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Meeting Title	General Assembly EEF
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Organization	
Date	8 September 2010
Time	09:00 – 18:00
Location	Avantgarde Hotel Istanbul (TUR)
Chair	Hanfried HARING, President
Minutes by:	Ingmar DE VOS, Secretary General

Present		
EEF Board		
	Hanfried HARING	President EEF
	Ulf HELGSTRAND	Vice President EEF
	Christian PAILLOT	Vice President EEF
	Manuel BANDEIRA de MELLO	Board Member
	Andrew FINDING	Board Member
	Armagan ÖZGÖRKEY	Board Member
	Michal WROBLEWSKI	Board Member
	Ingmar DE VOS	Secretary General
Member NFs		
AUT	Frank SPADINGER	Sport Coordinator
AZE	Bahruz NABIYEV	Secretary General
AZE	Ilgas RAHIMOV	Delegate
BEL	Jacky BUCHMANN	President
BEL	Ingmar DE VOS	Secretary General
BUL	Georgi GERGOV	President
BUL	Teodora KOSTAVA	International Relations Resp.
BUL	Kroum RACHKOV	Secretary General
CRO	Karoly FUGLI	Delegate
CZE	Jaroslav PECHACEK	President
CZE	Annamaria KOLAROVA	NF Member for Foreign Cooperation
DEN	Ulf HELGSTRAND	President
FIN	Jukka-Pekka LESKINEN	President

FIN	Fred SUNDWALL	Secretary General
FRA	Christian PAILLOT	Vice President
GBR	Keith TAYLOR	President
GBR	Andrew FINDING	Chief Executive
GER	Breido Graf Zu RANTZAU	President
GRE	Anastasios DELIVORÍAS	Secretary General
HUN	Miklos JARMY	International Delegate
IRL	Brian MANGAN	Delegate
ITA	Sergio BERNARDINI	Secretary General
ITA	David HOLMES	Sports Director
ITA	Marina SOLAZZI	International Relations Resp.
ITA	Andrea PAULGROSS	President
MON	Eleonora OTTAVIANI MORONI	Secretary General
NED	Martien van den HEUVEL	President
NED	Maarten van der HEIJDEN	Secretary General
NED	Henk ROTTINGHUIS	Candidate FEI President
NOR	Kjell MYRHE	Secretary General
POL	Michał WROBLEWSKI	Secretary General
POR	Manuel BANDEIRA DE MELLO	Secretary General
ROU	Alexandru IAVOROVSKI	Delegate
RUS	MOROZOVA Elena	Director
SLO	Sasa SADLER	Delegate
SRB	Zeynep GORBON	Delegate
SUI	Alain GUILLET	Secretary General
SVK	Robert FEKAR	Vice President EEF
SWE	Bo HELANDER	President
SWE	Carina SJÖBERG	Secretary General
SWE	Sven HOLMBERG	Candidate FEI President
TUR	Armağan ÖZGÖRKEY	President
UKR	Mykhaylo PARKHOMCHUK	Secretary General
Associated Members		
IEOA	Thomas BAUR	Board Member
IDOC	Olivier SMEETS	Secretary General
FEI		
Till 14:00	Graeme COOKE	Director Veterinary Department

Approval of the Agenda

The President thanks the TUR NF for the organisation of the Meeting. He also welcomes Graeme Cooke as a representative of the FEI.

0. Welcome

The President thanks the TUR NF for the organisation of the Meeting. He also welcomes Graeme Cooke as a representative of the FEI. After the General Assembly of the EEF, there will be a formal joint meeting of Groups I & II. We will try to finish both official meetings today.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The President asks if the members approve the agenda.

Breido Graf Zu Rantzau (GER) deplores that the point of the FEI presidential elections is at the end of the agenda and that there are still 2 candidates from Europe.

The President points out that we will have time enough to listen to both candidates but that Clean Sport is also an important matter that should be discussed with Graeme Cooke of the FEI who has to leave earlier.

