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# ***EHF EURO 2010 DRAW EVENT PRESS FILE***



**HANDBALL  
EURO·MEN  
2010  
AUSTRIA**

## EHF NEWS 51 – 09.04.2008

### 2010 EHF Euro in Austria (19 to 31 January 2010)

#### Details to the draw of the Qualification Groups



**Date:** Friday, 18 April 2008 at 20.00 hrs.  
**Venue:** Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna/Austria

A total number 16 teams will participate in the final tournament.

#### Directly Qualified for the 2010 EHF Euro in Austria:

- **DEN:** Defending Champion
- **AUT:** Organiser

Apart from DEN and AUT, a total of 38 National Federations have registered for the qualification matches to the 2010 EHF Euro.

These 38 teams will be drawn into a total of 7 groups.

There will be 3 groups with 6 teams and 4 groups with 5 teams.

The teams ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from each group are directly qualified for the 2010 EHF Euro in Austria.

#### Here are the 38 participating teams in alphabetical order:

Belgium (BEL), Bosnia Herzegovina (BIH), Belarus (BLR), Bulgaria (BUL), Croatia (CRO), Cyprus (CYP), Czech Republic (CZE), Spain (ESP), Estonia (EST), Faroe Islands (FAR), Finland (FIN), France (FRA), Georgia (GEO), Germany (GER), Greece (GRE), Hungary (HUN), Iceland (ISL), Israel (ISR), Italy (ITA), Latvia (LAT), Lithuania (LTU), Luxembourg (LUX), Moldova (MDA), FYR Macedonia (MKD), Montenegro (MNE), Netherlands (NED), Norway (NOR), Poland (POL), Portugal (POR), Rumania (ROU), Russia (RUS), Slovenia (SLO), Serbia (SRB), Switzerland (SUI), Slovakia (SVK), Sweden (SWE), Turkey (TUR), Ukraine (UKR)

According to the EHF Men's National Team Ranking, the teams are divided into 6 pots. Here are the teams as they are divided into the different pots:

**Pot 1:** FRA, GER, CRO, ESP, POL, RUS, ISL

**Pot 2:** SLO, NOR, HUN, SWE, SRB, CZE, UKR

**Pot 3:** SVK, SUI, POR, BLR, ROU, LTU, MKD

**Pot 4:** GRE, BIH, LAT, NED, ISR, MNE, EST,

**Pot 5:** FIN, BUL, ITA, TUR, BEL, CYP, LUX

**Pot 6:** GEO, MDA, FAR

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7

Step 6: 7 teams of pot 1 to row 1  
Step 5: 7 teams of pot 2 to row 2  
Step 4: 7 teams of pot 3 to row 3  
Step 3: 7 teams of pot 4 to row 4  
Step 2: 7 teams of pot 5 to row 5  
Step 1: 3 teams of pot 6 to row 6

The teams ranked 1-4 (FRA, GER, CRO, ESP) will be drawn to those groups with 5 teams.

**The EHF Euro 2010 Final Tournament will take place 19 to 31 January 2010**

### EHF MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM RANKING

Nation	Euro 2008 NOR	WC 2007 GER	Euro 2006 SLO	Total
ALB	0	0	0	0
ARM	0	0	0	0
AUT	16	32	32	80
AZE	0	0	12	12
BEL	16	12	12	40
BIH	24	24	32	80
BLR	44	24	32	100
BUL	16	12	16	44
CRO	144	112	120	376
CYP	16	12	12	40
CZE	48	56	32	136
DEN	160	128	128	416
ENG	0	0	0	0
ESP	80	96	144	320
EST	16	16	16	48
FAR	0	0	0	0
FIN	12	24	12	48
FRA	128	120	160	408
GEO	12	0	0	12
GER	120	160	112	392
GRE	24	32	32	88
HUN	88	80	52	220
IRL	0	0	0	0
ISL	64	88	96	248
ISR	16	16	32	64
ITA	16	12	16	44
LAT	32	16	16	64
LIE	0	0	0	0
LTU	32	24	32	88
LUX	12	12	12	36
MDA	12	0	0	12
MKD	32	24	32	88
MLT	0	0	0	0
MNE	56	0	0	56
MON	0	0	0	0
NED	32	16	16	64
NOR	104	52	64	220
POL	96	144	72	312
POR	32	32	44	108
ROU	32	32	32	96
RUS	52	104	104	260
SCO	0	0	0	0
SLO	72	72	88	232
SRB	32	32	80	144
SUI	32	32	48	112
SVK	40	32	40	112
SWE	112	32	32	176
TUR	12	16	16	44
UKR	32	48	56	136

