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Historical moment for Handball

On the fringes of the 9th Men's European Championship in Austria a high potential working group met in Vienna on 28 January.

On initiative of the IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa, representatives from the IHF, from the continental federations, national federations and, for the first time in handball history, representatives from four top clubs, met to discuss the future calendar of international handball and the involvement of the stakeholders into international handball in general. Specifically, proposals for an implementation of a releasing fee, an increase of the prize money and for a launching of an appearance fee were discussed. The members of this group of experts agreed basically on the following points:

1. Coordination of the international competition calendar
2. Launching of a releasing fee system
3. Launching of an insurance system for players during the World Championship

The meeting participants supported the steps of the European Handball Federation to create a Professional Handball Board, integrating the current stakeholders National Federations, Clubs, National Leagues, and Athletes, permanently dealing with issues regarding professional handball in Europe.

The International Handball Federation basically supports the idea of building a forum of expert's representing the professional handball and is always open to the problems the members of the handball family might have, but not for subgroups who are not affiliated to the IHF.

The experts who met today created the following working group which will work out the details of the individual points:

- Sandi Sola (Representative IHF)
- Dr Mansourou A. Aremou (Representative of continental federations)
- Alexander Toncourt (Representative EHF)
- Ulrich Strombach (Representative of national federations)
- Patrice Canayer (Montpellier HB, General Manager)

The results of the elaboration of this Working Group will be presented and discussed on the fringes of the Final Four of the EHF Men's Champions League on 29 / 30 May 2010.

The meeting was held in an open and positive atmosphere and the participants emphasized their interest in the development of the sport handball on all fields.