The agenda is approved.

2. Quorum

The Secretary General explains that this is a special General Assembly as 12 new NF members will be accepted and also some minor changes to the Statutes will be submitted for approval. After the Constitutional General Assembly in Warendorf the EEF counts 28 Members.

24 Members are present so the quorum 50% + 1 is present.

After the acceptance of the 12 NF candidate members the number of members will be 40. A 2/3 quorum is needed to approve the modification of Statutes. After the acceptance of the 12 NF candidate members, 29 members will be present so the quorum to change the Statutes will be obtained.

3. Election of scrutineers

Alain Guillet (SUI NF and FEI Group I) and Kjell Myrhe (NOR NF and FEI Group II) are elected as scrutineers.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of Warendorf

The President refers to the Minutes Warendorf : "Breido Graf zu Rantzau insists that all NFs must contribute to the research on detection times in their countries - the whole community must work on coordinating research investigation. It is suggested to agree on a priority list of substances which has to be worked through. Once such a list has been drawn up, its financing must be decided. This matter is very urgent!".

Graeme Cooke confirms that only very few NFs reacted to an email from the FEI to give their priorities.

The President underlines the importance and the urgency for European NFs to give their priorities. For the EEF, Ulf Helgstrand will coordinate this.

The minutes are approved.

5. Affiliation of new (fixed) members

The Secretary General informs that following NFs introduced a formal application for membership: Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, San Marino and Serbia.

The General Assembly approves unanimously the affiliation of these NFs and accepts to give them immediately voting rights at this present General Assembly.

The President welcomes the new members.

6. Modification of the EEF Statutes

Following modifications are proposed:

Article 4. Principles

Add:

1. The purpose of the EEF is defined at Article 3; in addition the EEF recognises and supports the "Objectives and Principles" of the FEI (Articles 1 and 2 of the FEI's Statutes – 22nd edition). In particular, the EEF will promote 'Clean Sport' and will always be sensitive to the 'welfare' needs of our horses. The EEF will respect the needs of athletes, organisers and officials and will govern its affairs through its General Assembly of European National Federations and its elected Board of Directors. In electing its Board, the General Assembly recognizes the importance of electing directors who are representative of all National Federations throughout Europe.

Article 9. General Assembly

Functions and Powers of the General Assembly

Modify:

4. To approve **the Internal Regulations and** any other Rules of the EEF
5. To elect the President, Vice-Presidents and other Board members **including the representative of the athlete's at the discretion of the athlete's association**
12. To take decisions on the ~~expulsion~~ **exclusion** or suspension of a member

Article 10. Board

Modify:

A Board composed of the President, two Vice-Presidents and **five members including the representative of the athlete's, where there is one**, are responsible for the governance and the representation of the EEF. The Board is competent for all matters that are not explicitly competences of the General Assembly **according to article 11 of the Belgian "Loi ASBL"**. The chairs of FEI regional Groups I & II are automatically members of the Board. **The representative of the athlete's has to be proposed by the athletes association.**

The President or his appointed representative can represent the EEF in relation to third parties.

The President, a member of the Board or the secretary can be put in charge with the day to day business.

There may not be more than one member of the Board from the same NF **except for the representative of the athlete's.**

All candidates for a position on the Board should have the support of their NF **except for the representative of the athlete's.** A NF can support **a maximum of** one candidate for a position on the Board.

All memberships of the Board are honorary and carry no remuneration.

The President is responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the EEF are observed, and for the general supervision of all its activities.

The President shall chair the meetings of the Board. If he is unable to do so a member of the Board chosen by the members, normally a Vice-President, shall chair the meeting.

Except for the chairs of FEI regional Groups I & II, all members of the Board are elected for a term of two years. Two members should be elected in even years and three members should be elected uneven years. In case of a vacancy before the end of the term, the next General Assembly has to elect a new Board member to complete the term of office. Board members may be elected **for** a maximum number of four times without an intervening period of at least two years.

