



Minutes

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Meeting	EEF Board Meeting
Date	23 March 2017
Time	10h00 – 16h30
Location	EQUITANA, Room Z Congress Center South, Essen, GER
Chair	Hanfried Haring
Minutes	Carina Mayer

Participants	
Hanfried Haring	President
Ulf Helgstrand	Vice President
Armagan Özgörkey	Vice President
Eleonora Ottaviani	Board Member & Athletes Representative
Nayla Stoessel	Board Member
Andrew Finding	Board Member
George Dimaras	Board Member
Theo Ploegmakers	Board Member
Carina Mayer	Secretary General
Invited	
Bo Helander (excused)	Chair of EEF EU Committee
Soenke Lauterbach	Chair of EEF Strategic Planning & Marketing Working Group
Laura Borromeo	IJRC
Henk Nooren (excused)	NED NF
Marco Fuste	ESP NF

Pt.	Topic	Annex	Speaker
1	Welcome		HH
2	Minutes of the Board Meeting in Zaventem on 03 February 2017	X	CM
3	Recap of meeting with Secretary Generals in Bern (SUI)		HH / CM
4	Continental representation	X	HH / AÖ
5	Update on the Generation Games		HH
6	Update on the Masters Riders Cup		HH



7		Allocation of FEI European Championships 2018 & 2019	X	HH / AÖ
8		FEI Elections & Appointments 2017	X	HH / AÖ
9		Update from the Balkan Working Group		TP
10		AOB		CMA

1. Welcome

The President welcomes the attendants and opens the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting in Zaventem on 03 February 2017

The minutes are approved by the Board.

3. Recap of meeting with Secretary Generals in Bern (SUI)

The Secretary General provides a summary of the meeting held in Bern with the Board supporting the following initiatives of the EEF Secretary Generals:

- Inclusion of U25 category in the FEI Jumping rules for 2018 but no request for a U25 European Jumping Championship. The IJRC would be very interested in adding the U25 category to the concept of the FEI Youth Nations Cup Jumping.
- Asking the FEI Technical Committees in Eventing, Jumping and Dressage to allow for a split of the combined European Pony Championships in case of a situation when no bidder can be found for a combined event. The combined event remains the preferred solution but as it becomes increasingly difficult to find bidders we should offer also a split-solution if necessary.
- Recognition of the Central European Dressage Working Group as a sub-group to the EEF Dressage Working Group, aiming to boost the further development of Dressage in the Central European region.
- Supporting NFs and NPCs in requesting Paralympic Training Venue Passes from the IPC with regards to the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

4. Continental representation

Harmonization of CSI/CSIO requirements

The President summarizes the actions that were taken to provide solid feedback to the FEI with regards to the unified opposition to the proposed harmonization of entry fees for CSI/CSIO events. The supporting document that has been published by the FEI for the Sports Forum is discussed and the following answers are noted to the questions raised by the FEI:

- **FEI Question:** Is there a need for CSI/CSIO requirements? If so, what should they cover?

EEF Answer: Yes, there is a need for such requirements and they should cover what they cover now. The details of the various requirements must be reviewed regularly but no structural change is necessary.

- **FEI Question:** What are the rights and obligations of athletes to organizers and of organizers to athletes?

EEF Answer: Both athletes and organizers need to act with goodwill and respect each other. The details approved in the FEI event schedule must be correctly followed by both parties.

- **FEI Question:** How should events be funded at the lower level, at the top level?

EEF Answer: There are different ways of funding equestrian events and the current market shows that organizing Jumping events is lucrative. Events are normally funded with a combination of entry fees, sponsorship and/or patronage and as long as organizers stick to the FEI rules the organizers should be given as much flexibility as possible to apply business models that suit their individual situation. The EEF would like to point out again that it has proposed an invitation system according to which the Ranking List points would be distributed in relation to the personal invitations issued by the OC (= the more invitations, the less ranking points), this would give significant freedom to organizers and transparency for riders.

- **FEI Question:** Can existing small events held once a year in temporary facilities, versus events held several times a year in permanent facilities, survive under the current CSI requirements and the new invitation system? Should CSI/CSIO requirements differ for various parts of world?

