



Tuesday, 28 October 2008

EHF EURO 2010 NEWSLETTER

Qualification Week – Road to EHF EURO 2010

With less than 450 days to go until the Men's EHF EURO 2010 in Austria (19-31 January 2010), 36 national teams will start their quest for qualification. Starting from the first games on Wednesday, 29 October 2008, 36 countries will compete to join defending champion Denmark and organiser Austria. The qualification system will be based on a completely reformed competition structure.

The EHF Congress in Lillehammer took the decisions in January 2008 on the new qualification system for European Championships. This decision, together with the decisions on technical matters taken earlier by the Executive Committee, form the pillars of the new qualification system, which will be in use for the first time on the occasion of the qualification to the Men's EHF Euro 2010 in Austria.

This new qualification system which includes all participating Federations except the organiser and the defending champion can easily be regarded as a milestone in the development of the National Team competitions of European handball. It will provide an opportunity to all Federations to present their National Teams in a top competition including all the best teams in Europe over a long period which guarantees a steady presence in the media and, consequently, offers new ways in the co-operation with partners and sponsors in a qualifying system with a fixed numbers of matches at home and away.

At the same time, we must not forget that this new qualification system will be a challenge for all parties concerned including the EHF, as there are various issues to be tackled (floors with handball lines only, standards of playing halls in general, release of players to the national team, etc.) and a number of topics will require a very close co-operation among the National Federations in Europe in order to further develop this product.

In the first edition of the EHF EURO 2010 Newsletter, you can find the most important information about the 1st and 2nd rounds of the EURO 2010 Qualification coming up this week. Check out the groups, match dates, playing times, TV coverage and read an interview with EHF President Tor Lian.

www.ehf-euro.com

News, interviews, match results, group standings: find all information on EHF EURO 2010 and the EURO Qualification at www.ehf-euro/aut2010!



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The screenshot shows the EHF Euro 2010 website interface. At the top, it features the EHF logo and the event title 'HANDBALL EURO 2010 AUSTRIA'. A navigation menu on the left includes 'Men's EURO 2010', 'News', 'EURO 2010 Qualification', 'Technical information', 'Destination Austria', 'Media corner', 'EHF EURO Events 2010 and beyond', and 'Contact'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'News' with headlines like 'No time for past' and 'Norway finds coach'; 'Venues' listing locations like Vienna, Innsbruck, Linz, Graz, and W. Neustadt; 'Magic Moments' featuring a video player; 'Past EURO events' with a 'EHF EURO HISTORY' graphic; and 'Stories' mentioning Citroën. On the right side, there is a 'MAGIC MOMENTS' section, a 'Countdown' showing 452 days, 05 hours, 07 minutes, and 21 seconds remaining, and a 'Qualification groups' list. A large image of a handball player in a white jersey is also visible on the right.

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EHF President on the new qualification system

With only one day before the throw-off of the EURO 2010 qualifications, ehf-euro.com talks to the European Handball Federation President, Tor Lian.

ehf-euro.com: The EHF Member Federations voted to introduce a newly designed EURO qualification system, which will begin in a few days. What was the reasoning behind this?

Tor Lian: There had been in depth discussions on this matter for some years and as is the case in any democracy, there were obviously differing opinions on the path we should take. Many countries were asking for more national team activities and top class international matches at home – the success of the national team is important for the growth of any sport. The nations wanted to give their fans a chance to see their national team in action more often, this system allows this. We also had reached a point where we wanted to take the development of the EURO product one step further.

ehf-euro.com: What do you mean by this?

The final tournament has been securely placed on the market for many years but we wanted to make a product out of the qualification phase, which had previously gone by without much attention what so ever. The new qualification system, which will be tested for the men's and women's EHF EURO 2010 in Austria and Denmark/Norway, makes the road to the final tournament more interesting and more exciting. All countries, other than the defending champion and organiser are in the qualification and we are striving to bring top quality, high-profile matches to the fans.

ehf-euro.com: So what is new about this qualification phase?

Tor Lian: It not about just a qualification phase – the EHF wanted to start the magic of EHF EURO 2010 with the qualification phase. TV coverage is also of key importance, while existing contacts have been respected, the EHF and its partner Infront Sports and Media have marketed the rights for the remaining countries, which means we will see many matches on TV over the course of the next months, which can only be good for handball. The EHF has also sent out EHF EURO 2010 branding packages to the nations, this is just the first supportive step to create "events" out of these matches.

ehf-euro.com: You mentioned that this is a test run?

Tor Lian: Well it was the Congress that decided to introduce this system, as I mentioned, there were many discussions and a working group which dealt with this exact subject. This system will be played for the EHF EURO 2010, an evaluation process will take place throughout this period so that we can measure and judge the results and success of the new system and make any possible changes or alignments.

There are obviously certain nations which are not so enthusiastic about the system, which is understandable, as they had qualified automatically for many years. When you introduce a new system including 36 nations, there are always discussions on whether it is good or bad, and we welcome this feedback. This is important in our development. We are listening to all stakeholders and all opinions - nothing is written in stone but I believe that adding value to these matches will add value to our sport across the board. Let's wait and see, and let's enjoy the matches!



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EHF EURO 2010 Qualification

Qualification groups drawn on 18 April 2008 in Vienna.

Directly qualified: Denmark (defending champion) and Austria (organising country).