In case the Board is composed of a even number of members, the President has a casting vote in the Board.

Article 11. Committees

There shall be a permanent EU-committee for handling EU-matters relevant to the EEF. The mission and composition of the EU-Committee is decided by the General Assembly.

Other Permanent Committees may be decided by the General Assembly.

The members of Permanent Committees are elected by the General Assembly. Members of Permanent Committees are elected for a term of two years and may be elected a maximum number of four times without an intervening period of at least two years.

Temporary Ad Hoc Committees may be decided by the Board or the General Assembly for particular purposes.

The members of Temporary Ad Hoc Committees are appointed by the Board. The duration of the mandate of members of Temporary Ad Hoc Committees is decided by the Board and has to be explicitly mentioned in the nomination decision.

Representative stakeholder associations ~~like athletes~~ can send a representative ~~as a member~~ to the meetings of the Permanent and Ad Hoc Committees **according to the EEF Internal Regulations.**

The meetings of the Committees are open. All NFs will be informed about the meetings and their agenda and have the right to send a representative **according to the EEF Internal Regulations.**

Annex I – Definitions

Add:

Athletes Association: equestrian athlete's association recognized by the IOC

There are no comments and the modifications of the Statutes are accepted unanimously.

7. Approval of the EEF Internal Regulations

The Secretary General explains that the Board proposes to accept the proposed Internal Regulations but only to apply them in function of the development of the EEF.

Bo Helander gives an explanation and proposes given the actual situation of EEF to apply for the moment only sections 2.2 and 8.

The General Assembly approves the Internal Regulations unanimously and decides for the moment only to apply sections 2.2 and 8.

The Working Group Structure will be asked to work on this together with Bo Helander

8. Affiliation of new (associate) members

The Secretary General informs that following organisations introduced a formal application for membership: ERA, IDOC, IEAO, IVC, ISJC and IDRC.

Eleonora Ottaviani asks if it was checked that these organisations fulfil the conditions.

The Secretary General confirms that this has been checked but as the situation can change their affiliation is always subject to the conditions as laid down in the Internal Regulations.

The General Assembly approves unanimously the affiliation of these organisations.

The President welcomes the new associated members.

9. **Report of the EEF President/EEF Board (including report of the Ad Hoc Working Groups)**

The President gives his report and highlights following items:

- the history of the foundation of the EEF
- the 4 EEF Board meetings that took place during the last 6 months
- the Permanent EU Working Group
- the other Ad Hoc Working Groups
- the Clean Sport
- the importance of communication

He underlines that even when EEF sometimes will have to go its own way, this never will be against the FEI. He looks forward to a good cooperation with FEI, other continental organisations and stakeholders

There are no comments and the report is accepted unanimously.

The chairs of the EEF Ad Hoc Working Groups give their report (we refer to the minutes of these working groups for more details):

Manuel Bandeira de Mello gives the report of the EEF Small Nations Ad Hoc Working Group.

Andrew Finding gives the report of the EEF Cost of Championships Ad Hoc Working Group. Sven Holmberg replies that FEI will look into the recommendations of this working group.

The President informs that he received a letter of the FEI stating that EEF is not yet formally recognized by the FEI. An official letter of EEF asking official recognition will be send out by the President.

Report of the Clean Sport Ad Hoc Working Group

The President refers to what happened in Copenhagen concerning Clean Sport. An EEF Clean Sport Working Group was established.

As the chairman of the working group is not able to attend the meeting, the report is presented by Maarten van der Heijden (NED) and Alain Guillet (SUI).

Maarten van der Heijden explains the statement that the working group drafted to be submitted for approval by the General Assembly of the EEF.

Christian Paillot and Ulf Helgstrand report on the FEI NSAID Congress.

