinck” Convention is the coordination and mutual recognition of both standard guidelines and certificates in the field of coaches’ education in handball in Europe by preserving and safeguarding the regional and national characteristics of coaches’ education in order to facilitate the direct admission to work as a handball coach in each of the signatory member federations.

Dedicated to improving the presence of handball in Europe, many directives of the Methods Commission have resulted in the publication of educational material on activities.eurohandball.com. Other publication mediums have included print and DVD-ROM. The member federations continue to benefit from the resoluteness of the MC; as the commission continues to provide the federations with direct support for example in terms of material, financial assistance and the nomination of lecturers.



Frantisek Taborsky



Bogdan Macovei



Wolfgang Pollany



Jerzy Elias



Allan Lund

EHF BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

“I am really pleased to work together with experts in the respective Beach Handball fields – they are not only extremely competent but also tremendously ambitious and ready to work for the development of our sport”

Laszlo Sinka
Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission

The Beach Handball Commission was founded at the 8th Extraordinary EHF Congress in 2007. At the 9th Ordinary EHF Congress in 2008, the Chairman and members of the commission were determined. After the major tasks corresponding to the needs of beach handball development were defined in the areas of Events & Competition; Officiating; Game design and coaching and Promotion and Development, the chairman and the four commission members set about achieving targets.

The Beach Handball Commission organised two European Championship specific workshops in 2009. The first workshop, relating to the senior championships, was held at the EHF Headquarters in Vienna. Marco Trespidi, responsible for Events and Competitions in the BC, led the workshop with Gunnar Nybø from Norway. On the agenda, among other topics, was the media concept, TV, live internet streaming and the nomination of EHF officials. The second workshop, hosted in Bulgaria, centred on the upcoming 2010 European Youth Beach Handball Championship. The first edition of the competition was played in 2008 in Hungary. The second edition will be played on the beaches of Albena in Bulgaria. The EHF Beach Handball delegation was welcomed by seven members of the Bulgarian Organising Committee. The agenda covered event area set-up, technical preconditions and media options, such as live streaming. The next edition of the Youth Beach Handball Championships for (M18/W18) will take place from 16-18 July 2010.

In 2009, a high percentage of the tasks distributed amongst the subdivisions of the Beach Handball Commission have been completed successfully. The corporate identity of beach handball was designed and rolled out at the Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championships in Norway as was the CI for the European Beach Tour.

At the time of going to press, the work within the Beach Handball Commission is efficiently being undertaken; with the hot topic in the BC being the cementing of structures and regulations; nevertheless, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done over the next three years.



Laszlo Sinka



Marco Trespidi



Ole R. Jørstad



Koray Akgüloglu



Georgios Bebetos

EHF OTHER COMMISSIONS

EHF Comptrollers

The EHF Comptrollers, in keeping with their responsibility to examine the accounts of the European Handball Federation, met from the 4 – 6 May 2009 at the EHF Office in Vienna. Over the course of three days, the Comptrollers examined the entire 2008 EHF accounts which they later in the year presented before the EHF Congress in Cyprus in their written report.



Helmut Schebeczek



Wolfgang Gremmel



Božidar Djurkovic

EHF Arbitration Tribunal (ARB)

The EHF Arbitration Tribunal is the main internal legal body of the EHF. The ARB is permitted to decide upon disputes as first or second instance depending on the subject matter. This year, the eight members of the EHF Arbitration Tribunal handled sixteen cases, fifteen of which have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion in 2009. Fourteen cases were dealt in the 1st instance. The cases included: manipulation attempts, withdrawal from competition and unsportsmanlike conduct amongst other. The EHF Arbitration Tribunal will continue their duties in 2010.



Rui Coelho



Tapio Arponen



Moshe Herman



Jolanta Jankeviciene



Alenka Cuderman



Ioannis Karanassos



Viktor Konoplyasty



Willy Tobler

EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA)

Since September 2008, the new court of Arbitration has been solving legal disputes independently and professionally. The ECA is an external legal body in that sense that all the arbitrators working within ECA are directly nominated either by the different members of EHF or by EHF itself. The arbitrators are selected by the parties involved from a pool of mediators who, in many cases, have a legal background. A brochure of information, manuals describing the procedure within ECA have been printed and a website has been produced.



Jörgen Holmqvist



Jana Stasova



Jacques Bettenfeld

“Cases have come to ECA as appeals from the EHF Arbitration Tribunal. The Council has, according to the regulations, taken basic legal decisions in connection with the appealed cases. We are now waiting for final decisions from the different Arbitral Chambers in the ECA cases and at the same time new cases are on its way to ECA.”

