



Minutes

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| Meeting | EEF Jumping Working Group Meeting |
| Date | 09 February 2017 |
| Time | 10h00 – 17h00 |
| Location | Sheraton Düsseldorf Airport Hotel, Room “Gebrüder Wright”, Terminal Ring 4, 40474 Düsseldorf, Germany |
| Chair | Dr. Hanfried Haring |
| Minutes | Carina Mayer |

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| Participants | |
| Dr Hanfried Haring | Chair |
| Henk Nooren | Member |
| Soenke Lauterbach | Member |
| Marco Fuste | Member |
| Iain Graham | Member |
| Claude Nordmann | Member |
| Laura Borromeo | IJRC representative |
| Theo Ploegmakers | EEF Board |
| Peter Weinberg | BEL representative |
| Philippe Guerdat | FRA representative |
| Excused | |
| Otto Becker | Member |
| Eleonora Ottaviani | Member |
| Peter Bollen | Member |
| John Roche | Member |
| Rob Ehrens | Member |
| Stephan Ellenbruch | Member |



| Pt. | | Topic | Annex |
|-----|-----|---|-------|
| 1 | | Welcome & Introduction | |
| 2 | | Worldwide harmonization of the CSI/CSIO requirements | X |
| 3 | | The Future of the FEI Nations Cup Jumping | |
| | 3.1 | Update from meeting between CSIO organizers & FEI in January 2017 | |
| | 3.2 | Division 1 | X |
| | 3.3 | Division 2 | X |
| 4 | | WEG Table C | X |
| 5 | | Ethical Matters (ie equipment / bits) | |
| 6 | | Update after the meeting with the FEI Youth Development Working Group | X |
| 7 | | AOB | |

1. Welcome and Introduction

Hanfried Haring welcomes the experts to the meeting and defines the goal of the meeting. The aim is to inform the member NFs about details of proposals for the FEI Sports Forum as well as other current developments with the intention to find the best possible solutions for equestrian sport in Europe.

2. Worldwide Harmonization of CSI/CSIO Requirements

The discussion is based on the letter sent by John Roche to NFs on 20 December 2016, particularly with regards to the longterm proposal for standardized entry fees worldwide (*Annex*). The basic idea of harmonization is welcomed. However, there are two very different systems.

- 1) The **European** one, based on a traditionally very big number of national (and international) shows, aiming at building up young horses and riders and thus leading to high performance sport. The system is structured from the bottom to the top. It is affordable for many people. It is based on sponsors' money and to a much lesser extent on riders'/owners' contribution.
- 2) The **American** one, based on a number of high-quality shows with excellent conditions. It is - compared to the European system - expensive and only affordable for a small group of riders and owners. It is based on riders'/owners' money and to a lesser extent on sponsors' contribution.

Both systems are historically grown and both have their merit. However, to harmonize them is extremely difficult.

The proposal currently put forward by the FEI does not display a harmonization but rather a liquidation of the European system in favor of the American system.

→ **It is not acceptable for Europe because under European conditions:**

- It goes entirely against the concept of a **people's sport** but brings equestrianism in Europe back to an elite sport with unforeseeable consequences for the industry and the interest of the media
- It is far too expensive, a system that is positive only for a few organizers and not for riders/owners
- It destroys the structure of building up young horses and riders and the important connection of sport and breeding
- It widens the gap between basic and high performance sport. This will result in less identification and interest of „normal“ equestrians with the international top sport; less interest leads to less spectators, sponsors interest and media coverage and consequently a weakened perspective for the Olympic future.
- It limits/makes impossible the development of the sport in European developing countries (ie East)
- It leads to a decline in the number of international events, whereas it is likely that shows will become national events again. There will be less FEI registered athletes and horses. This results in less income for the FEI due to fewer events and less universality due to less rider registrations.
- If European OCs can finance their events almost purely by entry fees, there is less need for the integration of sponsors and media. Again, this will weaken the equestrian position in the international world of sports.

NB: It has to be underlined that this does not mean any criticism on any system, above all not on the American one. There are good reasons to have such a system in that part of the world, however not in ours.

3. The Future of the FEI Nations Cup Jumping

Division 1: There is agreement to stick to the formula as agreed upon for the season 2018 ff in previous meetings (10 teams, 8 shows, 4 results to count, 6 guaranteed starts).

Division 2: The formula already developed by the relevant NFs in a recent EEF meeting (**Annex**) receives support by the working group.

(NB: It has to be underlined that the exact composition of regional groups has to be discussed every year amongst the participating nations. In this respect the Annex is just a proposal.)

The participants criticize that they do not have any confirmed information about the contract between the FEI and Global Champions Tour/Global Champions League after 2017. There are a

lot of rumors and pieces of information from several sources, however not from FEI. This situation is not acceptable because the NFs, Chef d'Equipes and OCs need to plan for a longer time than until the end of 2017.

The experts present agree that it does not make sense to discuss rumors and vague information. They also agree that it does not make sense to criticize the decisions taken by the FEI Bureau because the contracts are signed now. They are legal and have to be accepted.

The NFs (and all other stakeholders) have to be informed in detail about the agreement reached with GCT/GCL beyond 2017 in order to take decisions and be able to react with damage control, also aiming to secure the continuation of the Nations Cup.

The participants ask the EEF to make sure that the Nations Cup gains attractiveness for riders by several measures such as:

- more Ranking List Points to gain in NCs
- using NCs as qualification for OGs, WEGs, ...
- finding sponsors to offer more money for the series, because a series with 15 NC shows in Europe out of 19 worldwide unfortunately is not really a worldwide series. It should be discussed with the FEI if this should become a European series if it is more promising to find sponsors that way.

The participants underline the necessity to introduce as soon as possible the proposal that has already been thoroughly discussed and developed jointly with the responsible persons in the FEI Jumping Committee and the riders' representatives, i. e. to give Ranking List Points in relation to the percentage of agreed pay cards.

4. World Equestrian Games/ Table C

The experts present unanimously vote for the re-introduction of the Table C competition at World Equestrian Games. The EEF has also collected statements from 22 NFs formally requesting the reinstatement of the Table C competition at WEG.

5. Ethical Matters (i. e. Equipment/ Bits)

The changing view of society on the role and use of animals, particularly horses, is discussed. Consideration should be given to the consequences for the sport if its acceptance by society is fading away (social license). The experts present agree that EEF has to take the initiative in order to discuss this topic and to propose measures to be taken. The current situation in Jumping shows certain parallels to the Rollkur discussion in Dressage.

6. FEI Jumping Youth Development Working Group

An update is provided on the content and outcome of the meeting with the FEI Youth Development Working Group held in Zaventem on 02 February 2017. The experts present are

not in favor of adding additional series to the Youth calendar because the young people also need to go to school. Focus should rather be put on the U25 category in order to facilitate an easier transition from Young Rider to Senior level.

Conclusions

The participants unanimously agree that the topics mentioned under items 2, 3 and 4 are of such high importance for the future development of the show-jumping sport in Europe that it is necessary that Europe is speaking with one voice at the FEI Sports Forum in April. Therefore it is absolutely necessary to discuss with the member NFs and stakeholders before the Forum. The participants ask the EEF Board to initiate such meeting as soon as possible in order to discuss these points.

The Chair thanks the experts present for their extremely valuable contributions and closes the meeting at 15:00 h.