



**International  
Handball  
Federation**



# **Council Meeting No. 5**

*31.10.2023 – Basel SUI*



## Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)	President
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)	IHF Vice-President Africa
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)	IHF Vice-President Europe
Anna RAPP (SWE)	Treasurer
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)	Executive Committee Member
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)	Executive Committee Member
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)	COC Chairman
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)	PRC Chairman
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)	CCM Chairman
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)	CD Chairman
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)	IHF Representative Africa
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)	IHF Representative Europe
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)	IHF Representative Oceania
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX, virtually)	IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI, virtually)	IHF Representative South and Central America
Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN)	Acting President of Asian Handball Federation
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)	Treasurer of Asian Handball Federation
Amal KHALIFA (EGY)	General Director
Patric STRUB (GER)	Competitions Director
Mathieu JAUS (SUI, partly)	Representative of external IHF auditor

MEETING TIME: 11:00-13:15

Notes: These minutes constitute a record of decisions taken and only contain the most important spoken contributions. The proceeding of this meeting was recorded. The record is kept at the Head Office in Basel.

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.



# Agenda

## **1. Minutes**

**1.1.** Council Meeting No. 4, 12 August 2023 in Prelog, CRO

## **2. President's activities**

## **3. Competitions**

**3.1.** 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE – Preview

**3.2.** 3<sup>rd</sup> IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 – Awarding

## **4. Finances**

**4.1.** Debts of National Federations

**4.2.** IHF house

**4.3.** IHF Congress expenses

## **5. IHF bodies**

**5.1.** 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress – IHF President's Development Award

**5.2.** IHF Medical Commission – Appointment of Acting Chairperson

## **6. Continents**

**6.1.** Report from the continents

**6.2.** Decision of EHF Court of Handball regarding Dragan Nachevski

**6.3.** Asian representatives in the IHF Council

**6.4.** Non-active Member Federations

## **7. Miscellaneous**

**7.1.** Application for regional IHF membership – Réunion

**7.2.** First IHF Multiplier Course for Africa



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held in Basel, Switzerland. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health. He congratulated the Acting President of Asian Handball Federation on the qualification of Japan's men's national team for the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournament after winning the Asian Men's Olympic qualification tournament.

## 1. Minutes

### 1.1. Council Meeting No. 4, 12 August 2023 in Prelog, CRO

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, which was held in Prelog, Croatia, on 12 August 2023.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, asking for a clarification regarding agenda item 3.9 of Council Meeting No. 4 (New IHF competition – U17 World Championship). Referring to the concept of the new competition, which is currently being elaborated by a working group, he enquired whether the participants would be teams from individual schools or pupil national teams, i.e. a selection of players from different schools. President Moustafa pointed out that this topic had already been discussed in the last Council meeting. He assured that the U17 World Championship is a completely new IHF event and has no link to school events, adding that the concept will be clearer once the working group has prepared the details of the U17 World Championship. The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that an U16 World Championship might be applicable for women and that the participation of national teams would have an impact on the timetable of the Continental Confederations, as qualification tournaments would have to be played.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman, who pointed out that an open discussion about the concept of the new IHF competition is currently taking place. He emphasised that the pressure on handball is very high, as many other sports already organise competitions for the age categories concerned. However, the new competition must also respect the existing structures of the Continental Confederations. The CCM Chairman stressed that the main focus of the U17 World Championship is to develop the youth structure in the individual Member Federations, especially outside Europe. President Moustafa remarked that the quality of the competition will be higher and the matches will be more attractive when national teams are competing. At the same time, the IHF will continue to cooperate with the International School Sport Federation (ISF), as the cooperation with schools is necessary to be able to select players for the national teams. Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu added that the national team coaches could also collaborate with PE teachers from schools. President Moustafa reminded the attendees that the idea of an IHF U19 World Championship had also been questioned at the beginning and has eventually become a success.

Referring to the success of the IHF Youth World Championships, President Moustafa conveyed his thanks to the PRC Chairman for his good work in the field of referees, as the referee couples of the finals of the last three younger age category World Championships came from outside Europe (ARG at the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) WCh, ALG at the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) WCh, URU at the 2023 Men's Junior (U21) WCh), which is very important for the worldwide development of handball.

