



EUROPEAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Report of the EEF Working Groups & EEF EU-Committee

EEF General Assembly
28 October 2020

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1. JUMPING

The EEF Working Group Jumping comprises the following members:

- Member – Eleonora Ottaviani (ITA)
- Member – Quentin Simonet (FRA)
- Member – Otto Becker (GER)
- Member – Henrik Ankarcrona (SWE)
- Member – Dorottya Stróbl (HUN)
- Member – Lukasz Jankowski (POL)
- Chair – George Dimaras (GRE)

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a major disruption on the Jumping sport and its activities and stakeholders in Europe, and has resulted in a competition standstill for the biggest part of the first half of 2020. Competitions have slowly restarted after August 2020, but we are far from the pre-pandemic level of activity and with now clear signs of what's to come in the near-medium term future for the Jumping sport.

Online meeting, June 3rd, 2020

The WG Jumping had an online meeting on June 3rd, 2020 with the following matters on the agenda :

1. Postponement of Tokyo 2020 and cancellation of EU CH 2021 in Budapest.
2. Current situation and restart of the jumping sport in Europe
3. Longines EEF Series 2021 and Longines Nations Cup Series 2021
4. Proposal for new Olympic Qualification System for Paris 2024 - Group C

At its above meeting, the WG Jumping reached a unanimous decision to recommend to the EEF Board the re-introduction of the EU CH 2021 for Seniors, after its initial cancellation on May 2020 as a result of the OG postponement for 2021. The WG's recommendation to the Board contained a detailed and substantiated sport proposal with alternative dates for holding the EU CH Jumping 2021. This recommendation was approved by the EEF Board, enjoyed strong support by all Jumping sport stakeholders in Europe and was subsequently dully submitted to the FEI with significant probability to be realized.

Also at its above meeting, the WG Jumping reached a unanimous decision to recommend to the EEF Board an amended Olympic Qualification System for Group C. The proposal which takes all sport, geographical and travel challenges into



consideration, has been approved by the EEF Board and, after thorough consultation with EEF member NFs in Group C, will be dully presented to the FEI ahead of the OG qualification system discussions for Paris 2024.

E-mail consultation, August 20th, 2020

Following the EEF Secretary Generals meeting in August 2020, the WG Jumping was asked to make recommendations on specific matters raised by the EEF NFs Secretary Generals. The WG had an online consultation on August 22nd, 2020 and provided its input on the following matters :

1. Proposed amendment of FEI Jumping Rules “*Jumping - Team Classification Ch/J/YR/U25 (Annex IX/Art. 18.1; Annex XIII/Art. 24.1)*”
2. OC project proposal received from Lithuania for EEF Baltic Jumping Championships

Online meeting for EEF discussion on CSI Invitation Rules, September 21st, 2020

The EEF Board called a meeting with Jumping sport stakeholders in Europe in preparation of the “FEI Jumping Committee - Stakeholder Consultation Session CSI Invitation Rules” scheduled on September, 23rd, 2020.

All the members of the WG attended the EEF meeting and provided their input and opinions to form a common European position on CSI Invitation Rules ahead of the FEI Consultation.

The EEF and its common position were then dully represented at the FEI Consultation by the Chair of WG Jumping and another member of the EEF Board.

This concludes the Report of the EEF WG Jumping for the EEF GA 2021. Sincere acknowledgments go to the members of the WG for their availability, co-operation, valuable contributions and visionary approach in these difficult and challenging Covid-19 times.

The EEF Working Group Jumping Chair

George Dimaras



2. DRESSAGE

Due to the Covid 19 situation there have been no in-person meetings during the year. This does not at all mean that the Dressage challenges in Europe have been on stand by.

In spring we had planned an in-person meeting in order to find a solution for the riders in the Central European League (CEL) to qualify for the World Cup final. The issue was that qualifiers hosted in the region often had winners, and thereby points to qualify for the final, from the Western European League. We had several proposals on the table, but when the Covid situation came up this issue was no longer relevant from an acute point of view due to travel restrictions etc. The issue is not forgotten and will be taken up again when the situation allows.

The fact that the Olympic Games were postponed to 2021 has had a lot of consequences especially for the FEI calendar. We are happy to be represented as EEF in the FEI calendar task forces in all disciplines.