EEF Answer: Yes, they can survive under the current CSI requirements and the new invitation system. Yes, the CSI/CSIO requirements may differ for various parts of the world.

- **FEI Question:** Are minimum requirements effective? Could a more free-market system that rewards excellence work?

EEF Answer: Yes, minimum requirements are effective but only within the framework of the Event Classification System (ECS) with a flat fee on three levels. The current system already reflects a market that is free enough and the number of events being organized show that there is also an excellence rewards system. Minimum requirements will have to differ due to different regional/continental conditions.

- **FEI Question:** Are the prize money ranges for the different star levels appropriate? Should prize money alone determine the star level?

EEF Answer: Yes, in general the prize-money ranges for the different star levels are appropriate but they need to be reviewed regularly. For CSI4* events the prize-money requirements may have to be amended because it appears to be a problem in real life. No, prize-money alone should not determine the star level, we need the Event Classification System (ECS) as a basis for that.

- **FEI Question:** What should an entry fee cover? Should the entry fee be in relation to the prize money offered?

EEF Answer: The entry fee should cover all cost for a rider/horse combination without any further hidden fees because riders and NFs need to be able to plan their annual budget. No, the entry fee shall not be related to prize-money. It is necessary to review the defined details of entry fees in regular intervals.

Additional EEF comment: It would be desirable to establish a stronger link between the event classification and the Ranking List. In Tennis for example, athletes only get points at events that have gone through a development and evaluation process.

FEI Nations Cup Jumping

In addition to the proposal that has already been submitted to the FEI for Division 2, the President informs the Board about the outcome of a meeting that was held earlier this week with the Division 1 organizers of the FEI Nations Cup Jumping. The organizers have discussed the FEI document published for the Sports Forum and have agreed to submit their feedback in writing to the FEI ahead of the Forum. The EEF Board agrees to the position of the organizers with the exception of the new format being proposed (one round with jump-off) because it is felt that this will turn the Nations Cup into an ordinary Grand Prix competition, resulting in the loss of its unique selling point of a two-rounds competition. It is proposed that the CIO organizers are contributing at least with a part of their investments in public relations for the series.

The team competition at CIOs is still called Nations Cup also if the CIO is not part of any series.

The role of the EEF in the FEI

The Board agrees that the EEF shall further pursue its aim to represent Europe in the FEI, dissolving the artificial separation between the regional groups 1 & 2 and representing Europe as one continent. At the moment many EEF members are criticizing the governing practice of the FEI (ie related to communication and decision making process).

The EEF remains on its standpoint of strong opposition against the proposed harmonization of entry fees as proposed by the AJO and reiterates its full support for the Nations Cup. EEF proposals with regards to a significant increase of Ranking List Points for the Nations Cup, qualification opportunity for Championships and Games etc have already been shared with EEF members and the FEI.

5. Update on the Generation Games

The Secretary General informs the Board about recent conversations with the Organizers of the Generation Games and the FEI which resulted in the decision to postpone the event to 2018 in order to ensure the greatest possible success for the event.

6. Update on the Masters Riders Cup

The Secretary General summarizes the outcome of a meeting recently held with EEM related to the action plan for the 2017 Masters Riders Cup in Paris. Preparations are well under way and the EEF will keep its members involved and informed in the upcoming months leading up to the event.

7. Allocation of FEI European Championships 2018 & 2019

The Board discussed the bids that have been received by the FEI and agrees on the bids that the EEF will support during the upcoming FEI Bureau meeting in April.

8. FEI Elections & Appointments 2017

Based on the document circulated by the FEI with vacant positions for election and appointment in 2017 the Board agrees on several European candidates that shall be put forward to the FEI if they are interested and supported by their respective NF. The Board tasks the Strategic Planning and Marketing Working Group to develop a method that will ensure a democratic process in putting forward European candidates.

9. Update from the Balkan Working Group

A Balkan Conference was recently held and HH is tasked by the Board to get in contact with the Balkan Working Group and the OC of the Balkan Championships. No further news are reported related to this topic.

10. AOB

No items were raised.

The Chair thanked the attendants and closed the meeting at 16h35.