### Ranking applicable for 2010 EHF Euro

Ranking	Nation	Points
1	DEN	416
2	FRA	408
3	GER	392
4	CRO	376
5	ESP	320
6	POL	312
7	RUS	260
8	ISL	248
9	SLO	232
10	NOR	220
11	HUN	220
12	SWE	176
13	SRB	144
14	CZE	136
15	UKR	136
16	SVK	112
17	SUI	112
18	POR	108
19	BLR	100
20	ROU	96
21	LTU	88
21	MKD	88
23	GRE	88
24	BIH	80
25	AUT	80
26	LAT	64
26	NED	64
28	ISR	64
29	MNE	56
30	EST	48
31	FIN	48
32	BUL	44
32	ITA	44
34	TUR	44
35	BEL	40
35	CYP	40
37	LUX	36
38	GEO	12
38	MDA	12
40	AZE	12
41	ALB	0
42	ARM	0
43	ENG	0
44	FAR	0
45	IRL	0
46	LIE	0
47	MON	0
48	MLT	0
49	SCO	0

does not participate

qualified automatically

## Men´s Euro 2010

### **Get the party started – 640 days to go**

Denmark will come as European Champion to the Men´s Euro 2010 from January 19 to 31. Austria as the host country is also already qualified and prepares successfully with the new coach Dagur Sigurdsson for the big home-event 2010. The goals are clear: **On the one hand Austria invites the European Handball fans to celebrate a unique Handball Festival, on the other hand more children in Austria should become crazy about the sport handball.**

The Euro 2010 will be held under the theme "Magic Moments":

- "Magic Moments for the athletes" with state-of-the-art-conditions: f.e. in agreements with the hotels leaving nothing to be desired according meals and maximum transfer-times within 15 minutes from hotels to the venues.
- "Magic Moments for Officials" means guaranteed use of modern technology for a smooth communication between the venues.
- "Magic Moments for the media": optimal working conditions for up to 800 national and international media representatives. Press centres will also be installed in the media hotels.
- Last but not least "Magic Moments for the visitors" of the Men´s Euro 2010 – not only at the venues/games, but also at events, parties and festivals in the fan-villages.

### **Motivational push through Sigurdsson**

Dagur Sigurdsson was recently named as coach of the Austrian national handball team, with the goal to form a team by 2010, which can, backed by the domestic audience, surprise some teams during the Men´s Euro 2010.

As preparations five Four-Nations-Tournaments in 2010-host cities Innsbruck, Graz, Linz, Vienna and Wiener Neustadt are held within the next two years. Already at the first four-nations-tournament with Germany, Sweden and Tunisia Austria could beat with the new coach Dagur Sigurdsson in March in Tyrol World Champion Germany and the multiple Africa Cup winner Tunisia. Next Four-Nations-Tournament will be held in Graz end of October 2008.

### **Creating and using the "Europhoria"**

"We want to use the 'Europhoria' showing a broader public the excellent handball players we have, not only their sportive achievements, f.e. in the German or Spanish league, but also their charisma and ambitions," says Martin Hausleitner, Secretary General of the Austrian Handball Federation. "Of course we will also profit of the 'Golden 92-Generation', who won silver at the B-World Championships, held in Austria 1992. A co-operation with them as 'Ambassadors´ is in plan."

It is also another huge goal putting the handball sport in Austria on a broader basis: A successful Men´s Euro 2010 will motivate more children and young people joining handball-clubs. Even now, the involvement of the national team players in the existing school activities is very strong. The Austrian Handball Federation invites all European Handball fans to celebrate a unique Men´s Euro 2010: a promotional tour through handball affine neighbouring countries and the five Four-Nations-Tournaments within the next two years are just two of the many activities planned.

All informations about the Men's Euro 2010, the participating teams, the qualification, the venues and much more can be found on [www.ehf-euro.com](http://www.ehf-euro.com).

For further information please contact Austrian Handball Federation Press Coordinators:

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## Männer Handball Euro 2010

### **Der Countdown läuft – noch 640 Tage bis zur Euro 2010**

Dänemark wird als Titelverteidiger zur Männer Handball Euro 2010 von 19. bis 31. Jänner 2010 kommen. Österreich ist als Gastgeberland ebenfalls fix qualifiziert und bereitet sich mit neuem Trainer Dagur Sigurdsson erfolgreich auf die Heim EM vor. Die Ziele sind klar: Österreich lädt die europäischen Handballfans ein, ein einzigartiges Handballfest zu feiern, der österreichische Handball will noch mehr Kinder und Jugendliche für den Handballsport begeistern.

