

# 2006 EHF Youth Handball Convention

17 – 19 November 2006 in Vienna, Austria

## Opening by T. Lian / EHF President



Distinguished guests,  
Dear presidents,  
Dear Handball friends,

I have the pleasure to welcome you all to the EHF Youth Handball Convention in Vienna.

As you might know the EHF – WE – are celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary today.

15 years of the European Handball Family has created:

- 15 years of constant development
- incredible challenges – not only on the court but also “behind the scenes”
- A community of various individuals with different backgrounds, different cultures, different histories fighting for the same cause – Fighting for Handball!

We have chosen this special date for the organisation of the Youth Handball Convention to emphasize once again the importance of “Youth Handball” which the EHF has always been clearly aware of.

From the very beginning of the EHF, Youth Handball was a fixed and important part of our work. For example: In 1992 – shortly after our foundation – we started the official career of the EHF by organising Men’s and Women’s YOUTH Championships. The Men’s and Women’s Championships followed two years later in 1994.

This fact as well as the numerous projects and ideas in the last 15 years show that we are aware of the importance to involve the young generation in order to guarantee the future of Handball.

“Kids rule the world!” maybe they do already – but they definitely will as adults. Therefore it is our duty to give our best to help them to find their way into Handball.

Now I would like to specially welcome the presidents of our member federations who will participate in the Meeting of Presidents this weekend. Although this meeting will officially start tomorrow many presidents decided to join the opening of the Youth Handball Convention which proves the awareness and importance of Youth Handball.

The theoretical part of this convention will be accompanied by the draw of the qualifications for the 2007 W17 European Championship in SVK, the W19 European Championship in TUR and the 2007 Men's Junior World Championship in MKD. We will also see a demonstration game of Wheelchair Handball.

This evening – after the first part of the convention – we will meet for a communal dinner on the occasion of our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We hope all of you will have the opportunity to share their ideas and visions – because THIS is what we are asking of you. Let us find concrete directions and build plans for the future!

I hope you will return to your federations, to your working places and to the handball fields with new ideas and motivation. Therefore I would like to wish you a successful convention!

All the best!  
Thank you!