A lot of shows on all levels have been cancelled or postponed and this is really a challenge for the calendar. However, one of the main issues has been European Championships in the Olympic disciplines in 2021 or not. Especially Dressage has been challenged. The survey we did in the EEF earlier this year clearly indicated that our member NFs did want a European Championship also in Dressage regardless of whether the Olympic Games would take place or not. Even all 10 NF teams qualified for the Olympic Games intended to send teams also to a European Championship. The arguments pro and contra are well known but the most important is that our EEF members want the Championships to take place. We as the EEF Board have spent a lot of energy to convince the FEI and especially their technical committees to support the wish. We have really taken your feedback seriously. Furthermore, Dressage has a very good and well respected venue and organizer that has shows interest in hosting the championship.

The EEF has asked the FEI Board to reconsider their previous decision not to have European Championships in 2021 because this is what the relevant European NFs want.

When this report is written we don't have the FEI Board's final decision but EEF has done what we could to have a European Championship also in Dressage in 2021.

Ulf Helgstrand
Chairman
EEF Dressage Working Group



3. EVENTING

This year has been relatively quiet with a few discussions on general points taking place amongst the Working Group members.

The key topic has been on whether there should be a European Eventing Championship in 2021 now that Tokyo 202 has moved back to 2021. There has been a lot of discussion on this with members of the WG sharing their thoughts and gathering opinions from colleagues.

The EWG is very appreciative of the efforts made by the EEF Board to try to secure a European Eventing Championship in 2021 and is aware of the challenges presented by the FEI Board in regard to this particular subject. The EWG is 100% supportive of a European Eventing Championships in 2021 and hopes that they will come to fruition.

The Covid19 situation has been causing havoc in the sport as we all know only too well. The EWG is mindful that some events may struggle in the immediate future given the knock-on effects of the virus (sponsorship, exhibitors, possible recession, etc) but at the moment the feeling is generally one of being cautiously positive. Having said that some events in 2021 that rely on spectators as a big slice of income are concerned that:

- a. Spectators may not be allowed to attend in large enough numbers to ensure viability and
- b. there will be no Covid insurance cover

This clearly makes them financially exposed and vulnerable and perhaps unwilling to take the risk. The next 4-6 months will be very telling, whether a vaccine is found, what happens during the winter, etc. The same issues are facing Tokyo.

Unfortunately there is not much that we as the EWG feel we can do to assist given the situation is out of our hands. Fingers crossed for a positive outcome and the on-going practical approach of the FEI and all NFs.

The practical approach of the FEI under the Covid circumstances has been appreciated by OCs and athletes and it is hoped that this can continue in to 2021.



Mike Etherington-Smith
Chairman
EEF Eventing Working Group

4. ENDURANCE

The EEF is represented by Quentin Simonet (FRA) in the FEI Endurance Calendar Taskforce. No meeting has taken place of the group in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation but the implementation of the new Endurance rules is closely monitored and will be discussed in a meeting later this year when a first evaluation is possible.

5. DRIVING

The EEF is represented by Quentin Simonet (FRA) in the FEI Driving Calendar Taskforce. No meeting has taken place of the group in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation and as there is no full revision of the FEI Driving Rules this year, no major issues have been identified for discussion.

6. PARA-EQUESTRIAN

A new working group for Para-Equestrian matters has been initiated just shortly before the publication of this document and the Chair and Working Group members have been appointed. A first videoconference will be organized after publication of this document.

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Members: Theo Ploegmakers (NED), Armagan Özgörkey (TUR), Nayla Stoessl (SUI), Andrea White (ITA), Carina Mayer (EEF SG), Venancio Garcia Ovies (ESP), Soenke Lauterbach (GER)

The SPWG held a meeting in Zurich in January 2020. In this meeting Carina and Soenke were tasked to prepare a first draft of the new Strategic Plan based on the discussions for review by the SPWG, then the EEF Board and finally for approval by the EEF GA in October. The thoughts of the SPWG based very much on the results of the Strategic Planning Workshop that the EEF held during the Group Session at the FEI GA in Moscow 2019.

Shortly after, Covid 19 put our activities as SPWG on hold. Everyone had to focus on Covid 19 crisis management and there was no time to work on the plan during the past weeks.



More importantly, members of the SPWG felt that the equestrian world is in another situation now in Corona times and probably after it than we were before. The situation will probably be much different than it was when the SPWG developed its thoughts on the EEF strategy. Consequently the SPWG decided to go back one step again. The conclusions the SPWG drew so far need to be reviewed and verified or amended by the SPWG. We may have to set new targets and revise the strategic approach.

The SPWG felt that during spring and summer 2020 it was still too early to draw clear conclusions because the situation is still developing and changing so much on a weekly or even daily basis. Our expectation is that we will only be able to understand the full implications of Covid 19 sometime this late summer or autumn. Therefore the SPWG suggested to the EEF Board to delay work for some time and get going again once we have more knowledge. The EEF Board agreed to this proposal.