Die Euro 2010 steht unter dem Motto „Magic Moments“.

- Für die Athleten, indem man die Rahmenbedingungen schaffen will, damit sich die Athleten optimal auf ihre Spiele vorbereiten können. So hat man mit den Hotels vereinbart, die Küche auf die Wünsche und Bedürfnisse der Spieler abzustimmen und die Transferzeiten mit max. 15 Minuten extrem gering zu halten.
- „Magic Moments für Offizielle“ bedeutet, dass der Einsatz modernster Technik eine reibungslose Kommunikation zwischen den Spielorten garantiert.
- „Magic Moments für Medien“ heißt, dass für die bis zu 800 nationalen und internationalen Medienvertreter optimale Arbeitsbedingungen geschaffen werden. Auch in den Mediahotels werden Pressezentren installiert, sodass Journalisten an den spielfreien Tagen in ihren Hotels arbeiten können.
- Nicht zuletzt wird es „Magic Moments für die Besucher“ der Handball Euro 2010 geben, bei den Spielen, Rahmenveranstaltungen mit Festen und Partys sowie in den Fandörfern.

### ***Motivationsschub durch Sigurdsson***

Mit dem Isländer Dagur Sigurdsson wurde vor kurzem der ideale Trainer gefunden, die Mannschaft bis 2010 zu einem Team zu formen, das mit dem heimischen Publikum im Rücken für eine Überraschung bei der Heim-Euro sorgen kann.

Zur Vorbereitung dienen fünf Viernationen-Turniere in den Euro-2010-Austragungsorten Innsbruck, Graz, Linz, Wien und Wiener Neustadt. Bereits beim ersten Turnier unter dem Neotrainer im März in Tirol konnte der Weltmeister und EM-Vierte Deutschland sowie der mehrfache Afrika Cup Tunesien geschlagen werden.

### ***„Europhorie“ schaffen und nutzen***

„Wir wollen die ‚Europhorie‘ nutzen, einer breiteren Öffentlichkeit bewusst machen, welche hervorragende Handballspieler wir haben, die nicht nur durch sportliche Höchstleistungen u.a. in der deutschen Bundesliga, sondern auch durch Charisma, Ehrgeiz und Einsatz auffallen,“ sagt Martin Hausleitner, ÖHB-Generalsekretär. „Dabei kommt uns sicherlich auch der Bekanntheitsgrad der ‚Goldenen 92er Generation‘, die 1992 bei der B-WM in Österreich Silber holen konnte, zu Gute. Eine Zusammenarbeit mit ihnen als ‚Botschafter des Handballs‘ ist in Planung.“

Großes Ziel ist es aber auch, den Handballsport in Österreich auf eine breitere Basis zu stellen: Eine erfolgreiche Euro 2010 wird mehr Kinder und Jugendliche motivieren, in Vereinen Handball zu spielen. Schon jetzt gibt es eine starke Einbindung der Nationalteamspieler in die bestehenden Schulaktionen, die zur Euro 2010 forciert werden. Der Österreichische Handballbund lädt alle europäischen Handballfans ein, diese Euro2010 gemeinsam zu feiern: Eine Promotion-Tour durch die handballaffinen Nachbarländer oder die Viernationenturniere in den kommenden knapp zwei Jahren sind nur zwei der zahlreichen geplanten Aktivitäten.

Alle Infos über die Männer Handball Euro 2010, die teilnehmenden Nationalteams, den Verlauf der Qualifikation, Spielstätten und vieles mehr findet man unter [www.ehf-euro.com](http://www.ehf-euro.com).