The CD Chairman took the floor and referred to agenda item 5.1 of Council Meeting No. 4 (Player Eligibility Code – Motion from ESP), proposing to further amend Article 6.3.2.2 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code. In consideration of the migration situation worldwide, he stated that players should be permitted to change their country's citizenship (passport) before reaching the age of 21, rather than 18, enabling the players to make their own decisions until the age of 21 when they can speak for themselves. President Moustafa explained that the decision about this agenda item has already been announced and published. The General Director took the floor, pointing out that the IHF Head Office had sent the draft of the minutes of the Council meeting



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to the Council members, asking them for feedback, but unfortunately the CD Chairman had sent his input regarding this matter after the stipulated deadline. Therefore, the updated IHF Player Eligibility Code was published and sent to the National Federations prior to the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress.

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## Decision

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**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 4 held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023.**

## 2. President's activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the President's activities since the last IHF Council meeting in August 2023, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

*12 August 2023:* Participation in several meetings and gatherings in Prelog, Croatia, including but not limited to the 4<sup>th</sup> IHF Council Meeting. Attendance at ceremony during which the African Handball Confederation (CAHB) and the Saudi Arabian Handball Federation signed a protocol of cooperation for the further development of handball.

*16 August 2023:* Meeting with Mohammad Jabir Al Mulla, Secretary General of Qatar Handball Association, in Basel in order to discuss the current situation of handball in Qatar, the participation of Qatari national teams in IHF World Championships as well as the further development and promotion of handball in Qatar.

*5-12 September 2023:* Attendance at 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games in Heraklion, Greece; Meeting with the President and Secretary General of the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games as well as with representatives of the Hellenic Handball Federation to discuss the beach handball competitions of the multi-sport event; Meeting with Lefteris Avgenakis, minister of Rural Development and Food and former deputy minister of Culture and Sport of Greece.

*13-15 September 2023:* Attendance at 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress in Basel; Meeting with EHF President Michael Wiederer as well as Presidents and representatives from several federations and hosting of a welcome dinner for all EHF Congress participants on 13 September; EHF Congress and Gala Dinner on 14 September; Joint meeting with representatives of the federations of Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark as well as with Uğur Kılıç, President of Turkish Handball Federation, on 15 September.

*21 September 2023:* Meeting with the President of the Fédération Centrafricaine de Handball (FCHB), Zeinou Tahiri, in Basel regarding the situation of handball in Central African Republic, assistance by the IHF regarding equipment and coaches' and referees' training and the potential benefit for FCHB from participation in the various IHF projects and programmes.

*17-29 October 2023:* Attendance at Asian Men's Olympic qualification tournament for Paris 2024 in Doha, Qatar, as well as at several meetings, including but not limited to the Council Meeting of Asian Handball Federation held on 23 October.

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## Decision

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**The Council took note of and approved the President's activities and appreciated the efforts he made for the worldwide development of handball.**





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## 3. Competitions

### 3.1. 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE – Preview

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented a preview of the 2023 Women's World Championship which will take place in Denmark, Norway and Sweden from 29 November to 17 December 2023. Referring to the concept of the upcoming World Championship, he pointed out that this will be the first World Championship to be organised in three countries, adding that the opening match will be staged in Norway, while the matches of the final weekend will be held in Denmark. He informed that the matches will be played in Herning, Frederikshavn, Stavanger, Trondheim, Gothenburg and Helsingborg, stating that most of the venues are well known from previous IHF and EHF events.

Concerning the match schedule, the Competitions Director explained that the competition will start on different days in the different venues to guarantee rest days due to travelling. He remarked that a clear concept about where each team is playing has been developed in order to allow all stakeholders to plan accordingly, emphasising that the feedback from the 2023 Men's World Championship in POL/SWE has been considered. Furthermore, special measures such as charter flights and additional rest days are being taken to ensure the best possible conditions for all teams and other stakeholders. He also stressed that the placement matches 5-8 will be played as this edition of the World Championship serves as qualification for the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments. In addition, he stated that the hosts of the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments will be determined after the World Championship.

With respect to ticketing, the Competitions Director highlighted the high interest so far, adding that all match tickets available for the final weekend are sold out. Referring to the three host countries, he stated that 50% of the tickets for Denmark and Sweden and 40% of the tickets for Norway have been sold, explaining that higher demand is expected as the competition is approaching.

