



**E.H.C. Alliance  
Meeting  
2 March 2016  
in Düsseldorf**



Photos: Cornelius Kaup, DEG



# Leading clubs take major step

■ ■ Wednesday 2 March 2016 could mark the beginning of a new era in European club ice hockey. 54 clubs from 15 countries registered for the meeting in Düsseldorf and another 13 requested to be informed about the outcome of the meeting.

Never before has one single gathering hosted so many clubs from so many countries under one roof. In the beautiful environment of the Düsseldorf football arena, the clubs which are the backbone and lifeblood of European hockey, took a very concrete step towards an alliance founded by the clubs, for the clubs and run by the clubs.

Prior and during the meeting the clubs identified 1. Economy, 2. Player related issues and 3. International calendar as the most pressing areas for the clubs, followed by 4. Influence, 5. Cooperation with other hockey bodies and 6. Education / Networking.

After initial presentations, which included one by Gerd Butzack (Managing Director of Forum Club Handball, FCH) who explained how handball clubs went through the same process ten years ago, the hockey clubs elected a 10-men interim board which was given the mandate to determine the structure and define the areas of priorities for the organisation.

The elected E.H.C. interim board:

Marc Lüthi, CEO SC Bern, Switzerland  
Håkan Loob, GM Färjestad Karlstad, Sweden  
Mikhail Ponomarev, Owner Düsseldorfer EG, Germany  
Franz Kalla, CEO Vienna Capitals, Austria  
Jiri Slegr, President HC Litvinov, Czech Republic  
Tommi Virkkunen, Chairman Kärpät Oulu, Finland  
Jürgen Arnold, Chairman ERC Ingolstadt, Germany  
Neil Black, Owner Nottingham Panthers, G. Britain  
Kjetil Bøe, CEO Stavanger Oilers, Norway  
Richard Lintner, President Slovak League

■ ■ During a constituting meeting which followed immediately after the club meeting, the interim board internally named Marc Lüthi as president while Håkan Loob and Mikhail

Ponomarev were named vice-presidents.

The board will oversee a process which includes two key dates:

**13-14 April:** The interim-board will meet in Vienna, Austria to fulfil the tasks listed above and prepare the founding meeting set for June. By then the proposals for areas of priorities and structure — including financing and voting rights — should be ready to be presented to the potential member clubs.

**13 June:** Founding meeting in Berlin, where clubs will respond to the proposals from the interim board and elect a board for the first two-year period.

It is very important that all clubs use this time to inform “their” board member about their preferences and ideas about how the organisation shall look like and what issues it shall prioritize.

Apart from electing the interim-board the clubs who were present in Düsseldorf decided about the following road map with a vote of 38 clubs for and 0 against.

- As the initial five-month project is over, the clubs voted to bridge the funding between the project and the permanent organisation by paying in €1500, as an “interim-fee”. This would secure the daily operations of the alliance during the months of March, April, May and June, including costs for the 13-14 April interim board meeting in Vienna and the founding meeting on 13 June in Berlin.
- By taking the vote, the clubs also agreed that by signing the Provisional Membership Application Form, the club agrees to the €1500 payment.
- The Düsseldorf meeting ended with 38 clubs signing and handing in their signed Provisional Membership Application Form
- The office will send invoices to the clubs as soon as the interim organisation has a bank account.
- The clubs who have paid in €1500 have automatically registered for the founding meeting in Berlin on 13 June where the rule “One-club-one-vote” applies.
- Latest date for payment of €1500 is Monday, 21 March