#### Für weitere Informationen:

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## EHF EURO 2010 COACH PROFILES

Four of the world's top handball coaches will be drawing the lots for the EHF EURO 2010 qualifications. Here are the basic facts and a short history on each of the coaches:

### World Champion Coach

#### HEINER BRAND – GERMANY

##### Career:

- 1959 - 1986: player VfL Gummersbach
- 1984 - 1987: ass. coach Germany's Men's National Team
- 1987 - 1991: coach VfL Gummersbach
- 1992 - 1994: coach SG Wallau-Massenheim
- 1994 - 1996: coach VfL Gummersbach
- since 1997: coach Germany's Men's National Team

##### Major Results - playing career:

- 231 goals in 131 matches for the national team
- Gold 1978 World Championship
- 6x winner German handball league
- 4x winner German Cup
- 2x winner Cup Winners' Cup
- 2x winner Champions Cup
- 2x winner Supercup
- winner IHF Cup 1982

##### Major Results - coaching career

- 3x winner German handball league
- 1x winner German Cup
- Bronze 1998 Men's European Championship
- Silver 2002 Men's European Championship
- Silver 2003 Men's World Championship
- Gold 2004 Men's European Championship
- Silver 2004 Olympic Games
- Gold 2007 Men's World Championship

##### Short History

He is the only person who has won the world handball championships both as a player (in 1978) and a coach (in 2007). Over 24 years ago, Heiner Brand made the transition from World Champion class player to professional coach. With this, his fate was sealed to become one of the best and most respected trainers in his field. In 2004, he became a published author, with his sporting bestseller "Inteam". Here is a man that has rewritten sporting history. He has led the German national team for more than a decade and has won Olympic Silver on two occasions, a European title and a World title. In various international competitions he has returned to Germany victorious with 2 gold medals; 4 silver, and a bronze title.

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**Olympic Champion Coach**  
**LINO CERVAR - CROATIA**

**Major Results**

- Gold 2003 World Men's Championship
- Gold 2004 Olympic Games
- Silver 2005 World Men's Championship
- Silver 2008 European Men's Championship

**Short History**

Fluent in Italian, German and English, Červar is known as the man who can bring any team farther than they have been before! After his successes in Italy, in his position as head coach and chief of men's teams; he returned to Croatia to take over the national team in 2002 and within 2 seasons he had won a World Championship (Portugal) and Olympic (Athens) gold medals. He is also a seasoned handball lecturer and published author. In addition he is also a politician in the Croatian parliament.

**European Champion Coach**  
**ULRIK WILBEK – DENMARK**

**Major Results**

- Coach of the women's national handball team (1991-1997):
- Silver 1993 Women's World Championship
- Gold 1994 Women's European Championship
- Bronze 1995 Women's Handball World Championship
- Gold 1996 Women's European Championship
- Gold 1996 Olympic Games
- Gold 1997 Women's World Handball Championship
- Coach Danish men's national handball team from 2005
- Gold 2008 European Men's Handball Championship
- Bronze 2006 European Men's Handball Championship
- Bronze 2007 World Men's Handball Championship

**Short History**

Ulrik Wilbek is a respected sports manager who has garnered over 20 years of field experience. He is a trainer who produces results, time and time again he has taken Danish men and women's club and national teams all the way to the top. Since taking over the men's national team in 2005, Wilbek reached his ultimate goal in men's handball in 2008 with a gold at the 2008 Men's European Championship, previously he had had returned to Denmark with two bronze medals from Euro 2006 in Switzerland and from the 2007 WCh in Germany. Under Wilbek's expert eye, Denmark has also reached the 2008 Olympic Games





**Team Austria Coach**  
**DAGUR SIGURDSSON – AUSTRIA**

**Career**

1991 – 1996 player for Valur/ISL  
1997 – 2000 player in Germany (Wuppertal)  
2000 – 2003 player for Wakunaga/JAP  
2004 – 2007 player/coach A1 Bregenz/AUT  
2007 Manager Vals/ISL  
2008 Coach Team Austria

**Major Results – playing career**

5x winner Icelandic league  
1x winner Icelandic Cup  
3x winner Japanese Cup  
4x winner Austrian league  
1996 Icelandic Player of the Year  
204 National Team caps  
Bronze U21 World Championship  
4<sup>th</sup> 2002 European Championship

**Major Results – coaching career**

4x winner Austrian league  
1x winner Austrian cup winner

**Short History**

Dragur Sigurdsson has had a varied and successful career, both in his home country of Iceland and abroad. As a young player, he showed his potential as early as 1992, when he was awarded the title of best young Icelandic player in 1992. From Iceland, he moved onto Germany and was part of the Wuppertal team which made it into the Bundesliga in 1997. He played there for four years before going global and moving to Japan. He made his mark on the Austrian handball scene back in 2004 at A1 Bregenz. He was player coach from 2004 – 2007 before deciding to take a career move back to his home country and become manager of the sports club Vals, which incidentally won the championships in 2007 in the sports of football, handball and basketball. He wasn't able to stay away from Austria for long, being appointed national coach of the Austrian handball team in 2008.