Jörgen Holmqvist
President ECA Council

EHF OFFICE STAFF



Michael Wiederer



Markus Glaser



Helmut Höritsch



Alexander Toncourt



Vesna Lazic



Peter Fröschl



Monika Flixeder



Doru Simion



Sevgi Herdem



Christoph Gamper



Ines Capek



Nicole Huang



Nadine Biehl



Andrea Moser



Marcos Bestilleiro



Claudia Brantl



Marsha Brown



*Nadja Lacina**



Richard Turner



Nurten Ünal



Marlies Röhrer



Balazs Nemcsik



Rima Sypkus



Andreas Krywult



Serap Öcalan



Sasha Martell



Yannick Maresch



Maëlle Grimaud



Vladimir Ranik



Mario Kovacic



Axel Klinghammer

Over the course of the year, the staffing level in the EHF changed slightly. Nadja Lacina is currently on maternity leave and Axel Klinghammer transferred to the daughter company EHF Marketing GmbH at the end of the year.

EHF MARKETING GmbH



EHF Marketing is the marketing arm of the European Handball Federation concentrating first and foremost on the development of Europe's premier club handball competition, the EHF Champions League, as well as the EHF European Cup competitions.

The company's mission is the professional marketing and promotion of Europe's top club competitions, working with a range of high-profile marketing and media partners, leading international brands and companies as well as the EHF Marketing Club Boards and Europe's top men's and women's clubs to secure handball's place as a leading player in the international sports market.

Since the foundation of EHF Marketing GmbH in July 2005, the EHF Champions League has experienced a rapid growth and development. Each season brings with it new and innovative ideas, from the introduction of the distinctive "black and lagoon blue" flooring system and official CL branding to more recent developments such as live streaming of matches at *ehfTV.com* and the production of the EHF Champions League Show, seen by an ever growing audience on television screens around the world each week.

On an administrative level, important decisions were reached during the course of the 2008/09 season through the intensive cooperation of participating clubs, EHF Marketing and the Men's and Women's Club and National Team Boards. These decisions included a reduction of the number of clubs in the EHF Men's Champions League from 32 to 24, with the aim of further improving the quality matches in the competition, the introduction of a new Last 16 knockout phase and also a change to finals of the EHF Champions League, with the organisation of a FINAL4, which will effectively close the 2009/10.

The 2009/10 season brings with it new and exciting challenges for players, clubs and the EHF Marketing team. There is a new and fresh look for the men's competition with fewer teams, more exciting matches and the introduction of the EHF FINAL4 in the LANXESS arena, Cologne in May 2010, where for the first time the EHF Men's Champions League will be decided over two days by the four best teams in Europe, in front of a crowd of almost 20,000 people.

The EHF Marketing Team (as of 31.12.09)



Peter Vargo



Ulrich Gutweniger



Marianne Überlacher



Georgia Harmtodt



Nicole Berthold



Hannes Müller



Oliver Laaber



JJ Rowland



Axel Klinghammer

In 2009, the face of EHF Marketing changed. The company said goodbye to Intern Teresa Gorzellik, Media Assistants, Georg Pferschinger and Natalie Sandmann; and also in the area of product development, Alexander Herzog, left for pastures new.

EHF MARKETING GmbH PARTNERS & SPONSORS

adidas

The European Handball Federation and adidas have established a close partnership over the past 18 years. As official ball supplier of the EHF Men's & Women's Champions League, adidas represents an integral part of the Champions League's professional brand development. adidas benefits from the EHF Champions League as a powerful communication tool throughout Europe.



Gerflor

Together with Gerflor, the market leader in flooring systems, EHF Marketing has succeeded in giving the EHF Champions League a consistent look in playing halls throughout Europe. The identical look at each venue, as well as the continuous collaboration of parties aiming for development and improvement, has set new precedents for this competition.



Bet-at-home

EHF Marketing GmbH has secured a two-year sponsorship deal with bet-at-home.com, one of the market leaders in online betting services. Bet-at-home.com will be present at selected EHF Men's and Women's Champions League matches during the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons. Bet-at-home, the exclusive presenter of matches shown live and on-demand via the EHF's internet streaming platform *ehfTV.com*, will also have a presence in other club competitions including the EHF Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and Challenge Cup as well as the European Cup finals.



Jack & Jones

Jack & Jones, a leading men's fashion brand, has signed a sponsorship agreement for the 2009/10 season. Attracted by the spectacular action and energy that handball offers, the sponsorship deal will enable Jack & Jones to promote the company's sports line, Premium Tech aimed at the sports enthusiast. The agreement includes presence throughout the 2009/10 EHF Men's Champions League. The company not only receives advertising space on court but also maximum exposure via global broadcasts of the EHF Champions League.



UNIQA

The UNIQA Group Austria is a European insurance group covering twenty regional markets. EHF Marketing GmbH is pleased to continue the long-lasting cooperation with UNIQA for the 2009/10 EHF European Cup competitions in Hungary, Montenegro, Austria and Romania. With brand presence in the respective countries, UNIQA uses this European platform for promotional activities.



