

MEETING MINUTES

European Equestrian Federation (EEF) and FEI Regional Groups I & II Meeting 17 to 18 February 2010 in Warendorf (GER)

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17 to 18 February 2010 in Warendorf (GER)****ATTENDANCE LIST**

<i>NF</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Name</i>
AUT	I	Elisabeth MAX-THEURER
AUT	I	Frank SPADINGER
BEL	I	Jacky BUCHMANN
BEL	I	Ingmar DE VOS
BUL	I	Kroum RACHKOV
BUL	I	Bistra KOLEVA
CRO	I	Karoly FUGLI (<i>17 Feb. only</i>)
CZE	I	Jaroslav PECHACEK
CZE	I	Annamaria KOLAROVA
DEN	II	Ulf HELGSTRAND
ESP	I	Venancio Garcia OVIES
EST	II	Siim NOMMOJA (<i>17 Feb. only</i>)
FIN	II	Jukka-Pekka LESKINEN
FRA	I	Christian PAILLOT
FRA	I	Nici KENNEDY
GBR	II	Andrew FINDING
GBR	II	Toby VINTCENT
GER	II	Hanfried HARING
GER	II	Breido GRAF ZU RANTZAU
GRE	I	Anastasios DELIVORIAS (<i>17 Feb. only</i>)
GRE	I	George DIMARAS (<i>17 Feb. only</i>)
HUN	I	Ildiko KÖLCSEY-RIEDEN
IRL	II	Damian MCDONALD
IRL	II	Joe WALSH
ISR	I	Amichai ALPEROVICH
LUX	I	Pierre ROSSY
MON	I	Eleonora OTTAVIANI
NED	II	Martien VAN DEN HEUVEL
NED	II	Henk ROTTINGHUIS
NED	II	Maarten VAN DER HEIJDEN
NOR	II	Kjell MYHRE
POL	II	Marcin SZCZYPIORSKI
POL	II	Michal WROBLEWSKI
POR	I	Luiz VAZ D'ALMADA
POR	I	Manuel BANDEIRA DE MELLO
ROU	I	Alexandru IAVOROVSKI
RUS	III	Dmitry TITOV
RUS	III	Elena MOROZOVA
SUI	I	Claude NORDMANN
SVK	I	Robert FEKAR
SWE	II	Bo HELANDER
TUR	I	Armagan ÖZGÖRKEY
TUR	I	Alexandru IAVOROVSKI
UKR	III	Mykhaylo PARKHOMCHUK

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INVITEES

Sven HOLMBERG, FEI 1st Vice President
Dieter GRAF LANDSBERG-VELEN, Honorary FEI Vice President
Alex MCLIN, FEI Secretary General
Jan Willem KÖRNER, IEOA
Margit OTTO-CREPIN, IDRC

Welcome Address

Breido Graf zu Rantzau welcomes the delegates. He emphasizes his pleasure to host such an important meeting in Warendorf. Hanfried Haring also welcomes the attendees, in particular Sven Holmberg, First FEI Vice President; Alex McLin, FEI Secretary General; Henk Rottinghuis, Member of the FEI Audit and Compliance Committee; Margit Otto-Crépin, International Dressage Riders' Club; Jan-Willem Körner, International Equestrian Organisers' Alliance. He is particularly glad to welcome Dieter Graf Landsberg-Velen, Honorary Vice President of the FEI and of the German NF who made an outstanding contribution to the FEI during more than 30 years. Together with Christian Paillot, he points out that this a joint meeting of EEF and the FEI Regional Groups I & II. This fact is respected in the minutes.

In the EEF draft statutes it is defined that all NFs of countries that are actual and potential members of the EOC (European Olympic Committee)*¹ may apply for fixed membership. Apart from the member NFs of Groups I and II these are the Group III NFs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine. Hanfried Haring welcomes the delegates from Russia, Dmitry Titov and Elena Morozova, and from Ukraine, Mykhaylo Parkhomchuk.

Christian Paillot underlines that the goals of the EEF are clearly stated in the draft statutes. Special importance is attached to the fruitful cooperation with the FEI. Hanfried Haring and Christian Paillot point to the elections for the EEF Board as well as to the working groups to be composed at the end of the meeting. Some proposals have been received, further ones are welcome. All elections and appointments are on a provisional basis; final decisions will be taken in the next Ordinary General Assembly of the EEF. The attendees agree to the need for provisional elections at this stage in order to ensure the functioning of EEF, particularly in the working groups.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of Groups I and II of EEF in Copenhagen, 16 November 2009

The minutes of the meetings of Groups I and II and of EEF on 16 Nov. 2009 in Copenhagen are taken as a true record and are unanimously approved. All open questions are on the agenda of this meeting.

