

Directorate General Information Society and Media  
European Commission  
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Vienna, 5 September 2005/mf

**Issues Paper for the audiovisual conference in Liverpool**  
**Right to information and right to short reporting**

Dear Sirs,

The European Handball Federation as the governing body of Handball in Europe and representing 47 member federations has taken note of the initiatives of the European Commission concerning the alteration of rules of audiovisual services, specifically those aspects of the TWF Directive which are protecting the public's interest in member states during major events.

As its core objective the European Handball Federation is organizing handball events all over Europe with a continuous presence on various European TV channels in both European member states and non-European member states. The overall presence of the diverse events in the various countries goes far beyond the minimum rights to information and is committed to offer a variety in programming which is tailored exclusively to the respective event. A continuous reflection and evaluation process within the National Member Federations confirm that the presence of Handball events in Europe is very satisfying.

In regards to the fact that the needs of the nations are defined individually based on their infrastructure and keeping the after-mentioned aspects in mind, it is clear that the current Television Without Frontiers Directive is the more suitable solution. Therefore the European Handball Federation in the interest of the diversity of sport transmissions in Europe and the interest of the individual conditions within the various nations, would like to express its serious concern on specific details published in the issues papers regarding "news access" and "short reporting" that have been presented prior to the Liverpool Conference.

Regarding a detailed consideration of the issue the EHF follows the written expertise provided by the UEFA on 5 September 2005. The view presented by UEFA reflects the substantial aspects and is fully supported by the EHF.

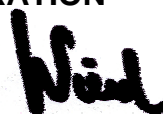
The EHF hopes that reservations announced as well as a general review of the requirements in the European nations will lead to the reconsideration of the issue by the European Commission and consideration of the position expressed in the analysis produced by UEFA.

Yours faithfully,

**EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION**



**Tor Lian**  
**President**



**Michael Wiederer**  
**Secretary General**