## Heiner Brand: “Enthusiasm about handball”

The EURO 2010 Qualifications draw will be carried out by some of the best national team coaches. Danish Ulrik Wilbek, Croatian Lino Cervar, German Heiner Brand, and the Austrian Dagur Sigurdsson will take the lots on stage.

Read our exclusive interview series with the four handball experts just before the start of the qualification process.



Heiner Brand is a household name in Germany. The coach with his trademark beard has led his national team to win the World Championship on home court in 2007. Brand talks about the popularity and the upcoming period of his national team.

**ehf-euro.com: You will play more matches during the qualification process. Are you looking forward to this new system?**

Heiner Brand: In fact, yes. I do not believe, however, that it means a higher number of matches as we had many friendly games before with the national teams.

It will be interesting with games during the whole year and I hope that they will be attractive for the fans.

**ehf-euro.com: The national team in Germany has become incredibly popular after winning the World Championship and the expectations are always high. Is that a motivation or a burden on the team?**

Heiner Brand: It is obvious that the fans love the team. Even people who had not seen a match before are enthusiastic about handball today.

On the other hand, expectations must not be a burden. The World Championship was long time ago and the players must have forgotten that by now.

**ehf-euro.com: What do you expect from the upcoming two-year period with the Olympics, World Championship and EURO 2010?**

Heiner Brand: It will be a big effort for the players, but at the same time it will be a new experience, especially with this new qualification system.

**ehf-euro.com: Do you have an easy job to select players after the tremendous development of handball in Germany?**

Heiner Brand: We have many talents, for sure. The problem is that there is a high number of foreign players in our league and the young players do not get enough possibility to play.

## Lino Cervar: "I want to win all the time"

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Lino Cervar has won everything a coach can dream about – except for a EURO title. The 57-year old Croatian has led his team to World Championship title in 2003 Portugal and also to an Olympic gold medal in Athens 2004. ehf-euro.com talks to him.



**ehf-euro.com: You will take the lots at this very important draw event. What do you think about the new qualification system for EURO 2010?**

Lino Cervar: We understand that it is important to give the possibility also to the smaller nations of handball. It is also our interest that this sport can develop there and it is important to involve them in the process. This is the way for handball to make a step forward.

I know that Croatia will also have to play more games, but it will be a good preparation for the big matches and competitions. It is good to play matches, anyway...

**ehf-euro.com: You won silver medal at the last European Championship in Norway. The expectations must be high in Croatia...**

Lino Cervar: I have been leading the national team since 2003. There has been enormous ups and downs for the team. Just remember that Croatia finished last in Sweden at the EURO 2002. After that we have won World and Olympic gold medals, World and European Championship silver medals.

These are four great results and they were reached by a big generation of players who play attractive handball. This dynamic and quick game is a perfect school for the young players and kids who learn how to use their skills instead of their physical power only. Balic, Dzomba, Metlicic or Lackovic are able to entertain the people and really play handball.

Some players from this generation may retire after the 2009 World Championship in Croatia and it would be a acknowledgement for them to win the trophy at home.

**ehf-euro.com: And what about the new generation? Are you confident about the future of Croatian handball?**

Lino Cervar: I already counted on many young players in Norway this year who are the champions of the future. I hope that Duvnjak, Valcic, Kopljar or Cupic, for example, will prove their abilities.

**ehf-euro.com: With so many trophies and victories behind you, what are your personal ambitions?**

Lino Cervar: Well, I'm grateful that I can be the coach of this team that won World Championship and Olympic gold medals.

Nevertheless, I'm still hungry for more, as it is important to be. I have new ambitions to play well at the European Championship, World Championship and Olympic Games as well. I want to win all the time, but this is also true about the opponents. One thing is sure: we always have to give our maximum.

## Ulrik Wilbek: "The expectations are high"

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Ulrik Wilbek, the immensely popular coach of the Danish national team, has just led his team to win the gold medals at the EURO 2008. With this result his team have already qualified for Austria 2010; nevertheless, he will also be present in Vienna for the launch of the qualification process.

**ehf-euro.com: The qualification system has been reformed, but your team – as defending champions - will not take part in it. What do you think about it?**

Ulrik Wilbek: I believe that this system, similar to that seen in football, is very good and it is another step to develop handball and its marketing.

Personally, I'm sorry that my team will not take part; it would have been a great opportunity to play. We will not have real matches for a long time, only the major tournaments as we are directly qualified for the Olympic Games, World Championship and also for the EURO 2010. At least we can play a lot of matches against Austria...