After a discussion the General Assembly approves unanimously following statement:

“The EEF was extremely impressed by the quality of presentations and debate at the FEI Congress on NSAID usage and medication in the equine athlete in Lausanne and applauds the FEI for the organisation of the congress, giving all involved parties the opportunity to exchange their views.

It is clear that all involved consider the welfare of the horse to be paramount in our sport.

Our initial conclusion is that the scientific evidence presented at the conference is insufficient to justify the removal of NSAIDs from the prohibited list.

For the time being the EEF CSWG recommends that the National Federations of the EEF do not support the use of NSAIDs in competition for the following specific reasons:

1. *There is a lack of scientific evidence to support the contention that such use would be in the interest of the welfare of the horse. As such the proposal falls outside the clear ethical values of our sport.*
2. *The national laws in a number of jurisdictions prohibit such use. Accordingly removal from the prohibited list would create a division in competition with a high percentage (approx. 50 %) of the sport worldwide being conducted under rules which prohibited NSAIDs in competition and the remainder under rules which permitted their use in competition. This would go against the FEI principle of competition under equal and fair conditions.*
3. *The real risk that such a change would go against the tide of public opinion and ethical values and have adverse consequences on the development of our sport.*

We note comments made during the course of the congress regarding the demands of the competition calendar and also recommend that National Federations and relevant stakeholders work with the FEI to review these pressures and make appropriate adjustments if necessary.

Since the presentation of the EEF Clean Sport Working Group statement on NSAIDs, the FEI issued a press release on 3rd September 2010 on the matter. The EEF GA has considered the press statement and believes that the FEI's statement is highly positive and to be welcomed.

The FEI's press release is potentially misleading in saying "The proposed list allows post-competition usage of certain NSAIDs, specifically Phenylbutazone and Flunixin, in low dosages between competitions for the well-being of the horse". The FEI has jurisdiction for FEI registered horses "out of competition" only in respect of the banned substances, but not for substances within the controlled medication list category. If the comments are to stand we believe the expression "between competitions" is also misleading and should be changed to "between events" to ensure that it is understood that NSAIDs are not permitted at any "event" from one hour before the beginning of the first horse inspection until half an hour after the final competition at an "event".

In conclusion, the EEF GA fully supports and welcomes the principles now proposed."

Breido Graf Zu Rantzau (GER) asks if it is true that there is a big difference between the sanction for a first violation with controlled medication (1500 CHF fine) and for a second violation (suspension of 2 years). Graeme Cooke (FEI) thinks that it 's possible that WADA legislation might not always be appropriate for horse sport. However, he saw for the last months a huge drop of the number of positive cases.

Alain Guillet (SUI) explains the conclusions of the working group concerning education. Several delegates stress the importance of education and make suggestions to improve the education of riders and other people concerned, such as:

- obligation for riders to follow every year an information session
- organisation of seminars during shows
- interactive information movie
- interactive educational game
- interactive test

Christian Paillot (FRA) asks to apply sanctions in a reciprocal way also for horses. He finds it difficult to accept that when a rider is suspended, his horse is sold (abroad) and can continue to compete.

Some members think this is difficult under the actual rules as there is no legal relationship with the owner and also that a horse can only be suspended for a limited period (6 weeks for horse welfare). The FEI Legal Department will be asked to comment.

Concerning the FEI passports Graeme Cooke informs that FEI found a solution for national passports recognized under EU legislation but not recognized by FEI: if a national passport is recognized by EU, then a FEI Recognition Card can be delivered without specific recognition of this national passport by FEI. This will enter into force in the very near future. If a NF is unhappy about certain national passports they can inform the FEI.

Breido Graf Zu Rantzau (GER) fights together with the breeding organisations for years to have only 1 unique life number and 1 passport per horse.

In order to keep 1 original document per horse Ingmar De Vos (BEL) also suggests a review of the system of duplicates is undertaken.

