



# Minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>EEF Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	01 February 2018
<b>Time</b>	<b>11h30 – 17h30</b>
<b>Location</b>	FEI HQ Conference Room 2, Chemin de la Joliette 8, 1006 Lausanne (SUI)
<b>Chair</b>	Hanfried Haring
<b>Minutes</b>	Carina Mayer

<b>Participants</b>	
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
<b>Invited</b>	
Sabrina Ibanez	FEI Secretary General
Mikael Rentsch	FEI Legal Director
Bo Helander	Chair of EEF EU Committee
Soenke Lauterbach	Chair of the EEF Strategic Planning Working Group
Cesare Croce	International Relations of ITA NF

<b>Pt.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Annex</b>
1	Welcome & Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on 09 Oct 2017	HH	X
2	Legal matters: 2.1. EU-Commission decision against the International Skating Union ISU 2.2. Belgian Competition Authority interim measures on the FEI and GCT/GCL	HH & BH	X
3	EEF Continental representation in the FEI	HH & TP	
4	EEF & FEI positions open for election in 2018	HH & AÖ	X



5	Finances: 5.1. 2017 VAT 5.2. 2017 unpaid membership fees 5.3. 2018 Budget 5.4. Sponsors	AÖ & CM	X
6	Recent developments in Jumping	HH & TP	
7	Yearly planning for 2018	HH	X
8	Updates: 8.1. Balkan Working Group 8.2. Riders Masters Cup 8.3. Generation Games	TP HH AÖ & HH	
9	AOB	CM	

## 1. Welcome & Minutes of Board Meeting held on 09 Oct 2017

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 09 October 2017 are approved.

## 2. Legal Matters

### 2.1 EU-Commission decision against the International Skating Union ISU

The Board discusses the potential consequences of this case and Mikael Rentsch, FEI Legal Director, provides a summary of the FEI's view in this context. As stated by the ISU in a press release they are in disagreement with the EU-Commission's decision and may thus appeal. At this stage it remains open whether the ISU will comply with the Commission's demands and final facts will probably be available within the next 3-4 months.

### 2.2 Belgian Competition Authority interim measures on the FEI and GCT/GCL

Mikael Rentsch informs the Board about the position of the FEI and states that the FEI didn't participate in the case for several reasons. Neither GCT/GCL nor the FEI implemented the decision as imposed by the Belgian Competition Authority and the current rules remain in force. A hearing in the Court of Appeal has been scheduled.

There are now in fact two Court rulings that contradict each other which leads to confusion. Eleonora Ottaviani then enquired why the FEI had decided to immediately implement the verdict of the first ruling but had not acted the same way with the second verdict of December 2017 although both were emitted by the same authority. Eleonora Ottaviani furthermore questions why the FEI is not going to the CAS in order to clarify this issue. She states her concern that the 2018 rankings will have an effect on qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Hanfried Haring states that amendments to the ranking rules have been made which will restrict ranking classes and which is expected to help with regards to fair qualification. Eleonora Ottaviani states that what was approved in

Montevideo is only a little increase of ranking points in the Nations Cup but this is not enough yet because the ranking list that the organizers will use as of January 2019 for invitations for competitions (4\* and 5\* events that will serve as qualifiers for the Olympic Games) is the ranking list that was polluted with pay cards and no respect for the FEI's invitation system during 2018.

Theo Ploegmakers informs the Board that the NED NF has asked its National Olympic Committee what consequence the outcome of this legal case would have for sport NFs in the Netherlands and will report back to the EEF Board as soon as a feedback has been received.

### **2.3 CAS decision on Russians being allowed to compete again**

The CAS decision was communicated by the press earlier that day and is thus briefly raised by the Board for information.

### **2.4 European Court of Justice decision on taxation of prize-money in horseracing**

Soenke Lauterbach refers to a case in horseracing (C-432/15 from 10 November 2016) in which the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that prize-money may not include VAT. There is the assumption that the decision of the European Court of Justice may be applied to equestrian sport as well and would then affect all EU member countries in our sport.

Annex 1 to these minutes is a copy of the email that was sent from the GER NF to the FEI in this matter.

The EEF will take this subject up in its EU-Committee and will formally inform the FEI about a European position in this matter.

## **3. EEF Continental representation in the FEI**

On 02 February 2018, a meeting will be held between FEI and EEF representatives in order to discuss the next steps with regards to FEI statutory changes related to EEF Continental Representation in the FEI. For this meeting, the Board gives the following mandate to the respective EEF representatives:

Compromise proposal:

- FEI Regional Groups I and II shall merge under the title of "EEF Regional Group" in the FEI
- EEF to elect its President and Vice-Presidents who shall become the European members in the FEI Bureau
- European NFs in Group III shall choose between Group III and the EEF Regional Group, they cannot be represented twice in the FEI group structure
- Non-members of the EEF but members of the European Regional Group in the FEI must be able to vote for their representative in the FEI Bureau
- Only EEF member NFs can put candidates forward for election in the EEF

As a consequence of the above, the EEF will need to undergo statutory changes again.

#### **4. EEF & FEI positions open for election in 2018**

##### EEF

The Board studies the list of EEF Board members with their respective terms and agrees that the earliest possible start of any term of office shall be 2011 when the elections had been conducted according to the EEF Statutes for the first time. This means that in November 2018 the EEF President and Vice-President as well as their Deputy Chairs will be elected at an extraordinary EEF General Assembly. In 2019, two Board member positions will be up for election (Andrew Finding and Theo Ploegmakers outgoing). A detailed list will be presented in connection with the 2018 EEF General Assembly in May 2018.

Theo Ploegmakers and Ulf Helgstrand express their general interest in the position of FEI Group II Chair which will be up for election in 2018.