The Competitions Director pointed out that the situation regarding TV rights is settled in most of the participating countries as the competition will be broadcast in over 100 countries, including 26 of the 32 participating countries. He added that positive discussions are taking place for the remaining countries and that the IHF has premium broadcasting partners in all the major key markets. In addition, he explained that most of these partnerships are with free-to-air broadcasters. Therefore, high figures are expected in selected territories (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, etc.). Additionally, 48 matches will be broadcast in the USA (via ESPN) as well as in China, which will have a huge impact on the popularity of handball in these important markets. Moreover, 400 requests for media accreditations have been registered so far for the World Championship. Furthermore, over 2,100 volunteers will cover all six venues.

With respect to the participating teams, the competition will see the return of GRL, CHI, UKR and ISL, which have all missed several World Championship editions, as well as the second participation of IRI in a row. The Competitions Director also pointed out that the World Champion will qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournament and the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship in GER/NED. In addition, the teams ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> will qualify for the IHF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments.

President Moustafa emphasised that in the competitions in general, a special focus needs to be placed on the players on the bench. Referring to the Asian Men's Olympic qualification tournament recently held in Doha, Qatar, he experienced that several players on the bench were acting like spectators, stressing that more discipline is needed among the players. The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, emphasising that it is difficult to find a balance. On the one hand, the players must show proper behaviour and discipline, but on the other hand it is important to see their emotions, especially for the media. He added that it is not easy for the players on the bench to sit quietly during the match. The PRC Chairman agreed with President Moustafa



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that the behaviour of some players at the Asian Men's Olympic qualification tournament was inappropriate, stressing that it is essential for the referees to understand the emotions of the players, allowing them to officiate the matches properly. The CCM Chairman took the floor and highlighted the importance of educating the responsible persons, as they have to understand the specific situations during the match. President Moustafa proposed to ask the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman to work on an overall concept in this regard.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the preview regarding the 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE presented by the Competitions Director.**

### 3.2. 3<sup>rd</sup> IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 – Awarding

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a letter from the Egyptian Handball Federation dated 15 July 2023, expressing their interest in hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2024. She pointed out that Egypt already hosted the successful 1<sup>st</sup> IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2022. While the exact dates of the 2024 World Championship are yet to be confirmed, the competition is scheduled to take place in September 2024 in Cairo, 6<sup>th</sup> of October, at the Dr Hassan Moustafa Sports Complex which includes two sports halls with a capacity of 5,400 and 100 spectators, respectively. The number of participating teams is planned to be increased from six teams (in 2022) to eight teams, considering that each team shall receive six double rooms and two single rooms (instead of five double rooms and three single rooms) to be able to accommodate the eight teams in the complex. She added that rooms for the female players will be considered. Due to the fact that a hotel is part of the Dr Hassan Moustafa Sports Complex, no transportation for the participating teams would be needed. The General Director also explained that the IHF nominees would be accommodated in a five-star hotel in 6<sup>th</sup> of October, as the IHF hotel is yet to be defined. Furthermore, she stated that the same financial conditions as for the IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2022 would apply (i.e. registration fee per team: USD 8,000, participation fee per day and person: USD 140 (for 13 delegation members), funding IHF to Organising Committee: EUR 120,000, fees for additional days/persons: EUR 250 in a double room, EUR 300 in a single room).

Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky took the floor, praising the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2022 in Egypt and fully supporting the bid of the Egyptian Handball Federation to host the 2024 edition. He stressed the importance of increasing the number of participating teams to eight teams, which proves the efforts in developing wheelchair handball, especially with regard to the IHF's ambition to include wheelchair handball in the Paralympic programme. In this context, the IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, proposing to adapt the name of the competition to IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship, i.e. not to include Four-a-Side or Six-a-Side.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously decided to award the 3<sup>rd</sup> IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 to the Egyptian Handball Federation. The number of participating teams shall be increased to eight teams, considering that each team will receive six double rooms and two single rooms to be able to accommodate the eight teams in the Dr Hassan Moustafa Sports Complex. The following financial conditions shall apply: registration fee per team: USD 8,000, participation fee per day and person:**



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USD 140 (for 13 delegation members), funding IHF to OC: EUR 120,000, fees for additional days/persons: EUR 250 in a double room, EUR 300 in a single room.

## 4. Finances

### 4.1. Debts of National Federations

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented to the Council an overview of the current situation of the debts of the National Federations, stating that most of the federations' debts are resulting from the participation in different IHF events as well as membership fees for 2022 and 2023. She pointed out that, compared to the past, only few National Federations are currently in debt, explaining that the Council needs to decide on how to proceed with these debts.