10. Report of the Permanent EU Committee

Bo Helander gives the report of the Permanent EU Committee. We refer to the minutes of the Permanent EU Committee for more details. There will be another meeting before the end of the year. Bo Helander underlines that these meetings are open for representatives of all members.

The President underlines the importance of this committee in view of the impact of EU on all aspects of our sport and equine sector.

11. Financial Report 2010

Armagan Özgörkey, who has been appointed by the Board for the finances, gives a financial report. Based upon the income out of membership fees, the estimated income in 2010 will be around 20.000 €. The expenses will be very limited. The proposal of the Board to pay a certain amount to the BEL NF for their work, even this can be of symbolic character only, is rejected by the Belgian President. The Financial Report 2010 is approved unanimously.

12. Budget 2011

Armagan Özgörkey informs that the estimated income based upon membership fees will be the same as in 2010. However, EEF should create extra income. The Board suggested to create a Strategic Planning Group Sponsorship and Budgeting. The TUR NF offers to sponsor a Communication Bureau for one year. More information will follow in the afternoon by the agency.

Breido Graf zu Rantzau (GER) thinks that EEF should, certainly in the first years, be a low budget organisation where NFs pay for their own costs.

Armagan Özgörkey agrees but underlines the importance to generate own income and to create a communication and marketing strategy for EEF.

Martien van den Heuvel (NED NF) thanks the TUR NF for their support. He asks what the policy of the Board will be.

The President confirms that for the moment EEF will be a low budget organisation where NFs pay for their own costs. The Strategic Planning Committee will develop proposals for the future.

The annual membership fee for 2011 will be:

500 € for NFs (full members)

100 € for associated members

The Budget 2011 and membership fees are approved unanimously.

13. Election of the EEF Board Members

The President asks the General Assembly to appoint Bo Helander (SWE) to chair the election procedures. The General Assembly approves this unanimously

Bo Helander explains the election procedure and presents the candidates.

- a. Election of the President
Hanfried Haring (GER) is the only candidate and is elected unanimously by the General Assembly.
- b. Election of the Vice-Presidents
As Andrew Finding (GBR) withdraw his candidacy as Vice President, there are only two candidates for the two mandates as Vice President: Christian Paillot (FRA) and Ulf Helgstrand (DEN). Both candidates are elected unanimously by the General Assembly.
- c. Election of the Board Members
There are 4 candidates for the 4 positions as Member of the Board: Manuel Bandeira de Mello (POR), Andrew Finding (GBR), Armagan Özgörkey (TUR) and Michal Wroblewski (POL). All candidates are elected unanimously one by one by the General Assembly.

The President and Vice Presidents are elected for 2 years. The other Board members are elected for of 1 year.

14. **Election of two Auditors**

Maarten van der Heijden (NED) and Alain Guillet (SUI) are elected elected unanimously as Auditors by the General Assembly.

15. **Programme of Activities**

The President explains that there are 3 priorities for which it is proposed to create an Ad Hoc Working Group:

- Best Practices: Michal Wroblewski who will chair this working group explains the mission of this Ad Hoc Working Group.
- Cooperation between FEI and NFs: Andrew Finding who will chair this working group explains the mission of this Ad Hoc Working Group.
- Strategic Planning: Armagan Özgörkey who will chair this working group explains the mission of this Ad Hoc Working Group. Following 7 items should be discussed:
 1. Corporate Positioning
 2. Corporate Identity
 3. Perception Management
 4. Communication Strategy
 5. Digital Communication
 6. Content Management
 7. Marketing and Sponsorship

The General Assembly approves the creation of these Ad Hoc Working Groups and has no other propositions.

16. **Proposals of Members**

- The French proposal concerning reciprocity has already been discussed under the Clean Sport topic.
- Poland proposes to ask FEI to
 - recognise the Under 25 years old (U25) as an official age category
 - organise an European Championship for this age category in the 3 Olympic disciplines

There are a lot of reactions both positive and negative concerning this proposal. After a discussion it is decided first to analyse Pro and Contra before further actions will be undertaken.