¹ This wording is changed in the adopted Statutes to "actual **or former members of the EOC **and FEI**"*

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2. Discussion on EEF Statutes

After the formation had been decided on 9 Sept. 2009 in Antwerp, a Working Group was set up to establish draft statutes. The aim was to create a framework in which EEF can operate. Ingmar de Vos has collected all NFs' proposals on the draft statutes and updated the draft accordingly in a meeting with Bo Helander on 25/26 December. He hands out a further updated version of 17 February which he and Bo Helander present to the audience.

At first it has to be decided which law the Statutes should be based on. Following an intense discussion evaluating the pros and cons of Swiss and Belgian law, the attendees finally decide with 17 votes in favour of working under Belgian law (4 votes for Swiss law, 5 abstentions).

Article 1 – Name:

The name of the association will be “European Equestrian **Federation**” and not “European Equestrian **Forum**”. Experience has shown that the word “forum” was not clear enough to make the goals of the EEF evident, especially in Brussels.

Article 2 – Seat:

No remarks.

Article 3 – Purpose:

The wording is amended to working “in cooperation” instead of “in connection” with the FEI to demonstrate the wish for a really close cooperation with the FEI. The suggested amendments of the Working Group are agreed; no further amendments are made.

Article 4 - Principles:

The two amendments from the Working Group are agreed (nothing in these articles prevent a NF from maintaining direct contact with FEI; needs of different stakeholders in European equestrian are properly taken into account); further ones are felt to go too much into detail.

Article 5 - Membership:

The amendment proposed by GBR is accepted (“actual or former members of the EOC and FEI”).

Article 6 – Membership Fee:

No change. (*Remark:* At the end of the meeting an annual fee of 500 EUR per NF is unanimously agreed on.)

Article 7 – Expulsion, Suspension, Resignation:

«Expulsion» is replaced by «Exclusion». The suggestion of Alex McLin from the FEI standpoint is included: To add a provision that an NF which is suspended from the FEI be automatically suspended from EEF for the same period.

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Article 8 – General Assembly:

NF GER explains the reasons behind the proposal of a weighted voting system and points out that such a weighted vote has been in plan for many years within the German NOC and equestrian NF with very good acceptance. However, in view of the strong reactions of some member NFs, GER withdraws its proposal.

The system of “one country, one vote is maintained.

The attendees approve of an informal “gentlemen’s agreement” that NFs who have no national championship in a particular discipline abstain from voting on subjects relating thereto.

Proxies are discussed; it is decided that they will not be allowed.

A proposal on voting rights is accepted: Abstentions do not count.

Proposals of a member NF for the EEF GA must be sent four weeks before the GA at the latest.

The proposal to fix a timeline for the dates of sessions is rejected in order to be more flexible and be able to react to actual needs.

Article 9 – Board:

The Board consists of seven persons. The Chairs of FEI Groups I and II shall automatically be on the Board, the other five persons are to be elected. A solution shall be found to have an Athletes’ representative on the Board. It is agreed in principle to include one, but the right election process must be found.

A wording for the competences of the Board is added: “The Board is competent in all matters the General Assembly is not explicitly competent for.”

The detailed functions and powers of the Board shall be laid down separately by a Working Group, like the FEI does it in its Internal Regulations.

Article 10 – Committees:

The amendment of the Working Group is approved. Athletes and organisers shall be included as full members.

It is agreed to have very few Permanent Committees and a number of Temporary Ad Hoc Committees to address current issues.

Importance is attached to increasing as much as possible effective communication.

Article 11 – Official Language:

No change.

Article 12 – Financial Year:

No change.

New Article – Dissolution:

Will be added according to the provisions of Belgian law.

Ingmar de Vos puts the amendments in an updated version (also a French translation) that can be adopted in the meeting on Thursday 18 February.

The last draft (see Annex Pt 2) and the final updated version (see Annex Pt 7.1) of the statutes are enclosed to the minutes.

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3. Clean Sport

3.1 Anti-Doping/ Lists: Evaluation of returned Questionnaires

Hanfried Haring sums up the answers that were given by 21 European NFs on questions about

- Ethical Aspects/Animal Protection;
- Legislation;
- Stakeholders;
- Commerce.

The documents were given to all invited persons. The results show that the impact of the occurrences in Copenhagen in general is considerable, and that the alterations to the regulations as proposed in the Progressive List would be unacceptably detrimental to the sport, particularly in those countries in Europe who predominantly bear the sport if one has a look at the number of events, amount of prize-money, number of athletes and other criteria. Alarming is the fact that even among the 21 participants of the survey, international events would be run under completely different preconditions.