In order to give the National Federations the possibility to further develop handball in their countries, President Moustafa proposed to cancel 50% of the debts of the individual Emerging National Federations while continuing the discussion with all the Member Federations concerned.

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### Decision

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**The Council took note of the information provided by the General Director and unanimously decided to cancel 50% of the debts of the individual Emerging National Federations.**

### 4.2. IHF house

President Moustafa informed the attendees that the IHF has been looking for a new Head Office due to the limited size of the current building. He welcomed Mr Mathieu Jaus, representative of the external IHF auditor Copartner Revision AG, and gave him the floor to provide information about the potential new IHF Head Office. Mr Jaus pointed out that a traditional house which fulfils all IHF requirements will become available in 2024. This building, which is close to bus and train stations, the airport and several hotels, consists of two parts. The more modern part, which was renovated ten years ago, has a total surface of 9,300 m<sup>2</sup> (including underground parking with 80 parking spaces), an office surface of 2,890 m<sup>2</sup> and a storage area of 610 m<sup>2</sup>. It offers state-of-the-art infrastructure and a cafeteria/canteen on the top floor. The older part of the building has a total surface of 7,280 m<sup>2</sup>, an office surface of 2,960 m<sup>2</sup> and a storage area of 1,320 m<sup>2</sup>, and its entrance and facade are protected by the state. He highlighted that the IHF has a good chance to acquire one or both sections of the building.

As the IHF Vice-President Europe enquired about the consequences of acquiring one or two parts of the building, Mr Jaus pointed out that it is easy to split the whole building into two parts, as the building has two separate entrances and the infrastructure is duplicated on both sides. Therefore, the IHF would be very flexible with respect to the use of the building. President Moustafa stated that the older part could also be used as a hotel. Mr Jaus stressed that the IHF is more interested in the modern part but is waiting for the decision of the current owner on whether the entire building needs to be acquired. He informed that the original idea of the owner was to rent the house, but thanks to the initiative of the IHF, the owner is now willing to sell it. As the PRC Chairman enquired about the use of the space that the IHF does not need, Mr Jaus explained that possible options would be defined depending on the specific requirements of the IHF. He added that the IHF is in the first negotiation process of acquiring the new house and highly optimistic about convincing the owner to sell the building(s).

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, emphasising that special attention must be paid to the technical infrastructure in the new Head Office. The General Director pointed out that it would not be necessary to





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reinstall the technical infrastructure, considering that the servers could remain in the current Head Office. In response to the enquiry of the IHF Vice-President Europe regarding the future use of the current Head Office, President Moustafa proposed to use it as a handball museum and library. The Treasurer agreed with President Moustafa that it would be favourable for the IHF to have more space available.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information regarding the IHF house provided by the representative of the external IHF auditor.**

### 4.3. IHF Congress expenses

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who explained that the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress is taking place virtually (by video conference) on 2 November 2023, due to several difficulties encountered by the IHF during the organisational process that complicated the organisation of a physical Congress. She emphasised that compared to a physical Congress, the organisation of a virtual Congress is less costly, since expenses for accommodation, travel support, local transportation, etc. are not applicable.

It was proposed to distribute the amount of the costs that would have arisen if the Congress had been organised physically among the IHF Emerging National Federations to help them develop and promote handball in their countries. As the costs of the last physical Ordinary IHF Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2019, amounted to CHF 663,537.01, it was proposed to deduct several expenses invested in the organisation of the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress and to distribute the amount of CHF 600,000 to the IHF Emerging National Federations.

As the Treasurer enquired about the distribution of the funds, the General Director proposed to apply the same distribution criteria as established with regard to the IHF financial support granted in view of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, which shall be shared with the Council members.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the General Director regarding the IHF Congress expenses and unanimously decided to distribute CHF 600,000 among the IHF Emerging National Federations to help them develop and promote handball in their countries.**

## 5. IHF bodies

### 5.1. 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress – IHF President's Development Award

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented the applications for the IHF President's Development Award which is granted to two IHF Member Federations every two years at the Ordinary Congress of the IHF according to Article 2 of the IHF Regulations for Awards. She explained that it is awarded for particular services to the development and spread of handball in the Member Federations' own countries and/or throughout the world and that the IHF President's Development Award is granted to two applicants on two levels, i.e. handball developed countries and emerging federations.