This leads to a delay of the work. The SPWG and EEF Board are not in a position to present a new strategic plan to the EEF GA in 2020. But the SPWG simply was not comfortable to present something at this stage. SPWG will resume work in autumn 2020.

Soenke Lauterbach
Chairman
EEF Strategic Planning Working Group

8. ANTI-DOPING **(FEI human and equine anti-doping and medication rules revision 2020)**

Members: Prof. Marianne Sloet (NED), Avalon Everett (IRL), Soenke Lauterbach (GER), Dr. Henrike Lagershausen (GER), Constanze Winter (GER)

As equine and human anti-doping are very specific topics where not all NFs have full expertise in, the EEF Board decided to establish a temporary working group that was requested to review the FEI proposals for EADCMR and ADRHA and provide comments to EEF member NFs and subsequently to the FEI.

The revision of EADCMR and ADRHA was very focused on legal items. It was based on the revision of the WADA code for 2021. Therefore Avalon Everett and Constanze Winter took the lead developing proposals. The WG met twice and then



gave an overview on the proposed rules to the Secretary Generals' meeting on August, 18th. Subsequently two documents were provided to all EEF member NFs with comments that

- a) NFs could use when commenting back to the FEI
- b) Made NFs aware where they have to change national rules as well

Soenke Lauterbach
Chairman
EEF Anti-Doping Working Group

9. EU-COMMITTEE

1. Background - EEF EU Committee:

The EEF EU Committee is a permanent Committee for handling EU matters relevant to the EEF. Current key focus areas include:

- Liaison and interaction with the European Commission and Parliament, and relevant organisations including the EHN (European Horse Network);
- Facilitating communication and exchange of information with EEF Member Federations.
- EU Consumer law; CAP (and the position of the equine industry); EU Animal Health Law and Brexit; Identification of Equidae legislation; Equine welfare; Insurance; Transport; Health; etc.

Current Committee Members:

- **Ronan Murphy** (IRL) (Interim Chair); **Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt** (FRA); **Dr. Klaus Miesner** (GER) and **Gianluigi Giovagnoli** (ITA).

The Covid-19 Pandemic has resulted in significant travel disruption this year with a number of European meetings being postponed or held virtually.

2. IHSC Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law

The IHSC Taskforce was formed on 01st May (see attached Terms of Reference) and is a tangible example of the value of the joint-collaboration between the FEI and the IFHA, representing the Sport Horse and Thoroughbred Sectors, thereby providing a very powerful platform for the combined European Equestrian Industry. The



Taskforce meets on a weekly basis and are focussed on the following key strategic pillars:

- Ensuring that the European Horse Industry is on the agenda of the negotiations.
- Developing a comprehensive dossier to demonstrate the importance of the industry and present a package of solutions including initiating a process towards inclusion of a High Health Breeding (HHB) framework in the OIE Terrestrial Code.
- Raising awareness and support within all EU Member States and GBR for the importance of the industry and the proposed solutions put forward.

The Members of the Taskforce are:

Göran Akerström, Veterinary Director, FEI (Chairman)

Paul-Marie Gadot, Veterinary Advisor, France Galop/IFHA

Simon Cooper, Director, General Stud Book. Vice Chairman, International Stud Book Committee

Ronan Murphy, Chief Executive / Secretary General IRL NF (Horse Sport Ireland) /European Equestrian Federation (EEF)

Des Leadon, Chairman of the Veterinary Committee of the European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations (EFTBA)

Brian Kavanagh, Chief Executive Horse Racing Ireland; Vice Chairman of the IFHA and Chairman of the EMHF

The IHSC Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law was tasked with facilitating systems and processes to ensure the smooth and bio-secure border crossing and movements for Sport Horses and Thoroughbred Horses. The primary role of the IHSC Taskforce is to analyse the impact of proposed amendments to the current movement regulations on the Equine industry and to devise and present solutions and models which would preserve the unfettered movement of Thoroughbred and Sport Horse (Competition, Training and Breeding Animals) across the EU and in particular between the EU and the United Kingdom post Brexit and the implementation of the EU AHL. A detailed dossier has been prepared and submitted to the key stakeholders and negotiators (See attached for information).

The current regulations governing the movement of equines within the EU are subject to change due to Brexit, the implementation of the new EU Animal Health Legislation (EU AHL) and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the industry.

AHL / Brexit Taskforce Executive summary – (24th August 2020)



Since the 01st July the Taskforce has met on a weekly basis and has held eighteen meetings in total and I would like to report the following:

Following our activities presented in the previous update the reactions from the high levels of EU-offices has not been the ones we have worked and hoped for.