**ehf-euro.com: Before the European Championship in Norway, you were very confident in all your statements, comments and interviews to win gold medal. Was that a strategy? If so, what can you say now?**

Ulrik Wilbek: Why not to say so? I felt that the time has come for us after two bronze medals in a row. We were the team that wanted the success most because we have never won before. I wanted my players to think like that, to think about gold. Even in the semi-final against Germany when we were five goals behind, we said to ourselves that the time has come...

**ehf-euro.com: But what can you say now to your players?**

Ulrik Wilbek: It is more difficult now. Maybe we are not the hungriest team anymore and others will think as we did before. The Olympic Games will be a hard competition with six other teams able to win the gold medal. It is also unlucky that only 14 players can be used as we always gave the possibility for the entire squad.

Anyway, there will be five matches in Beijing with one day to rest between them. I expect that it will boost the speed of the games and a single match can be decisive.

**ehf-euro.com: What are the expectations of Danish people from your team?**

Ulrik Wilbek: Handball is really big in Denmark. The Olympics are coming and people will associate the Games with handball. So the expectations are high.

**ehf-euro.com: Danish handball has seen tremendous improvement not only on a national team, but also on a club level. Does it make your job easy?**

Ulrik Wilbek: There are many good players to choose from now and there are many talents. But

## Dagur Sigurdsson: "I want to build a strong squad"

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Dagur Sigurdsson, the new Icelandic coach of the host nation Austria, is not unknown in handball. As a player, he was one of the most talented Icelandic players of the 72-73-born generation that won the Junior World Championship in Egypt 1993. As a coach he has been working in Austrian club handball for eight years. It will be Sigurdsson's task to build a strong home team for the EURO 2010.

**ehf-euro.com: Though the qualification system has been modified, you will not have to take part in it on the right of the organising country. What do you think about the new system?**

Dagur Sigurdsson: It is very positive for handball in general. It will give more home matches for the fans who can see more important matches in the arenas.

**ehf-euro.com: As a new coach, what are your objectives with the Austrian national team?**

Dagur Sigurdsson: My aim is to build a team for the Austrian fans that they can be proud of. We need to have a competitive team and make the players perform according to their best abilities. At the tournament we want to reach the Main Round.

**ehf-euro.com: You have few top players on a European level. What are your selection principles?**

Dagur Sigurdsson: It is important to have handballers playing on a top level, but this is not the selection criterion. I know how I would like my team to play and I want to build a strong squad.

The possibilities of the team are quite good. We don't have many top players, but the important is that those should play well who we have. If I wouldn't believe in reaching our objectives, I wouldn't have accepted the job.

**ehf-euro.com: The first steps were promising under your leadership in Innsbruck...**

Dagur Sigurdsson: Yes, we played a friendly tournament against good teams. We lost the first match by four goals against Sweden, but then we won against Germany and also Tunisia. Especially our success against the German side was a surprise and it was a very positive result for us.

**ehf-euro.com: What does it mean for Austrian handball to host such an event in 2010?**

Dagur Sigurdsson: This is very positive for the country. In fact, the clubs had quite good results recently, especially Hard that just reached the Challenge Cup final, or my former team, Bregenz, in the last years in the Champions League.

The EURO 2010 is a special aim for us, a whole nation will come together for the event. But it is important how we make use of it not only during, but also after the championship.

you must understand that when you are going for gold, silver or bronze medals, you need experienced players.

There are many talented young Danish players, but they are usually only excellent in attack. However, when you play matches against top teams such as Kiel on a club level, you cannot make substitutions. And this will not be different at the Olympic Games either...

By: ehf-euro.com, 17.04.08

# HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## **8th European Championship**     *January 17 – January 27, 2008 in Norway*