The General Director stated that the IHF received applications from the National Federations of NED (handball developed countries), PAK (emerging federations) and TUR (emerging federations) within the deadline of 2



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August 2023. She pointed out that as the recipients are selected and the award granted by the IHF Council at the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the applications were submitted to the Executive Committee which, by electronic communication of 22 October 2023, recommended to award the IHF President's Development Award to the Dutch Handball Federation (NED) in the category of handball developed countries. The General Director pointed out that the Dutch national teams are successful in all disciplines and age categories. The Dutch Handball Federation is also very active regarding the spread of handball in the country, as the Netherlands have over 50,000 handball players and the nation-wide programme "Do You Pass The Ball?!" reaches over 60,000 kids between 6 and 12 at about 450 PE schools every year. Furthermore, the Executive Committee recommended to award the IHF President's Development Award to the Turkish Handball Federation (TUR) in the category of emerging federations. With respect to the spread of handball in Türkiye, the Turkish Handball Federation has launched several development programmes for both boys and girls, coaching courses are held twice a year for different categories and bilateral agreements have been reached with Germany to invite German coaches to Türkiye to help develop handball.

In addition, following President Moustafa's initiative, it was proposed to award the IHF President's Development Award to the Danish Handball Federation (DEN) in the category of top nations, considering that the Danish Handball Federation has recently achieved the best results on senior level of all IHF Member Federations, both in women's and men's competitions. The Danish Handball Federation is also highly involved in hosting events, making them an important partner for the IHF and a driving force in the organisation of top handball events.

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## Decision

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**The Council unanimously decided to award the 2023 IHF President's Development Award to the Dutch Handball Federation (category: handball developed countries), Turkish Handball Federation (category: emerging federations) and Danish Handball Federation (category: top nations).**

### 5.2. IHF Medical Commission – Appointment of Acting Chairperson

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that following the authorisation of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress, the Council unanimously decided to appoint Dr Lidi Kédéka Bessi Kama (TOG) as Acting Chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission until 2023. She pointed out that Dr Bessi Kama has extensive medical background (doctorate in medicine from Lomé University), adding that she was a member of the CAHB Medical Commission for eight years (2009-2017) and has been Minister of Sports and Recreation of the Togolese Republic since 2020. Due to the fact that she has not fulfilled the requirements to be elected as Chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission stipulated in Article 13.7.1 of the IHF Statutes (six years' high level involvement and experience in her National Federation or Continental Confederation in one of the Board of Directors positions), the decision was taken to nominate her as Acting Chairperson of the Medical Commission. As President Moustafa enquired about Dr Bessi Kama's activities over the last two years, the General Director highlighted that Dr Bessi Kama was involved in monitoring the application of the IHF COVID-19 Regulations for the 2021 Women's World Championship as well as the 2023 Men's World Championship. She added that Dr Bessi Kama has also taken part in several meetings of the IHF Medical Commission and is currently involved in the preparation of the IHF regulations for transgender athletes. Therefore, it was proposed to appoint Dr Lidi Kédéka Bessi Kama as Acting Chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission until the next elections in 2025.



**The Council unanimously decided to appoint Dr Lidi Kédéka BESSI KAMA (TOG) as Acting Chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission until 2025.**

## 6. Continents

### 6.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe who provided a brief summary of the recent handball activities in Europe, stating that a detailed report has been sent to the Council members prior to the present meeting. As stated in the report, the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress was successfully held in Basel, SUI, on 14 September 2023. The EHF was honoured to welcome IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa as their most prominent guest of honour, as well as IHF General Director Amal Khalifa. The European representatives were invited to visit the IHF Head Office on the day prior to the Ordinary EHF Congress. At the Congress, reports from the different EHF bodies were presented. Referring to the EHF Master Plan, the EHF currently has 14 active agreements and is in contact with more interested federations. The report also provided information on the competitions of the national and club teams. Several national team events came to an end in July (M17 EO, W19 EURO, W19 Championships, M/W17 BH EURO, 2023 BH EURO). At club level, following the completion of the intensive registration process, the 2023/2024 season opened as scheduled and is proceeding accordingly. A total of 243 clubs registered for the 3 men's (129) and 3 women's (114) competitions (men's competitions: Machineseker EHF Champions League, Men's European League, Men's European Cup; women's competitions: Women's EHF Champions League, Women's European League, Women's European Cup). Furthermore, several administrative and educational activities such as webinars took place. The report also included a preview for 2024. At the beginning of the year, the Men's EHF EURO 2024 will take place in Germany in large venues and especially an opening match in front of 53,000 spectators being already sold out. The Women's EHF EURO 2024 will be staged in Austria, Hungary and Switzerland in November/December. At the same time, a lot of work will be carried out on the administrative level with meetings of the Executive Committee, the Technical Commissions, the Boards and the Committees.

