



KONINKLIJKE BELGISCHE HOCKEY BOND
ASSOCIATION ROYALE BELGE DE HOCKEY

Brussels, Monday the 21st of June 2021

Subject : supporting letter candidacy Patrick Keusters

Dear Hockey Friends,

The Royal Belgian Hockey Association is pleased to support and to propose the candidacy of Mr Patrick Keusters for re-election as member of the Executive Board of the European Hockey Federation. Given his professional and sporting experience, we believe that Patrick can bring clear added value to European hockey.

As you can read in his cv, Patrick has a strong financial and board expertise, which makes him an undeniable asset for a structure such as the EHF.

Regarding his hockey activities, Patrick has been President of his club Herakles for 15 years and as such he has acquired a valuable experience working in small structures, knowing well all their specific challenges.

He has been appointed, last Saturday, President of the " Royal Belgian Hockey Association to replace Marc Coudron after 16 years of presidency. In his previous role as a Vice-President, Patrick has been directly involved in all major events which also includes the EuroHockey Championships in 2019 organized in Antwerp.

Patrick can bring his expertise to help European hockey and its emerging countries to develop. As you probably know, Belgium has gone through an interesting evolution in recent years, with a growing number of clubs and memberships. This experience is crucial to help

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and develop emerging countries which have a growing interest for our sport. No less than 15 new clubs have been created in Belgium in the last two years!

Finally, having started to play hockey when he was only 5 years old, Patrick is very connected with the core values of our sport such as Fair-Play, family values and ethics. These key values must help hockey to differentiate from other sports.

In this regard, "Para Hockey" (hockey for disabled people) should also be placed in the heart of European hockey. Para Hockey is a good example of the openness, fair-play and development that hockey needs today. Its popularity has increased enormously in Belgium where already 20% of the clubs have started with a Parahockey team.

During his first term as member of the Executive Board of the EHF, his experience as banker and lawyer has proven to be very useful to the Finance Committee, which he joined as a member. Furthermore, he was involved and acted in support of the Director General for all legal and governing matters concerning the EHF.

For all those reasons, it seems to us that Patrick will be an excellent Board member. Do not hesitate to support him.
Many thanks and see you all at the congress!

Kind regards,

Serge Pilet
CEO ARBH/KBHB