



KONINKLIJKE BELGISCHE HOCKEY BOND

ASSOCIATION ROYALE BELGE DE HOCKEY

Brussels, 6th of June 2025

Support for the candidacy of Christoph Van Dessel – Executive Board Member of EuroHockey

Dear European Hockey Friends,

On behalf of the Royal Belgian Hockey Association (RBHA), we are proud to support and formally nominate Mr Christoph Van Dessel as a candidate for the Executive Board of EuroHockey.

With the decision of our current President, Mr Patrick Keusters, not to seek re-election, we are pleased to present Christoph as an outstanding and experienced alternative — deeply committed to the future of European hockey.

Christoph brings more than 30 years of professional leadership experience, including over 11 years as CEO of the *'Flemish Hockey Liga'* (VHL). Under his guidance, the VHL has seen significant growth: hockey participation in Flanders has more than doubled, and 20 new clubs have been launched, expanding hockey into previously underserved regions.

This growth was not limited to numbers — it was guided by quality improvement, with structural support programs for coaches, umpires, and club administrators, ensuring a lasting impact on the game at all levels.

Christoph's leadership bridges the realities of grassroots development and high-level governance. He works closely with both newly formed clubs of 50 members and established institutions with over 1,000 players, making his expertise highly valuable for the development of emerging hockey nations in Europe.



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He is also a firm advocate for the core values of hockey: fair play, inclusion, family spirit, and integrity. He has launched campaigns to promote women in sport, with successful outreach, events and panel discussions involving athletes and sports professionals.

Importantly, Christoph is convinced that innovation and digital transformation are essential to keep our sport relevant and sustainable. He has initiated several projects in this field and is ready to bring this forward-thinking approach to the European level.

As a former recreational player, an engaged club volunteer, and a proud hockey father — with his son Arno recently making his Olympic debut with the Red Lions in Paris 2024 — Christoph embodies passion for hockey in all its dimensions.

We believe Christoph Van Dessel will be an excellent addition to the EuroHockey Executive Board, bringing strategic vision, operational expertise, and deep commitment to our sport's growth across Europe.

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Congress.

Warm regards,

Patrick Keusters
President RBHA

Serge Pilet
CEO RBHA