TV Partners

More than 30 TV stations worldwide will broadcast the EHF Champions League matches during the 2009/10 season. Eurosport 2 broadcast to more than 45 countries all over Europe and long term contracts have been signed in important markets such as Croatia, France and Germany, guaranteeing the best possible exposure for the EHF Champions League in some of the main handball territories. Outside of Europe, Dubai Sports (Middle East and North Africa) and Eurosport Asia/Pacific (more than 15 territories all over Asia, including Australia) are also broadcasting action from the EHF Champions League. During the EHF FINAL4 in May 2010, the EHF Marketing will provide a state of the art production for this season highlight.



Schenker

Schenker Logistics joined the team of EHF Marketing partners in the 2008/09 season as the official logistics partner of the EHF Champions League. As a sports event specialist, the company ensures a consistent and timely delivery of materials.



Global MMK

Together with its partner Global MMK, EHF Marketing has created a platform which identifies an exact overview of sponsor presence, audience ratings and the whole TV landscape throughout Europe. Media reports make it possible to track every single broadcast in detail and represent a convenient tool to monitor Champions League TV coverage.



**Official Match
Ball of the
EHF EURO
2010
in Austria.**



**HANDBALL
EURO·MEN
19-31 JAN
2010
AUSTRIA**



Impossible is nothing.

EHF CALENDAR 2010

JANUARY

Men's European Championship in AUT
Men's World Championship - Qualification
Women's EHF Champions League

FEBRUARY

Men's EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

MARCH

Men's EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF EURO – Qualification
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

APRIL

Men's National Team Week
Men's 20 European Championship – Qualification
Men's EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF EURO 2010 – Qualification
Women's Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

MAY

Men's 18 European Championship – Qualification
Men's EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF EURO – Qualification
Women's 20 World Championship – Qualification Europe (IHF Event)
Women's Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

JUNE

Men's EHF EURO 2012– Qualification
Men's World Championship – PO Europe (IHF Event)
European Masters Handball Championship
Men's & Women's Beach Handball World Championships in TUR (IHF Event)

JULY

Men's 20 European Championship in SVK
Women's 18 European Open Championship in SWE
Women's U18 World Championship in DOM (IHF Event)
Men's & Women's Youth Beach Handball European Championships in BUL
European Cup Draws

AUGUST

Men's 20 European Championship in SVK
Men's 18 European Championship in MNE
Women's U18 World Championship in DOM (IHF Event)
Women's U20 World Championship in KOR (IHF Event)
Men's and Women's Youth Olympic Games in SIN (IOC Event)

SEPTEMBER

Men's Champions Trophy
Men's Champions League – Qualification
Men's Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's National Team Week
Women's Champions Trophy
Women's Champions League – Qualification
Women's European Cup

OCTOBER

Men's EHF EURO – Qualification
Men's Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

NOVEMBER

Men's Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's World Championship – Qualification Europe (IHF Event)
Women's Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

DECEMBER

Men's Champions League
Women's World Championship – Qualification Europe (IHF Event)
Women's European Championship in DEN/NOR

EHF SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE



Michael Wiederer
EHF Secretary General

2009 is over...

Some years ago, it was a running gag that the odd years were the easy years – no Euros or Congresses. Today, the EHF representatives on a sport-political and technical level as well as the employees on a professional level would readily agree with this statement, but times change. The odd years now have every component needed to provide excitement in the European handball sport!

National Team qualifications, Champions League, European Cup, Conferences and Congresses; and all of these points are combined with the accompanying noise of excitement and challenge. Our sport Handball has had more media exposure than ever before – with success stories and with problem cases, with “stars” and “bad boys”...

Nevertheless, 2009 is past and in cooperation with many protagonists and sheer determination, we have overcome the existing issues or at least we are on the right path. On the contrary, 2010 is just around the corner with a Men's Euro in January in Austria, a Champions League season culminating in the Final 4, etc. right up until the final tournament of the Women's Euro, unprecedented by the fact that for the first time two countries, Denmark and Norway will jointly host this event.

The European Handball Federation has never shied away from facing challenges in whatever form they took. We are encouraged in the fact that EHF and its employees continue to work to a high standard, all the while maintaining focus and continually taking steps towards our long-term goals. Our further cooperation with all of the EHF partners will ensure achievements for the European handball in 2010.

In the coming year, we look forward to developing relationships with all our stakeholders. The role that the member federations, leagues, clubs, players, referees, delegates and lecturers, play in European handball on a managerial and methodological level is simply unparalleled. Fusing the cooperation of the EHF and its stakeholders with our partners, both inside and outside our sporting sphere, remains a recipe for success.

I hope you have enjoyed reviewing our achievements of 2009; it is now time to close the page on this chapter of the European handball story so far, look to the future and all the possibilities that 2010 has to offer.

All the best for 2010!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wiederer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a personal style.



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Photos The European Handball Federation receives many photos over the course of the year. We would like to use this space to thank all the photographers, whether professional or just simply handball lovers, for the many photos which the EHF has used this year.

Date of publication December 2009.



the highlight of European club handball



29 / 30 May 2010

LANXESS arena Cologne



ehfFinal4.com

EHF EUROS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

EUROPEAN CUP

BEACH YAC



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