While in some countries the effects of a list allowing for more substances like in the “Progressive List” are minor, Christian Paillot reports that for example French State Law provides for drastic consequences like up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to 75,000 EUR (see “The FEI Lists and the position in France”, Annex Pt. 3.1).

FEI headquarters and Executive Board were copied on Hanfried Haring’s evaluation as well as the returned questionnaires and will be able to use this evidence for further action.

Alex McLin informs about FEI’s plans on the further consultative process:

Up to the General Assembly in November 2010, the subject will be on every agenda of Executive Board and Bureau meetings, and he assures the consultation process will be carefully monitored.

Scientific and political views shall be investigated separately. Expanding the Advisory List Group is a current issue of the Veterinary Commission with a view to ensuring that a list group can do its job in the long term. Alex McLin informs about the background of the suggested experts. They will verify whether certain substances are performance-enhancing, whether there is a level of performance-enhancing effects and look at the specific issue of NSAIDs. The questions of Animal Welfare will be treated likewise.

Apart from doing research on the purely scientific aspects, the idea is to hold a symposium, similar to the Heat & Humidity Symposium before Hong Kong, to give relevant information and to ensure that all stakeholders have the possibility to express their views. The symposium shall cover all possible commercial, political and practical consequences. This is to avoid the fundamental problem of Copenhagen that it was never clearly stated what would be the consequences for one or the other. In addition all NFs are invited to give their input through their Group Chairs.

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FEI will improve communication, both internally and externally. To this end, the FEI Communications Department recently employed a new full-time staff member.

The draft statement (page 7 and 8 of Annex Pt 3.1 e-mailed before the meeting) is intensely discussed. The delegates agree that a small working group should prepare a statement to the FEI on the basis of this draft. Working group members: Andrew Finding, Nici Kennedy, Jacky Buchmann, Soenke Lauterbach.

On request of the Belgian NF, the sentence “We oppose the consequences from the so-called Progressive List” is deleted from the “conclusion”. The focus shall be laid on the consequences – ethical, legal, commercial, political – of each decision. In the discussion it is made clear again how crucial a close cooperation with WADA is. To be considered also: that state legislation on Animal Welfare will overrule sports legislation.

3.2 Hyperflexion / Rollkur

Ulf Helgstrand reports on the FEI round table conference held in Lausanne on 9 February. Martien van den Heuvel underlines that this is an issue for all disciplines, in particular Jumping - not just Dressage. In general the attendees wish to avoid any further escalation, e. g. the criminalisation of riders. Therefore the job of the working group chaired by Frank Kemperman will be actively supported if requested. The result of the round table conference is recognised as the only practicable solution at the moment. It is added that the art of communication in this issue, internally and also externally to the wider public, is very important.

3.3 Human Anti-Doping Procedures

Andrew Finding explains the challenges for riders that are in the testing pool (see Annex Pt 3.3). He adds that OCs of championships should bear in mind the challenges team managers have to face in this respect if horses are stabled by discipline and not by nation.

Alex McLin assures that FEI will put all efforts in cooperating with NFs and athletes about whereabouts details to avoid a warning and further consequences.

3.4 Timeframe for Further Measures

See item 3.1 for the consultative process explained by Alex McLin; FEI will elaborate a timeline and communicate it. The timeline will provide for the need to implement all views and will allow for sufficient time for consultation once the draft list has been drawn up by the List Group.

Soenke Lauterbach reminds the delegates of Alex McLin’s statement that a three-months period at the end of the year will be respected before the Rule changes become valid. He suggests FEI to consider implementing the new rules with effect of e. g. 1st March 2011.

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Joe Walsh underlines the necessity to give adequate reflection to the FEI proposals and evaluate the consequences sufficiently. No secret ballot should be allowed on such a fundamental issue deciding about the future of equestrian sport. All NF delegates must give their vote in an open ballot.

The NF delegates underline the importance of these preparatory measures in order to reach broad acceptance for a policy determination during the 2010 FEI General Assembly.

4. Information Technology

Status of the IT project

In reply to the comments brought forward by Ingmar de Vos concerning

- still no automatic data exchange between FEI and NF (results, calendar, ...)
- still no FEI entry system

Alex McLin reports on the status of the FEI IT project. Due to the lack of structure in the old system, data migration turned out to be much more time-consuming and complex than expected by the IT consultant and the supplier. The FEI entered into a fixed-price contract with the supplier in order to secure that the IT work is delivered within the budget of the project. A lot of the work has been done, part of the system is operational, but particularly on the users' interface there is still work to do the scope of which had been underestimated. The NFs emphasize how crucial it is for their work that data like UELN, entries and results are exchangeable. At the request of Alex McLin, Ingmar de Vos accepts to help FEI with this IT project.