1. DEN	9. ESP
2. CRO	10. SLO
3. FRA	11. ISL
4. GER	12. MNE
5. SWE	13. RUS
6. NOR	14. CZE
7. POL	15. BLR
8. HUN	16. SVK

## **7th European Championship**     *January 26 – February 5, 2006 in Switzerland*

1. FRA	9. SCG
2. ESP	10. POL
3. DEN	11. NOR
4. CRO	12. UKR
5. GER	13. HUN
6. RUS	14. SUI
7. ISL	15. POR
8. SLO	16. SVK

## **6th European Championship**     *January 22 – February 1, 2004 in Slovenia*

1. GER	9. HUN
2. SLO	10. ESP
3. DEN	11. CZE
4. CRO	12. SUI
5. RUS	13. ISL
6. FRA	14. POR
7. SWE	15. UKR
8. SCG	16. POL

## **5th European Championship**     *January 25 – February 3, 2002 in Sweden*

1. SWE	9. POR
2. GER	10. YUG
3. DEN	11. UKR
4. ISL	12. SLO
5. RUS	13. SUI
6. FRA	14. ISR
7. ESP	15. POL
8. CZE	16. CRO

## **4th European Championship**     *January 21 – 30, 2000 in Croatia*

1. SWE	7. POR
2. RUS	8. NOR
3. ESP	9. GER
4. FRA	10. DEN
5. SLO	11. ISL
6. CRO	12. UKR

## **3rd European Championship**     *May 29 – June 7, 1998 in Italy*

1. SWE	7. FRA
2. ESP	8. CRO
3. GER	9. LTU
4. RUS	10. CZE
5. YUG	11. ITA
6. HUN	12. MKD

## **2nd European Championship**     *May 24 – June 2, 1996 in Spain*

1. RUS	7. FRA
2. ESP	8. GER
3. YUG	9. ROM
4. SWE	10. HUN
5. CRO	11. SLO
6. CZE	12. DEN

## **1st European Championship**     *June 3 - 12, 1994 in Portugal*

1. SWE	7. HUN
2. RUS	8. BLR
3. CRO	9. GER
4. DEN	10. SLO
5. ESP	11. ROM
6. FRA	12. POR

## Press Release

# Record coverage for 2008 Men's EHF European Handball Championship

**Zug, Switzerland, 11 March 2008** - Viewing figures for the recent 2008 Men's EHF European Handball Championship, which took place from January 17-27 in Norway, indicate that the cumulative television viewing audience for this event topped one billion for the first time.

The magic figure of more than 1.2 billion viewers now stands as the new viewing record for a single EHF EURO event. This figure equals the combined viewing audience from both the men's and the women's tournament in 2006. In 2008, the television audience so far watched more than 1,100 programme hours of European Championship coverage.

This result is based on an independent programme analysis, including information provided by broadcast partners worldwide. The report is seen as a conservative estimate for the event's total coverage as some markets were unable to provide audited audience data to meet the full criteria of the study. It was compiled by the German communication research agency Sport+Markt on behalf of Infront Sports & Media, the exclusive commercial partner for the European Handball Federation's (EHF) premier event.

### Extensive Media Interest

This result is based on the successful global distribution of the media rights for the European Championship through Infront and the positive status of the sport of handball on the market. The Swiss-based company concluded broadcast agreements with more than 70 broadcasters, including a record number of almost 20 radio stations. Overall, the tournament was broadcast in 85 territories - particularly in Europe, the Middle East and Asia - and in addition via news (DW-TV and SNTV) world wide. There were 420 representatives from television and radio present on-site in Norway.

### Vast increase in viewing in Germany

Overall, there was a large increase in interest, especially in Germany, reflecting the goodwill and momentum carried forward from the staging of the World Handball Championship in Germany in 2007. This has affected the size of the handball audience in Europe's biggest market. Over three times more viewers followed the live transmissions on ARD and ZDF in 2008, in comparison to the 2006 event in Switzerland.

The later - and thus more attractive - timings of the German matches created a substantial increase of the audience: ARD reached 8.02 million viewers (market share of 32.8 percent) with the live transmission of the semi-final Germany vs. Denmark on 26 January 2008 at 18.00 hours. This was the peak. In Denmark, 2,022 million viewers watched the final match itself. TV2 Denmark reached a market share of 86.5 percent with the live transmission.

### Strong coverage in non-participating Countries

Another key factor in the success of the event was the high number of matches broadcasted in non-participating countries (the majority live, but also some delayed including re-runs). For example

Portugal (23 matches), Albania (11), Romania (44), Belgium (18), FYR Macedonia (17), Bosnia Herzegovina (13), Estonia (11) and Dubai Sports Channel, which is reaching more than 20 territories in the Middle East/North Africa region (40 matches).

Tor Lian, President of the European Handball Federation, said: "The EHF is delighted with these figures, which are the result of a sustained and consistent media distribution policy over many years. The EHF works intensively with all its partners to further strengthen the EHF EURO Events, these figures speak volumes".