- No official reply from Michel Barnier's cabinet. A draft reply has however reached through an unofficial channel with a quite general message to "wait and see".
- No official reply from DG Santé and no meeting with Bernard van Goethem.
- A Skype meeting with Alf Fuessel followed by email correspondence:
- DG Santé does not share the Taskforce's interpretation and concern on certain technical items in the EU AHL.
- DG Santé are aware that Brexit will cause the Thoroughbred breeding industry major problems for UK, France and Ireland.
- There are no signs of flexibility from DG Santé on items that may benefit UK in the negotiations.
- Alf Fuessel has shared a draft legislative text that provides for smartphone apps to be used as ID when moving horses nationally in an EU Member State. This is good news but should also cover cross-border movement. The Taskforce is preparing a text with such a provision to be shared with Alf Fuessel.
- Dermot Ryan of Commissioner Phil Hogan's cabinet has not been reachable.

Contacts with other public parties have had mixed results

- Veterinary Authorities of France, Ireland and Northern Ireland are supportive of the Dossier solution but will not actively drive it forward.
- The Irish veterinary authority has given some positive signals on how they interpret and will implement the EU AHL.
- Initial contacts with the CVO of Bulgaria have not yet resulted in more contacts with CVOs.

Contacts with the European horse sector have been very fruitful

- WBFSH has expressed a clear interest and support for an all-European sport horse driven database for horse movement.
- EHN is very supportive of the Taskforce and its work and would like to see a solution for the European Horse sector with focus on the sport horses.
- It has been agreed that the Taskforce mission will have two items at the annual EHN Conference in the EU Parliament on 13 October where Ursula von Leyen



will do the opening speech. The Taskforce items will be presented by (provisionally) Marieád McGuinness, vice Chair of the European Parliament and G. Akerström.

- FEEVA, the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations, is supportive of the Taskforce and its suggested solution but would like to see a solution that covers all Europe.

Conclusions and actions

The outcomes of the trade negotiations between EU and UK are unclear. The Taskforce will continue to address our contacts in the EU Cabinets and the IHSC Presidents will be provided with a diplomatic letter to send the Michel Barnier's office as a friendly reminder. Since we have no signs of our item being on the negotiation table, we have explored fall back solutions. We believe the best solution would be a Complete Solution for the European Horse Industry driven by a network of databases for registration of equine ID, localisation and biosecure movement of horses within Europe. This system would prevent and facilitate eradication of disease outbreaks and enable much simplified movement of horses across Europe. The solution is based on already existing EU legislation and agreements. It would also likely gain strong support from the main stakeholders in the European horse industry and could ultimately facilitate movement of horses between EU and 3rd countries such as USA and Canada.

The Taskforce's proposed solution goes beyond the initial mission of the Taskforce and we will present it to the senior managements of our mother organisations before any further steps are taken. This meeting will provisionally take place on WEBEX at 1000-1100 CEST (0900-1000 GMT) on 4 September 2020.

On behalf of the Taskforce
Göran Akerström, Chair

3. European Horse Network (EHN)

Background: The European Horse Network is a non-profit network of 30 stakeholders acting at a World, European, National or Regional level within the European horse sector.

Its purpose is to:

- Promote the development of the horse sector in Europe.



- Help members coordinate their activities in order to increase the visibility and impact of the horse sector.
- Act as a platform for the horse industry to communicate common issues with European institutions and media at the European level.
- Discuss, define and lobby on areas of common interests on the European political agenda.

More information on Members <http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu/members/>

I have represented the EEF EU Committee at the EHN Board Meetings where a number of key topics have been discussed:

a. Exclusion of Equidae from the Food Chain:

The European Horse Network (EHN) does not support the principle of lifetime exclusion of equidae from the food chain. Europe needs a more straightforward way to provide a humane end of life for equidae.

EHN believes that carcasses testing is the option that could both support horse welfare and provide protection for human health. EHN asks the European Commission to modify and adopt appropriate regulations to end lifetime exclusion and adopt the same rules for import of horse meat from Third countries

b. The Equine Industry and the Environment (Green Assets):

A scientific literature review has been led by the EHN which identified five main environmental assets of the equine industry, named “green assets”: 1. Grazing 2. Domestic biodiversity (linked to the inherent nature of equines), 3. Land use (linked to their geographical distribution), 4. Tourism and 5. Work (linked to particular uses of equines). A series of factsheets are being developed for each of the key headings. This work will assist the European Equine Sector to factually support the environmentally positive position of the horse when engaging with the EU Commission on a number of topics.

c. EHN Conference 13 October 2020:

The EHN Conference will be held in Brussels (and virtually) on 13 October 2020. The Board Members have been working on a number of key topics to present at the conference. The IHSC Taskforce will be allocated a slot to speak about the ‘Complete Solution for the European Equine Sector’ as noted above.