Athletes' and horses' registrations for 2009 and 2010; Validation of results

Ingmar de Vos refers to the e-mail of 5 February sent by FEI headquarters to all NFs. In this message, FEI points out that all athletes and horses must be registered with the FEI before taking part in the event and shall be automatically disqualified if they are not.

The BEL NF felt that such a step is too drastic and would entail considerable negative consequences for the athlete, e. g. loss of points in important rankings up to possible loss of qualification for Games and Championships.

Alex McLin explains that the procedure is based on Article 113 of the General Regulations. The FEI headquarters have to cope with a growing pool of unregistered athletes and horses. At present disqualifications are not automatically done after the event, but three months afterwards. He assures to work on a practical solution; NFs will in any case be notified before any disqualification is done. The FEI will send out a formal information about this as confirmation.

As a conclusion all NFs ask for a really practical solution for the benefit of the sport. They are completely open to contribute to such a solution. But they cannot accept these consequences before the whole IT system (entries, registration, ...) is fully functioning.

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A solution might be that NFs automatically register riders and horses when doing the entry. That way they will also be responsible for settling the registration fee.

5. FEI Practices and Procedures

Andrew Finding explains his paper (Annex Pt 5). Alex McLin regrets some unfortunate occurrences around Copenhagen and takes full responsibility for ensuring that practices and procedures are correct and comply with the provisions of the Statutes and Regulations. At the same time he makes clear that we all have responsibility: Objections could have been made prior to the voting, and rights could have been made use of before.

The FEI is aware of its job in enhancing the quality and clarity of the Rules and has been considering for some time to give a more proactive role to the Legal Department.

On request of Martien van den Heuvel, the NFs consider to ask the Audit & Compliance Committee to investigate these policies.

6. World Equestrian Games 2010 and 2014

Christian Paillot reports on the collaboration with local political authorities in the region of Normandy and with sponsors to secure the budget. A director is in the process of being recruited for the management and organisation of the Games, and a delegation of the OC is in close contact to the Kentucky OC and will visit the Games this year. The final agreement is to be received from the FEI for signing shortly.

Alex McLin visited the site of the 2010 Games in January where he addressed coordinating aspects and cost-related issues. A compliance report was provided one year prior to the Games. Sabrina Zeender coordinates within the disciplines; the draft schedule is accessible on the FEI website.

Severe concern is raised by the NFs regarding the costs: The attitude is to send less horses in order to save money. IRL suggests to work on a reduction of hotel room rates which are extremely high. SUI points out that the booking deadline for horses' travel and hotels is already in February, long before the qualification deadlines. A delayed booking date would help NFs. Alex McLin brings this up regularly with the OC and will do so again.

IRL suggests that TV rights in future are managed in a way that European TV teams can report from around the Games (not the sport itself).

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7. EEF

7.1 Final Adoption of Statutes

In the morning of 18 February, the representatives of 27 NFs sign seven copies of the approved Statutes, as it is required by Belgian law. Hanfried Haring recognizes this moment as a milestone in safeguarding the interests of European horse sport within the FEI and in close cooperation with all NFs not only in Europe, but in the whole world.

Jacky Buchmann takes the opportunity to express his sincerest thanks to Bo Helander, Andrew Finding, Ulf Helgstrand, Manuel Bandeira de Mello, Ingmar de Vos from the working group and also to Dominique Faye who contributed to realize a very difficult operation.

7.2 Working Groups and their Composition

Hanfried Haring describes the committees to be established. Their composition will be provisional until it will be confirmed in the EEF General Assembly. The meeting dates of each working group will be published, and the meetings are open to representatives of all interested NFs.

Permanent Working Group:

EU Committee	Bo Helander (SWE; Chair) Jacky Buchmann (BEL) Robert Fekar (SVK) Damian McDonald (IRL) Klaus Miesner (WBFSH) Martien van den Heuvel (NED)
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Ad-Hoc Working Groups:

Clean Sport	Soenke Lauterbach (GER; Chair) Alain Guillet (SUI) Kristin Kloster Aasen (NOR) Nici Kennedy (FRA) Eleonora Ottaviani (MON) Maarten van der Heijden (NED)
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Eventing	Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR; Chair) Anne-Mette Binder (DEN) Paul Brady (IRL) Alexandru Iavorovski (TUR/ROU) Jukka-Pekka Leskinen (FIN) Friedrich Otto-Erley (GER) Organisers' representative: Frans van Meggelen (NED) Riders' representative: N. N.
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Specific Problems of
Small Nations