- Belgium asks not to organise European Championships in the beginning of July (just after the school exams). It occurs this is not very easy for calendar reasons.

- Concerning Art 135 of the FEI General Regulations a document of the GER NF has been distributed concerning NFs logos during competitions. The members are asked to study this document and to report to the GER NF.
- The President repeats that there still should be found a solution concerning competitions not recognized by FEI with a lot of prize money (f.i. Endurance and NHRA).
- Alain Guillet (SUI) informs that during the European Championships Jumping in Jardy some competitions had to be cancelled. It is proposed that if an organiser organises championships for 3 categories, there should be at least 2 competition arena's. Sven Holmberg confirms that this has been discussed in the FEI Jumping Committee.
- Christian Paillot (FRA) is afraid that the fences at the European Championships Children become higher and higher. This should be avoided for reasons of universality. Armagan Özgörkey agrees but the competition should be 1.30m in the final. This to keep the gap between Children and Junior competitions (1.40m) not to big.
- Michal Wroblewski (POL) explains that the FEI has sent out a letter to the NFs of Olympic Regional Groups C & G to ask candidates to host the qualification competition. Yet, it was agreed in Copenhagen and also laid down in the Minutes of the FEI General Assembly that this competition has to take place in Europe. Moreover the deadline to introduce applications is too early (15/10/2010) which is immediately after the WEG. FEI will be asked why the deadline is on 15/10/2010 and why also NFs outside Europe have been invited to apply for hosting this qualification which is in contradiction with what has been approved at the FEI GA.
It is also agreed that, for the future, the qualification system for Olympic Games needs to be reviewed
- Alain Guillet asks what will be done concerning recognition of EEF by the FEI. The President answers that an official application letter will be sent out to the FEI.

17. **End Formal General Assembly**

The President thanks all delegates for their contribution and the good discussions and invites everybody for the joint Group I & II Meeting.

The Secretary General thanks the TUR NF for the organisation of the General Assembly.

Open Meeting Group I & II FEI + EEF

0. The meeting is chaired by Christian Paillot, Chairman of Group I

1. **Minutes of the Group I & II Meeting Copenhagen News from FEI**

Manuel Bandeira de Mello informs the meeting that until now there was no reaction from the FEI on the proposal concerning the financial charges. This was promised within the few weeks following the FEI GA.

It is decided to remind this to the FEI.

The Minutes of Copenhagen are approved.

2. **Confirmation of Decisions of the EEF General Assembly**

As the EEF is not yet recognized by the FEI the decisions of the EEF need to be formally approved by the meeting of FEI Groups I & II. Following EEF proposals/decisions are unanimously approved by Groups I & II:

- Report Working Group Small Nations
- Report Working Group Cost of Championships

- Report Working Group Clean Sport + EEF Statement. The statement is for FEI only. For the press and outside communication there will be a short positive communication.
- New Working Group Best Practices
- New Working Group Cooperation between FEI and NFs
- New Working Group Strategic Planning – Business Plan
- Proposal of France concerning reciprocity of sanctions also for horses
- Proposal of Germany concerning publicity on riders
- Proposal of Belgium concerning date of youth championships
- New Championships U25: to bring pro and contra together before we take a final position

3. **Preparation FEI General Assembly**

Because at the time of the meeting the agenda of the GA is not available, the focus of the discussion is laid on the election of the FEI President. The two candidates from Europe, Sven Holmberg and Henk Rottinghuis, give their presentation and answer questions.

An intense discussion about several aspects takes place in absence of the two candidates.

The decision of EEF/ Groups I & II for the FEI Presidential election at the next FEI General Assembly which was already taken in Warendorf, i. e. to support a candidate from Europe, is confirmed.

It was concluded that a majority of NFs would prefer to support a single European candidate but recognised that, at the time, this was not possible.