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
 Poland	 Russia	 Iceland	 Croatia	 Germany	 France	 Spain
 Sweden	 Serbia	 Norway	 Hungary	 Slovenia	 Czech Republic	 Ukraine
 Romania	 Switzerland	 FYR Macedonia	 Slovakia	 Belarus	 Portugal	 Lithuania
 Montenegro	 Bosnia and Herzegovina	 Estonia	 Greece	 Israel	 Latvia	 Netherlands
 Turkey	 Italy	 Belgium	 Finland	 Bulgaria	 Luxembourg	 Cyprus
	 Faroe Islands					

The 36 teams have been drawn into a total of 7 groups. There will be 1 group with 6 teams and 6 groups with 5 teams. The teams ranked 1st and 2nd from each group will directly qualify for the 2010 EHF Euro in Austria.

Match days:

For the complete playing schedule, please visit www.ehf-euro.com.

Round 1

29-30 October 2008 (Wed-Thurs)

Round 2

1-2 November 2008 (Sat-Sun)

Round 3

26-27 November 2008 (Wed-Thurs)

Round 4

29-30 November 2008 (Sat-Sun)

Round 5

18-19 March 2009 (Wed-Thurs)

Round 6

21-22 March 2009 (Sat-Sun)

Round 7

10-11 June 2009 (Wed-Thurs)

Round 8

13-14 June 2009 (Sat-Sun)

Round 9

17-18 June 2009 (Wed-Thurs)

Round 10

20-21 June 2009 (Sat-Sun)



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Coming up this week – EHF EURO 2010 Qualification

Round 1

Wednesday, 29 October

17:00 Chekhov (RUS)
Russia vs Bosnia Herzegovina

18:00 Zagreb (CRO)
Croatia vs Finland

18:00 Komotini (GRE)
Greece vs Hungary

19:00 Torshavn (FAR)
Faroe Islands vs Serbia

19:00 Pinto, Madrid (ESP)
Spain vs Cyprus

19:05 Pölvä (EST)
Estonia vs Norway

19:30 Wetzlar (GER)
Germany vs Bulgaria

19:40 Rishon Le Zion (ISR)
Israel vs Slovenia

20:00 Riga (LAT)
Latvia vs Czech Republic

20:15 Reykjavik (ISL)
Iceland vs Belgium

20:30 Bydgoszcz (POL)
Poland vs Montenegro

Thursday, 30 October

19:00 Antalya (TUR)
Turkey vs Romania

19:00 Brixen (ITA)
Italy vs Switzerland

20:15 Luxembourg (LUX)
Luxembourg vs France

20:30 Emmen (NED)
Netherlands vs Ukraine

Round 2

Saturday, 1 November

14:00 Sarajevo (BIH)
Bosnia vs Faroe Islands

16:15 Drammen (NOR)
Norway vs Iceland

19:30 Aarau (SUI)
Switzerland vs Russia

20:30 Emmen (NED)
Netherlands vs Cyprus

Sunday, 2 November

11:00 Buzau (ROU)
Romania vs Poland

13:30 Veszprém (HUN)
Hungary vs Croatia

14:00 Vantaa (FIN)
Finland vs Greece

14:15 Hothalen (BEL)
Belgium vs Estonia

15:00 Brno (CZE)
Czech Republic vs France

17:00 Blagoevgrad (BUL)
Bulgaria vs Israel

17:00 Celje (SLO)
Slovenia vs Germany

17:00 Luxembourg (LUX)
Luxembourg vs Latvia

17:00 Zaporozhye (UKR)
Ukraine vs Spain

17:15 Karlskrona (SWE)
Sweden vs Turkey

20:00 Nis (SRB)
Serbia vs Italy



Qualification results

You can find the results of the qualification games on Eurohandball.com within a few minutes after the final whistle. Click on the link below for a .pdf version (updates automatically).



<http://statistics.eurohandball.com/reports/?b=294&r=2>



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What's on TV? EHF EURO 2010 Qualification broadcast times

Wednesday, 29 October


- 17:00  Russia
vs
 Bosnia Herzegovina
Live » TV Sport
Live » BHRT

- 18:00  Croatia
vs
 Finland
Live » Hrvatska radiotelevizija
Live » YLE

- 18:00  Greece
vs
 Hungary
Live » ET 1
Live » Sport1

- 19:10  Estonia
vs
 Norway
Live » Kalev Sport TV
Live » TV2 NOR

- 20:00  Latvia
vs
 Czech Republic
Live » LTV

- 19:40  Israel
vs
 Slovenia
Live » Sportschannel 5
Live » RTV Slovenija

- 20:15  Iceland
vs
 Belgium
Live » RUV
Live » VRT

Thursday, 30 October

- 19:00  Italy
vs
 Switzerland
Live » RAI Television

- 20:15  Luxembourg
vs
 France
Live » RTL
Live » Canal+

Saturday, 1 November

- 14:00  Bosnia Herzegovina
vs
 Faroe Islands
Live » BHRT
Live » Kringvarp

- 16:15  Norway
vs
 Iceland
Live » TV2
NOR Live » RUV

Sunday, 2 November

- 13:30  Hungary
vs
 Croatia
Live » MTV
Live » Hrvatska radiotelevizija

- 14:00  Finland
vs
 Greece
Live » YLE

- 14:15  Belgium
vs
 Estonia
Live » VRT
Live » Kalev Sport TV

- 15:00  Czech Republic
vs
 France
Live » CT
Live » Canal+

- 17:00  Luxembourg
vs
 Latvia
Live » LTV

- 17:00  Slovenia
vs
 Germany
Live » RTV Slovenija

- 19:00  Serbia
vs
 Italy
Live » RTS
Live » RAI Television

All broadcasts are shown in local time.

For updates and possible changes please always check www.eurohandball.com!



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