Manuel Bandeira de Mello (POR; Chair)
Ronald Gaerty (MLT)
Kroum Rachkov (BUL)
Frank Spadinger (AUT)
François Thiry (LUX)
N. N. (ISR)

Structure, Regulations,
Associate Members

Ingmar de Vos (BEL; Chair)
George Dimaras (GRE)
Alexandru Iavorovski (ROU/TUR)
Nici Kennedy (FRA)
Claude Nordmann (SUI)
Eleonora Ottaviani (MON)
Venancio Garcia Ovies (ESP)
Frank Spadinger (AUT)

Cost of Championships

Andrew Finding (GBR; Chair)
Organisers' representative: N. N.
N. N. (ESP)
N. N. (ITA) ?

7.3 Board Elections

The election is conducted by Bo Helander; scrutineers are Kjell Myhre and Nici Kennedy. The Board is elected for a transitory period of a few months, and the delegates confirm that their goal is to maintain a good balance of Groups I and II, of North and South, East and West.

According to the Statutes, the Chairs of Groups I and II, Christian Paillot and Hanfried Haring, are automatically members of the Board. The delegates unanimously vote for Hanfried Haring as President. Christian Paillot is unanimously elected Vice President. The other Vice President is elected in a secret ballot. 24 delegates cast their votes.

Vice President/ Results of the first ballot:

Andrew Finding: 9, Ulf Helgstrand: 9, Martien van den Heuvel: 5; 1 abstention

Vice President/Results of the second ballot:

Ulf Helgstrand: 14; Andrew Finding: 9, 1 abstention

To determine the other four members of the Board, it is decided to choose two from Group I and two from Group II. They are elected in a secret ballot (two votes per delegate):

Members originating from Group I – results:

Manuel Bandeira de Mello: 18, Armagan Özgörkey: 15; Jacky Buchmann: 11;

Javier Revuelta: 4

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Members originating from Group II – results:

Michal Wroblewsky: 20; Andrew Finding: 17; Martien van den Heuvel: 10,
1 abstention

All NFs unanimously agree to appoint Ingmar de Vos as EEF Secretary.

Thus the final composition of the Board is:

President:	Hanfried Haring (GER) (Chair Group II)
Vice Presidents	Christian Paillot (FRA) (Chair Group I) Ulf Helgstrand (DEN)
Members:	Andrew Finding (GBR) Manuel Bandeira de Mello (POR) Armagan Özgörkey (TUR) Michal Wroblewski (POL)
Secretary:	Ingmar de Vos (BEL)

8. FEI General Assembly 2010 and Elections

Candidacies for open FEI positions have to be given by 1st May.

Following an intense discussion, the question whether the European NFs should propose a candidate for the FEI Presidency gets an affirmative answer without any dissenting vote. The candidate shall be one capable of representing the sport globally.

9. A. O. B.

FEI Promotional League

George Dimaras explains the difficulties organisers face in the current economic crisis to provide the prize-money requested for Three-Star CSIOs in the Promotional League. He refers to the respective changes to the Jumping Rules made in Copenhagen. His suggestion is to allow Two-Star CSIOs while securing that the Nations Cup and the Grand Prix competitions will be run at Three-Star Level with the required prize-money for a Three-Star competition. Sven Holmberg promises to seek approval of this suggestion within the Jumping Committee.

Financial Charges

Manuel Bandeira de Mello states that the problem of late payment interest rates (item 3.1 of the Groups' meeting in Copenhagen, 16 Nov. 2009) has not been revised yet.

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FEI Calendar

IRL reminds the delegates of the current policy to avoid any date clashes at the weekends of Top League Nations Cup competitions.

Additional Testing

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!

The delegates agree that additional testing is not likely to be continued unless it becomes more calculable and cost effective for the OCs. At the moment many OCs refuse to pay the high costs of additional testing. The EEF Clean Sport Committee shall go into this. Sven Holmberg adds that FEI Headquarters review the principles they are using for making the accounts for additional testing; he will ensure this topic is on the agenda of the next Executive Board meeting.

Next Meeting

The NFs of Turkey and Great Britain offer to host the next meetings; TUR in 2010 and GBR in 2011 which is warmly accepted by the NF delegates. The dates will be confirmed shortly, depending on relevant FEI dates.

Common Communication

It is agreed that a press release will be worded and sent out to FEI and all NFs (see Annex Pt 9).

Hanfried Haring concludes the meeting with thanks to the attendees for their intense input in the discussions. Christian Paillot adds that he wishes to express his and the delegates' gratitude to the German NF for having hosted this meeting and for their hospitality.