



17 September 2010

### Content

#### 1 IHF meets top federations and clubs

### IHF meets top federations and clubs in Basle – Mutual consent on all technical issues – Clubs to be granted compensation for release of players as from 2011 already, IHF to take out insurance for players during World Championships



Executives of the International Handball Federation met on Friday 17 September the presidents of the 10 most important handball nations, the presidents of the two club organisations, Forum Club Handball, Tomaz Jersic (Slovenia), and Group Club Handball, Joan Marin (Spain)

as well as Jean Brihault, Vice-President of the European Handball Federation to exchange opinions and ideas. President Dr Hassan Moustafa, Vice-President Miguel Roca, Secretary General Joel Delplanque and Treasurer Sandi Sola were present on behalf of the IHF. All participants reported a very friendly working atmosphere afterwards. "All parties are acting in the same direction in future", IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa emphasized. Marin and Jersic, representing the clubs, appreciated the meeting to be considered as an important step towards future cooperation. "Times of disagreement are over, we pull together now", GCH President Joan Marin stated.

The meeting focused on a compensation paid by the IHF for the release of players during World Championships, insurance cover for players to be taken out by the IHF during World Championships as well as issues regarding the future world calendar of handball events. Moreover the participants addressed the worldwide promotion of handball (especially on TV), school handball projects and the coming World Championship in Sweden.

There was a long discussion about the calendar of events, especially with regard to the qualification tournaments for the 2012 Olympics. After balancing pros and cons expressed by both the club and federation representatives, feelings of doubt towards the dates in April 2012 (men) and May 2012 (women) agreed by the IHF and the IOC could be dispelled. IHF Treasurer Sandi Sola explained that the IOC had to be told the Olympic participants as early as possible. Philippe Bana from the French Federation added that the date in April allowed best possible recovery for the players in June, just prior to the Olympics.

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When it came to compensation for the release of players, IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa pointed out the IHF had decided that compensation be paid as from the 2011 Men's World Championship in Sweden already. A solution should also be sought in view of the Sweden WCh regarding insurance cover. The IHF is currently checking different offers in order to assure insurance cover for players during IHF events.

Furthermore a 15 years calendar including major handball events during the named period was presented. "This calendar allows planning reliability for all parties involved", Dr Moustafa said.

All participants will make efforts for more public relations in handball. A better commercialization on TV will be of particular importance in this context. Among others they require that any major handball tournaments be shown on non-pay TV in the participating countries in order to address a great public. School handball projects, too, are to increase the popularity of the sport. Ulrich Strombach, President of the German federation (DHB), introduced the school handball project successfully implemented nationwide. EHF Vice-President Jean Brihault also applauded the intensification of the named project.

The participants also agreed to award the Best Federation of the Year – yet not based on the achievements of the respective national teams but based on the development of handball within the federation. The Baumann Trophy will again be awarded biennially to the most successful nation.

#### Quotes:



Dr Hassan Moustafa, IHF President: When all participants are satisfied I am satisfied, too. The atmosphere was really friendly. Many important subjects were discussed and as we listened to everybody's point of view, many problems could be settled once and for all. It is essential that all parties sit together. This creates a platform for discussion you need. The most important thing is that all parties pull together to work into the same direction. Now the IHF has to work on the proposals to put them into practice.



Jean Brihault, EHF Vice-President: It was positive to meet in this informal way as we did. We exchanged opinions; there was a new sort of approaching one another. The joint efforts are well appreciated by everybody. Now we hope for the Professional Handball Board to be adopted by the EHF Congress. I am happy that all parties involved signaled that they are ready to cooperate.

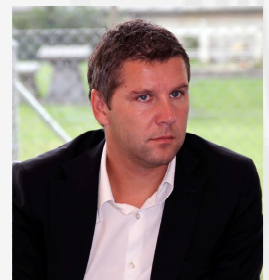
Philippe Bana, Technical Director of the French federation: This was an important meeting. The IHF has made contact with the federations and the clubs. It turned out that there are joint objectives. Clear proposals for the future were formulated as regards TV presence, money and commercialization. Disagreements of the past don't exist anymore.



Juan de Dios Roman Seco, President of the Spanish federation: There was a fantastic atmosphere. It was important for everybody to listen to the different opinions and to discuss. Of course, there are different ways to find a solution – but everybody agreed that they must be and will be a common solution. The IHF's idea of convening such a meeting was excellent.

Ulrich Strombach, President of the German federation: All participants will be very satisfied with the outcome of this meeting. Profitable solutions for everybody could be found. It is important for the federations and the clubs that compensation for the release of players is paid and that the insurance issue could be settled.

Tomaz Jersic, President of Forum Club Handball: This is a big step forward. It is important for the clubs to be at the table and to be heard – and that solutions could be found regarding compensation for the release of players and the insurance cover. Cooperation should continue in that way. It would make sense that the IHF became involved in the future Professional Handball Board.



Joan Marin, President Group Club Handball: This meeting is an example of ordinary business relationships between all parties. Things are growing together, clubs will have a say to a certain extent. Efforts go into the same direction.