



# Competitions Conference

18–20th April 2008 • Vienna, Austria

## **A system of Mutual Benefit by Ulrik Wilbek / DEN**

**How to promote handball in the best way / Better conditions for players**

**The questions of how to promote handball in the best possible way and better conditions for the players arose in the keynote address of Ulrik Wilbek. Sometimes the stakeholders in the sport spend too much time analysing the problems that face and are within the sport instead of analysing the opportunities.**

**There must be a level of cooperation between the national teams and the clubs, because without the clubs there are no national teams. It is possible that the number of matches are shortening the careers of the players. Player's are under mental and physical pressure, the handball stakeholders need to ensure that they are still playing at the age of 34 years old for example. The national federations, clubs and especially the coaches are responsible for the health of their players. The clubs need to make the best use of their players, not putting them on the player list if injured. Giving the player, time to recuperate can also lead to the emergence of new "stars"**

**Looking at options:**

- **Is it possible to remove one competition from the calendar**
- **Consideration of 4 competitions over a four year period**
- **January – good for handball re. sporting calendar**
- **'94/'96/'98 proved that June is a "bad" month for handball as there is too much competition from other mainstream sports and in addition to the players, who at this point are exhausted from an intense and tough season**



European Handball Federation