Afterwards, President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Africa who reported on a number of activities carried out on the African continent. Different statutory competitions of the CAHB were organised and training sessions for various stakeholders involved in handball, e.g. coaches and referees, were conducted. He praised the excellent cooperation between the CAHB and the IHF, emphasising that the CAHB will continue to develop and promote handball in Africa. He also thanked President Moustafa, the PRC Chairman and the CCM Chairman for their work.

The Treasurer of the Asian Handball Federation took the floor, informing that various courses for referees and coaches were held in Asia. Furthermore, he pointed out that many activities are carried out in the individual National Federations of the AHF, mentioning the competitions that took place on the Asian continent, including but not limited to the 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's Beach Handball Championship in INA, the 25<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship in IRI (qualification tournament for the IHF Men's Super Globe), the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Club League Handball Championship in KAZ, the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Junior (U20) Handball Championship in HKG, the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Youth (U18) Handball Championship in IND, the Asian Women's Handball Qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournament in JPN and the Asian Men's Handball Qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournament in QAT. In addition, handball was part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games that took place in Hangzhou, CHN, from 23 September to 8 October 2023.

President Moustafa thanked the representatives of the Continental Confederations for their excellent work in the last period, expressing his hopes that the development of handball in all the continents will continue in



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the future.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the activity reports provided by the continental representatives.**

### 6.2. Decision of EHF Court of Handball regarding Dragan Nachevski

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe who informed the attendees that on 25 May 2023, the EHF Executive Committee decided to release Dragan Nachevski from his duties related to his function in the EHF Competitions Commission and the EHF Technical Refereeing Committee due to allegations of match-fixing. On 11 September 2023, the EHF Court of Handball decided to suspend Dragan Nachevski from carrying out any function within the EHF and participating in any EHF activities for two (2) years as of the date of the decision for infringement of the EHF Code of Conduct Agreement. Dragan Nachevski was obliged to pay a fine of EUR 5,000 for the violation of fundamental obligations outlined in the EHF Regulations and in the EHF Code of Conduct.

The IHF Vice-President Europe pointed out that the case is not closed yet, as Dragan Nachevski filed an appeal against the first instance decision. Therefore, the second instance (EHF Court of Appeal) is currently dealing with the case. Referring to the IHF's decision to release Dragan Nachevski from his duties as Representative Europe in the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC), he added that no substitution is foreseen at the moment until the final decision is issued.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the decision of the EHF Court of Handball regarding Dragan Nachevski.**

### 6.3. Asian representatives in the IHF Council

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the confirmation of the IHF Vice-President Asia and the IHF Representative Asia did not take place during the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

Therefore, during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting of the Asian Handball Federation, which was held by video conference on 23 October 2023, the following Asian representatives in the IHF Council were nominated:

-  Mr Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN) – IHF Vice-President Asia
-  Mr Bader M. AL-THEYAB (KUW) – IHF Representative Asia

She added that the Asian representatives in the IHF Council will be presented to the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress for approval.

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## Decision

**The Council provisionally confirmed Mr Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN) as IHF Vice-President Asia and Mr Bader M. AL-THEYAB (KUW) as IHF Representative Asia until 2025. Definite confirmation shall be granted by the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress.**





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## 6.4. Non-active Member Federations

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to Article 13.3.5 of the IHF Statutes, stipulating that non-active Member Federations are not entitled to vote at the Congress. She pointed out that, according to the Bye-law to Article 13.3.5, a Member Federation shall be considered non-active if no handball activities are taking place in the country, no handball stakeholders (organisations, coaches, referees, players) are present in the country and no communication is taking place with the Continental Confederation concerned and the IHF. According to the evaluation of the IHF Head Office, the following Member Federations from different continents are currently considered non-active according to the aforementioned definition:

- ✚ Asia: BHU, CAM, LAO
- ✚ North America and the Caribbean: CAY, IVB, GRN
- ✚ South and Central America: BIZ, GUY
- ✚ Oceania: FIJ, FSM, GUM, MHL, MNP, NRU, PLW, SAM, SOL, TUV, VAN

The General Director explained that most of the Member Federations concerned became non-active due to the suspension of handball activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. She emphasised that the IHF continues to work with all the non-active Member Federations, especially in Oceania, to bring them back and restore the confidence.

Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu agreed that it is important for the Member Federations concerned to become active again, as handball shall be practised throughout the world.

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### Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the General Director regarding the non-active Member Federations.**

## 7. Miscellaneous

### 7.1. Application for regional IHF membership – Réunion

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council that the regional handball league of Réunion (Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, REU – Africa) applied for regional IHF membership according to Article 8.1.7 of the IHF Statutes, outlining that regional members have no voting right at IHF Congresses and are not allowed to participate in official IHF competitions (World Championships, Olympic Games). She stressed that all admission requirements are fulfilled, explaining that the following documents were submitted to the IHF in compliance with Article 8.2 of the IHF Statutes:

- ✚ Letter of intent of the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, including composition of the board of directors
- ✚ Letter of confirmation that the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball has its own budget and a court to play handball
- ✚ Statutes of the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, including but not limited to the following mandatory provisions:
  - Permanent compliance with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of the IHF and of the Continental Confederation concerned (CAHB)
  - Compliance with the Rules of the Game applicable





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- Recognition of the IHF adjudicating bodies and Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in the IHF Statutes
- Independent management of their missions and guarantee that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.

She pointed out that if the IHF Council decides to grant provisional regional IHF membership to the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, the application will be submitted to the IHF Congress to grant definite regional IHF membership. She added that the IHF would then have 210 Member Federations.

As the IHF Representative South and Central America remarked that it may cause problems to grant IHF membership to applicants called 'leagues', the General Director replied that the IHF has four further regional members (GLP, GUF, MTQ, NCL). However, in order to avoid confusion, she proposed to refer to this member as 'Réunion' only.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously decided to grant provisional regional IHF membership to Réunion. Definite regional IHF membership shall be granted by the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress.**

### 7.2. First IHF Multiplier Course for Africa

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who referred to the IHF Council decision dated 12 August 2023 to amend the IHF Coaching Education Regulations, by incorporating the new IHF Coaching Education Structure for Multipliers as well as for Goalkeeper Coaches. He emphasised that the new, two-level licence education enables goalkeeper coaches to be educated specifically for the different age categories of youth training (Licence Level 1) as well as for performance-oriented training in the senior category (Licence Level 2). With respect to the IHF Coaching Education Structure for Multipliers, the new, three-level licence education for multipliers aims at further strengthening the overall development strategy of the IHF to establish the IHF Coaching Licence Structure, especially on the continents and in the IHF Member Federations outside Europe. The CCM Chairman highlighted that with this new education concept, the IHF aims to identify and specifically educate talented multipliers who will then organise licence courses for coaches on the continents, in different zones or in their National Federations. In this context, the CCM Chairman stressed that the first IHF Multiplier Course for Africa shall serve as a model for other continents on how the IHF wants to implement the IHF Coaching Licence Structure.

The CCM Chairman informed the attendees that the first IHF Multiplier Course for Africa was conducted from 25 September to 3 October 2023 in close cooperation between the African Handball Confederation (CAHB), the African Handball Academy in Cairo and the Egyptian Handball Federation, adding that a total of 22 coaches from 16 African countries participated in this IHF Multiplier Course, which was led by the CCM Chairman and IHF CCM Member Paul Landuré. The CCM Chairman explained that a special didactic education concept was developed for this education of future educators, with interactive theoretical teaching units in the morning and interactive methodical teaching units related to training in the afternoon. In addition, the course leaders provided feedback and a professional assessment at the end of the course. Furthermore, he pointed out that two main objectives were reached with this methodical approach, as the participants tested their future role in conducting D and C Licence education courses in a practice-oriented way while several important methodical contents related to training were covered in practice. The CCM Chairman conveyed his thanks to the African Handball Confederation, the African Handball Academy in Cairo, the Egyptian Handball Federation and the Champion Academy (demonstration teams) for the excellent organisation of the course.



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## Decision

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**The Council took note of the information provided by the CCM Chairman regarding the first IHF Multiplier Course for Africa.**

The date and place of the next IHF Council meeting will be communicated by email.

President Moustafa thanked the participants for the constructive meeting and closed the session. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants.

### **INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Moustafa', written over a light blue grid background.

Dr Hassan Moustafa  
President