



Competitions Conference

18–20th April 2008 • Vienna, Austria

Dr. Moustafa's speech at the Competitions Conference

19th April 2008, Vienna, Austria

I'd like to put into words my pleasure to be here with you again after our last gathering during the EHF Congress. I'm very happy to meet the most important European handball personalities.

I'd like also to express my appreciation to the clubs, federations and European handball federation and their outstanding work exerted to promote handball.

Our relationship with European handball federation under the presidency of Mr. Tor Lian is very constructive and based on transparency as we serve each other considerably (tenderly) and sincerely. Despite the problems, which we are facing as outcome of implementation, family atmosphere overwhelmed all decisions, which will be taken to satisfy all concerned parties. Nevertheless, when we are negotiating or proposing any solution we put in our priority - the interest of our sport.

During the last seven years, handball witnessed a remarkable promotion worldwide. Our sport is now competing with other top sports which have the benefit of popularity and big fans.



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E.B.U

This is proved when we received the EBU viewers statistic in Europe during 2004 Olympic Games in Athens where handball was ranked third after athletics and swimming and before very famous sports such as football, basketball, volleyball etc. we should be proud.

World Championships

In addition to the tremendous success of both world's men championship in Germany 2007 and women's world championship 2007 in France there was a new record of viewers in both events along with the presence of spectators which was very thrilling as well as media coverage.

Marketing

If we talk about marketing, the IHF income of TV rights has been tripled ; in addition to marketing income.

It is obvious that if we take care of our sport properly, it will in turn serve us. All national, continental federation clubs as well as players will get the fruit of such development.



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Private clubs

According to what has been mentioned, the more development of the game, the more the greedy people attracted to our sport.

I have been informed that some people are trying to organize handball activities away from the formal organizations (national and continental federations). This might not have an effect now on you or on sport but it will certainly affect our sport latter on.

How to stop the outside attach:

We have to get together to stop the outside invasion as I said that this will not only affect handball indoor by after organizing competition outside the supervision of the concerned federations, they will think of forming another national federation, another continental federation and might also form another international federation. This without doubt will destroy our sport worldwide.

If we take a look to the IOC Olympic Charter:

Item (1) under (composition and General organization of the Olympic Movement)



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Paragraph (2)

The three main constituents of the Olympic Movement are the international Olympic committee (IOC), the international sport federations (Ifs) and national Olympic committees (NOCs)...

In addition to paragraph (3)

In addition to its three main constituents, the Olympic movement also encompasses the organizing committees of the Olympic Games, the national associations, clubs, and persons belonging to the Ifs and NOCs....

Therefore any violation to the provisions of the Olympic Charter will lead to suspension from the IOC.

Solving the problem:

We have to fight these phenomena by working together as one family under one umbrella and to dispose of differences, working to solve our problems friendly in order to push our sport to more success and prosperity. I dream that handball in the near future competes with football in all fields of popularity, promotion, attraction and practicing.

I call here all of you, clubs, national federations, players, referees, trainers and officials to work in close relation with the European and



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International federations because our interest is the same, our game is the same and our target is the same.

Number of matches problem

I gave the increased number of matches problem a lot of thinking. We are now studying and analysis the problem trying to provide several solutions with aim not only to satisfy the concerned parties but most importantly is to save our players from matches pressures and injures resulting from the increased matches on all levels (clubs, national, continental and international).

I tried to analysis the problem and found out that the IHF activities are representing about 15% of the total activities of the sport.

If we talk about organizing IHF world championship every four years; the idea which you refused during the IHF Congress in Madrid, I'd like to put in front of you some of the negative effects which might emerge from such an idea:

1. Reduction of number of matches in other continents and their national federations as the government gave them financial subsidies because of their participation in world championships.
2. Reduction of marketing income the championship is considered to be the main source of IHF income.



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3.



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4. IHF in turn will not be able to subsidise the poor national federations which need such aid in order to sustain their activities, moreover we might lose some of our member federations.
5. Reduction of TV broadcasting hours.
6. The most important negative point is that handball will be forgotten due to the space between world championships.

From what I mentioned, every proposal has its own negative and positive aspects. Therefore, I formed a working group including the IHF/COC President from Russia and IHF representatives from France, Spain and Germany (the main elements of the problem due to their league).

I recommend to form another working group from EHF and clubs in order to negotiate with the IHF working group to reach final recommendations and submit it to the IHF and EHF for studying thoroughly with one aim ahead which is the interest of handball, players, national federations as well as clubs.



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