



# Competitions Conference

18–20th April 2008 • Vienna, Austria

## **O'CALLAGHAN AT THE COMPETITIONS' CONFERENCE**

The EHF Competitions' Conference will continue on Saturday, 19 April, with the discussion of three key areas of handball. One of these is "The Brand Handball". Experts, club representatives and players will intervene on the matter, such as former Spanish top player and currently FC Barcelona manager, Xavier O'Callaghan.

### **Eurohandball.com: Mr. O'Callaghan, what is your message you wish to send to the conference participants?**

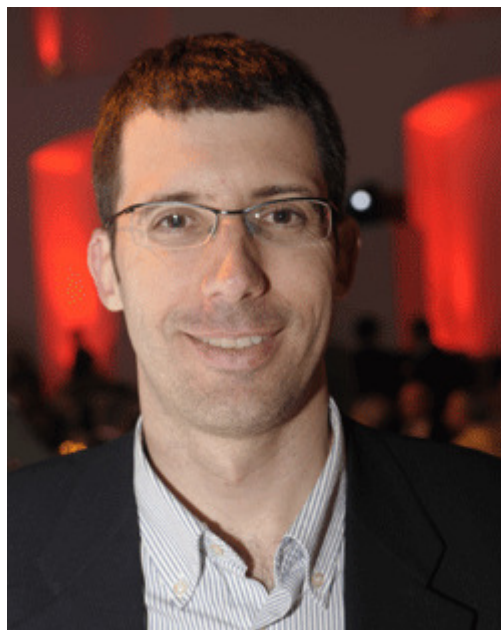
Xavier O'Callaghan: Let me just briefly present you what I think about the matter.

I believe that the three major stakeholders in handball, eg. the players, the clubs and the national federations have their roles and interests.

The players want to be professionals and want to play competitions. This means in the national team and in club competitions. In addition, they want to play as many years handball as possible.

The clubs need the players. In order to have the best players, they need to play competitions and earn money with it. If they play, they can earn from sponsor revenues, ticketing, etc.

The national federations also want to play competitions. If they do so, they earn money and they can improve their club handball.



### **Eurohandball.com: What is the task then?**

Xavier O'Callaghan: We have to find a fine balance between the various interests. It is easy to find the common platform of clubs and players. The clubs need the players and the players need the clubs and club competitions. Similarly, the national teams need the players and the players also need to play in the national teams to increase their value in the sport.

We also need to find the common interests of the national teams and the clubs. I believe that the national teams need the clubs, because that is where the players are coming from, while the clubs also need the national teams to increase the value of their players. What the clubs get is an added value when players appear in their national teams.

### **Eurohandball.com: And what is your personal interest in this matter as a club manager and a former national player?**

Xavier O'Callaghan: I would like the stakeholders to find this balance between the various interests. When players take part in top level national team and club competitions, it guarantees that the sport continues its development

TEXT : Eurohandball.com



European Handball Federation