##### FEI

Annex 2 illustrates the list of positions in the FEI that are open for election in 2018. Candidates will have the possibility to submit their applications to the FEI until 01 May 2018. Any candidate that wishes to be considered by the EEF for endorsement is kindly asked to share her/his letter of motivation and CV also with the EEF.

National Federations shall be reminded to inform their athletes about the importance of representation in the FEI Athletes Committee and the online election process that will be conducted for these positions. Top athletes shall be motivated to put their candidacies forward and athletes shall be encouraged to participate in the online elections that will determine their representation for the coming four years.

The Board is informed about the intention of Ingmar de Vos to stand for a second term as President of the FEI which is welcomed and supported by the EEF Board.

##### Talent pool for EEF/FEI positions

The Board tasks Andrew Finding and Nayla Stössel to propose a system in which talents are pooled together who are considered as being suitable for vacant positions up for election/appointment in the EEF and FEI.

#### **5. Finances**

##### **5.1. 2017 VAT**

The Secretary General informs the Board that 2017 was the first year in which the EEF was subject to VAT in Belgium. The EEF membership fee is an exception to this and remains free of VAT. The process with Deloitte worked well and no issues are to be reported.

##### **5.2. 2017 unpaid membership fees**

The following membership fees remain unpaid for 2017 and the respective NFs shall be contacted again by their respective Group Chair ahead of the EEF General Assembly in May 2018:

- AZE

- CRO
- GEO
- LTU

### **5.3. 2018 Budget**

The 2018 will need to be amended according to the agreement reached with USEF with regards to road management for the Riders Masters Cup. Details are to be discussed with the EEF treasurer.

### **5.4. Sponsors**

The current sponsorship agreement with Longines will end on 31 December 2018 but it may be extended by Longines until 31 December 2021. If desired, Longines shall execute such option in writing before 31 July 2018.

## **6. Recent developments in Jumping**

The Board identified a big problem for Division 2 events in Europe because OCs cannot run their show on a commercial basis anymore. The EEF shall summarize these problems and submit them to the FEI Commercial Advisory Board in order to look into this issue.

A meeting between Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and the EEF and FEI took place in Lausanne on 31 January 2018 in order to address current veterinary issues that affect events in Turkey and Romania and consequently also the 2018 Division 2 series.

### 2018 EEF qualifiers for the Nations Cup Jumping Division 2 Final in Budapest (HUN)

The following calendar is approved by the EEF Board for 2018 and shall be communicated to the FEI and EEF members:

Group A: CSIO2\* Athens (GRE) 07-10 June 2018

Group A: CSIO1\*-W Bojourishte (BUL) 28 June – 01 July 2018

Group B: none

Group C: CSIO4\* Linz-Ebelsberg (AUT) 03-06 May 2018

Group C: CSIO3\* Lisbon (POR) 31 May – 03 June 2018

Group D: CSIO3\* Drammen (NOR) 10-13 May 2018

Group D: CSIO3\* Uggerhalne (DEN) 23-27 May 2018

The CSIO in Herneacova (ROU) is currently not eligible as a qualifier due to calendar and veterinary issues. However, if the situation improves then the EEF Board will reconsider the event.

Legal advice shall be sought to find out whether there is any personal liability of EEF Board members with regards to EEF events.

## **7. Yearly planning for 2018**

The Board is provided with the yearly planning for 2018. The proposed date for the Secretary Generals meeting shall be reviewed as it is currently planned for a date during the summer holiday season. In case it will not be possible to host the meeting on the Monday after the Division 2 Final in Budapest (HUN) then alternative options could be

the Monday after the Balkan Jumping Championships in Zagreb (CRO) or the Monday after the German Young Horses Championships in Warendorf (GER).

## **8. Updates:**

### **8.1. Balkan Working Group**

In case of discrepancy between the Balkan Championship Rules and the FEI Sport Rules, the FEI Sport Rules shall prevail. George Dimaras will also check the Balkan Championship Rules against the MOU between BEC & EEF in order to ensure harmonization.

### **8.2. Riders Masters Cup**

Hanfried Haring provides a report of the first edition of the Riders Masters Cup that was held in Paris in December 2017. Very positive comments were received from stakeholders and the atmosphere had been very good. Follow-up conference call had been conducted between EEF and USEF as well as EEF and EEM. The dress code did not comply with the FEI Jumping rules and will be rectified for the next edition in New York.

### **8.3. Generation Games**

Samorin wishes to terminate its contract for the EEF Generation Games and legal advice shall be consulted in order to follow a correct process.

## **9. AOB:**

### **Small Countries**

Ulf Helgstrand asks the Board to discuss small countries as a topic at one of the upcoming EEF Board meetings.

### **Enquiry from Qatar**

A Board members was approached by Qatari with the enquiry to obtain political support from the EEF with regards to the objective of improving the image of Endurance. In order to allow the EEF Board to evaluate the enquiry the contact person from Qatar shall be asked to submit a project proposal.

### **Topics for 2018**

- Horse Welfare / Social License / Horsemanship (evidence based science, not only emotions); consider working with World Horse Welfare; the Board believes that this fits into the EEF philosophy and shall be taken up. Hanfried Haring will make a proposal.
- Good Governance; create awareness in NFs what good governance is about; a working group consisting of Secretary Generals shall be put together in order to work on this subject

### **Ranking points in Jumping**

Eleonora Ottaviani is asked to update the Board with the outcome of the next meeting of the FEI Ranking List Working Group with regards to proposed changes to the ranking point system in Jumping. The email sent by the GER NF to the FEI Secretary General on the subject of ranking points is supported by the Board.

The President thanks the meeting participants for their contributions and closes the meeting.

Signed by



Carina Mayer  
Minutes taker & EEF Secretary General



Dr. Hanfried Haring  
Chair of the meeting & EEF President