



22 March 2011, Paris (FRA)

Introduction by Hanfried Haring

EEF is now almost exactly one and a half years old, if we take 8 September 2009 as its foundation date. We have achieved a lot within this short time. We of course also experienced the difficulties in coordinating the different opinions within Europe. This is neither new nor surprising. We experience it daily in our votings in European policy, be it in Brussels or Strasbourg, be it topics like environment, the reaction of Europe on Libya/Ghaddafi, nuclear power plants etc.

No wonder that we have different opinions about the equestrian sport as well, above all in a continent which has about 80 % of the total equestrian sport within its borders. So far we did respect two main ideas, and we will do this in future as well:

- EEF represents the decision of the European NFs and the needs of the sport in Europe
- EEF is working **for** the sport, NFs, Athletes, Owners, Organisers, Officials, Horses; the quality of the sport, its development in Europe and **never** against anything or anyone: not against our partners in other continents and not at all against the FEI as representative of our sport worldwide: always **pro**, never con; but we have to fight for our interests, and we had to learn in the last four years or even longer that this is more than necessary. And we had to learn what is best known in real politics:

Europe only has a chance to be heard if it speaks with one voice.

Why are we here today?

FEI, which is **us**, is planning a restructuring which naturally is combined with an amendment of the Statutes. We have been working on this for more than eight years: Strategic Planning Committee, Working Groups, new Working Groups, etc. During this process a lot of discussions have taken place, a lot of (too many!) compromises had to be done and it may be that at the end of this process there is nothing left from the good ideas that were the basis for all our undertakings.

The last proposal/draft was rejected in Copenhagen in 2009. The reasons were obvious:

- Too much concentration of power on the President;
And I say this without speaking of our current President, just as a general reason.
- Not enough democracy in the decision-making process;
- At the end, very few NFs, regional organisations etc. found themselves represented in the Copenhagen Statutes: not Europe, not North America, not Group III etc.

This is a shame, because we all want a restructuring, an FEI which is organised according to the modern knowledge of organisational structures and a democratic decision-making process.

The time for new Statutes is ripe. The way to this was announced in time, and now we have to contribute.

So we are here to discuss our contribution to the proposed Statutes. The EEF Board met at the end of January and discussed this thoroughly. The result was laid down in the minutes which you all can check on the EEF website.

And – **not** all of a sudden, but foreseeable – the proposal for the new Statutes did lead to a discussion about the role of the regional = continental organisations and, one and a half years after the foundation of the EEF, again to the question of its role, its goals, ... and the way of cooperation with the FEI.

We all knew that this would happen, but at least I myself did not realise that it would come so quickly.

Why?

The central issue of the proposal for the new Statutes is the restructuring of the regional representation of the NFs. Proposed is a representation by continents (5, according to the charter of the IOC), instead of the 9 Groups, a structure we all are convinced is completely old-fashioned and outdated.

With this representation of the members (5 instead of 9) and the fact that the 6 Technical Chairs are not represented in the Board (instead of the Bureau), the goal could/should be reached to create an organisation which is more lean and flat than the existing one.

The following graphics show the differences between the existing (old) and the proposed (new) Statutes:

Old Statutes

Legislative
Decision
Control

General Assembly
133 National Federations

Decision
Control

Bureau – 18 Members
President (1)
1st Vice-President (-)
2nd Vice-President (1)
Chairs of Technical Committees (6)
Chairs of Regional Groups (9)
Athlete (1)
Chair Audit (no vote)

Executive Board – 5 Members
President
2 Vice-Presidents
2 Members

Decision
Advice

6 Technical Committees
Jumping
Dressage
Eventing
Driving
Endurance
Veterinary
(Reining)
9 Regional Groups

Implementation

FEI Headquarters
Secretary General (CEO)

Management Board
⇒ Secretary General
⇒ Sports Director
⇒ Finance Director
⇒ Legal
⇒ Commercial

Discipline/Department Directors

New Statutes (Proposal)

Legislative
Decision
Control

General Assembly
133 National Federations

Decision
Control

Board - 9 Members
President (1)
1st Vice-President (1)
2nd Vice-President (1)
Continental Group Chairs (5)
Athlete (1)

Discussion
Advice

5 Continental Groups

Implementation
Decision

FEI Management
Secretary General (CEO)

(no structure per
Statutes/Internal Regs.)

Discussion
Advice

6 (7) Technical Committees

From North and South America, backed by PAEC, we got the message in early March that because of the long distances, cultural differences etc. they could not agree to a continental structure like it is proposed in the new Statutes.

In the last Bureau meeting the President proposed to the Bureau **not** to vote on this at the Extraordinary General Assembly in May in Lausanne, but on development / solidarity only. The question of organisation by continents or alternatives have to be discussed (not voted on) in May. The President explained this to you in her letter of 14 March. For Europe we agreed with this proposal. We can agree with the organisation by continent, because we are already organised like this in the EEF. But we have problems to agree to the status of the Continental Groups. Their status is neither defined in the Statutes nor in the Internal Regulations, and that means they simply have **no** status. They are discussion clubs with no direct influence on the decision-making process. They are satellites without meaning. So we have the same position as before. There is only one difference:

- In the old Statutes Europe had two out of 18 representatives in the Bureau (plus Technical Chairs...)
- In the new Statutes Europe has 1 out of 9 representatives in the Board.

The situation was completely unsatisfactory in the last years (4 to 5 years). We are facing a growing/increasing culture, or should I say mis-culture, that decisions about questions related to only one part of the world (say Europe) are made by those who are not affected at all by this special problem. And there are a lot of examples.

- Why do we (Europe) have to decide on the location of the Pan-American Games? We have no clue about this!
- Why does Asia, Africa, America has to decide about the location of the European Championships? If at all, their knowledge in this regard is even less than ours.

All this in mind the EEF Board discussed, as I already mentioned, the needs of our European NFs. The Board's philosophy was communicated to you with the minutes, and it is:

With the support of the EEF NFs, the EEF will seek to become the governing body of equestrian sport in Europe.

EEF needs to undertake a study to propose a clear definition about how this should be developed and over what period.

This is the main question we have to discuss.