"This event has been the best in the history of all EHF European Championship from the media point of view," said Stephan Herth, Executive Director Summer Sports of Infront. "The pictures delivered by TV2 were impressive, capturing the feeling and emotion of the sport and adding to the understanding of the play. The audience results are the best yet".

**Coming up in December: The Women's event in FYR Macedonia**

The Infront Group is the EHF's exclusive marketing partner for the bi-annual Men's and Women's European Handball Championships. The EHF and Infront are currently preparing for the Women's European Championship, from 02 - 14 December in Macedonia. The 47 matches will be played in Skopje and Ohrid; the teams of Norway, Russia, France, Germany, Hungary and the host FYR Macedonia are already qualified. The other participating teams will be decided during the play-offs in June 2008. The draw for the final tournament will take place on 20 July 2008 in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia.

- Ends -

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# Competitions Conference

18–20th April 2008 • Vienna, Austria

## Event Information

### **2008 EHF Competitions' Conference for Men's Handball**

#### **Introduction**

The sport of handball has seen rapid changes over the past decade, especially on the European continent. This holds true for not only in the terms of the technical nature of the sport, which has become faster and more powerful but also in terms of the popularity terms, media attention, economic factors which play an ever crucial role in the development equation of handball. All areas of the sport, whether it is the technical development or the actual positioning of handball on the sporting market, are directly correlated with each other.

#### **The Stakeholders**

The number of different interest groups within the sport, or stakeholders as they are often called, has increased in line with the ever increasing interest for the sport. While many stakeholders share a similar objective, there is a clear differentiation in the shape and form of the sport and its structure should take in the future. The European Handball Federation, as European governing body, keeps a close eye on the movements within the sport and bears its mission, to act as an ambassador and catalyst for the development of the sport in mind at all times.

The stakeholders in top level men's handball rarely have the opportunity to get together to discuss handball's future path, for this reason the European Handball Federation will hold a **Competitions' Conference**, under the Chairmanship of EHF Vice President Jean Brihault and with the competence of Secretary General, Michael Wiederer, bringing together all the interest groups with the prime objective to work on a common strategic plan for men's European handball.

The stakeholders include:

- National Federations
- Top clubs
- Coaches
- Player representatives
- Media representatives
- Sport scientists
- Media experts
- Partners



European Handball Federation

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# Competitions Conference

18–20th April 2008 • Vienna, Austria

## Event Information

- Event:** **Men's Competitions' Conference**
- Date:** 18 – 20 April 2008
- Programme:** 18 April 2008 EHF Euro 2010 Qualification Groups Gala Draw  
19 April 2008 EHF Men's Competition Conference
- Place:** Penta Renaissance Hotel  
Ungargasse 60  
1030 Vienna  
Austria
- Goal:** Long-term strategic plan for men's handball
- Participants:** All interest groups, in particular specialists in all area of top level men's handball
- Event Design:** Conference Forum with discussion break-out groups
- Agenda:** All relevant questions relating to the structure of men's handball in Europe
- Research:** Extensive Euro research will be done prior to the event, focusing specifically on the areas of sport science, the media and business strategies.

Tor Lian, President of the EHF emphasises the value of conferences organised by the EHF - *"Handball in Europe is steeped in good traditions. To be able to sit together around one table and to develop qualitative solutions for the future which bring the sport of handball forward is just one good tradition among many!"*

As always, the European Handball Federation aims for the continued development and promotion of this particular sport discipline. The EHF Competitions Conference is a prime opportunity to assemble, share and debate in order to take handball another step forward!



European Handball Federation

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## EHF MEDIA SERVICE FORM



**HANDBALL  
EURO·MEN  
2010  
AUSTRIA**

*Please fill-in clearly in block capitals.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER  Male  Female

JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE No \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONALITY \_\_\_\_\_

• *Medium*

**TV**  **Newspaper**  **Magazine**  **Web**  **Radio**

• *Function*

**Journalist**  **Photographer**

• *Would you like to receive information about:*

**European Handball Federation (by e-mail)**

**European Club Competitions (by e-mail)**

**European Championships (by e-mail)**

**EHF Publications (by post)**

• *Would you like to work with the EHF by providing:*

**Articles**  **Photographic Material**  **Handball News**

• **Further comments**

This space is provided for any further comments relating to the EHF Media Service.

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**Please hand-in to an EHF member of staff.**

**ALTERNATIVELY please fax back to the EHF Headquarters +43-1-801-51 149**

*Many thanks for your time!*

Siân Rowland  
EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