In addition, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the European Equine Sector will be a main topic for discussion. This presentation will collate statistics from surveys completed in the various Member States regarding the economic, socio,



infrastructure, employment, welfare, breeding, competition etc. impacts to date. We will also focus on the supports and opportunities in European Legislation to assist the recovery process. This will be an important opportunity for the European Equine Sector to illustrate the devastating impact of the pandemic on the industry. It is expected that the President of the EU Commission, Ursula Von der Lyon, will attend the opening of the conference.

d. Other key focus areas include:

Brexit; Equine Welfare Strategy; Political & Financial support for the European Equine Industry; Erasmus; Research & Development. Developing a European Thematic Network including all key stakeholders for the European Horse Sector.

e. European Horse Network Legal Group:

I also attend the EHN Legal Group meetings where we focus on EU legislation and its potential impact on the European Equine Industry.

Key discussion areas this year include: Consumer sales; Animal welfare; Animal Health Law; Identification of Equidae legislation; Licensing of Veterinary Products; The Common Agricultural Policy (beyond 2020); VAT; Food Chain and equines. This group provides an opportunity to review and discuss the relevant legislation in detail and to achieve a consensual position for the European Horse Sector.

Ronan Murphy,
Interim Chairman
EEF EU Committee

10. BROTHERHOOD

The working group for Brotherhood had its meeting on 18 & 19 February 2020 in Rome to evaluate the status-quo of the project.

The main conclusion was that the existing system did not work as we feel desirable. Several reasons are the cause for this situation such as cost involved and not having clear projects by Federations. Also, the fact that development of the sport, such as the implementation of new disciplines or developing a discipline further on a national level, is not actively pursued by most of EEF Federations.

The working group realized that this type of projects need a different approach. It is therefore that we present to you the new concept (please see Annex 14). The main



difference to the “old” concept of Brotherhood is that we will concentrate on real development of the sport, which means we will help Federations to develop disciplines. This of course will be mostly longer-term projects and as more expertise will be required more cost will be involved. It is therefore that there is a need to have more funds available (such as Erasmus from the EU) to enable the EEF to carry out this plan. The EEF will also, through the creation of a Brotherhood development fund, support such a development project. Furthermore, we will require a Federation to be also financially involved and share responsibility to achieve the set goals.

Theo Ploegmakers
Chairman
EEF Brotherhood Working Group

11. COMMUNICATION

Organisation:

Head: STÖSSEL Nayla (SUI)

Members: MAYER Carina (GER), OZGORKEY Armagan (TUR)

Mission:

The Working Group “EEF communication” has been founded upon request of the EEF members who have asked for better and more communication within the EEF organisation (internal communication) and versus its stakeholders (external communication). Communication shall be aligned with the EEF’s strategic planning. It shall therefore support and facilitate the dialogue amongst the EEF’s members and stakeholders, support in the process of opinion making and ultimately be perceived as “the voice of the European Equestrian Sport”.

Current Assignment

1. Setting up a communication concept (responsibilities, tasks, approval processes, road map) and taking up editorial plan and execution.
2. Corporate Identity (CI) / Corporate Design (CD) makeover: logo adaptation.
3. New structure of communication tools and channels: Relaunch website, set-up of social media channels (Twitter, LinkedIn) additional to Facebook. Set-up of Newsletter for continuous information.
4. Launch and presentation of the Longines EEF Series (on website and with PR along the events).



Status report

Communication concept

Framework is written. Road map needs to be aligned with outcome of the working group strategic planning.

CI/CD makeover

Logo is adapted. User kit needs to be sent out to member for integral application.
Tools and Channels

	Frequency	Results	
Website	permanent	Go-live of new website planned before GA 2020	88.94% increase of page impressions vs. one year ago
			108% increase of users vs. one year ago
			2.59% increase of retention time on site vs. one year ago
Newsletter	Monthly	Number since last GA to date	6
President's message	Quarterly	Number since last GA to date	1
Social media	As and when required		
Facebook		Follower	1551
LinkedIn		Follower	32
Twitter		Follower	6



Launch of Longines EEF Series

Postponed to 2021.

Nayla Stössel
Chair
EEF Communication Working Group