

SMALL NATIONS WORKING GROUP MEETING – WARSAW – 7 JUNE 2011

<b>Meeting title</b>	<b>Meeting of EEF Small Nations Working Group</b>
<b>Date</b>	7 June 2011
<b>Time</b>	14:00 h
<b>Location</b>	<b>Gromada Hotel – Warsaw - Poland</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Manuel Bandeira de Mello
<b>Minutes taker</b>	Manuel Bandeira de Mello

<b>Attendees Invited</b>				
<b>Participants</b>		<b>Title</b>	<b>NF</b>	
✓	Manuel Bandeira de Mello	Chair	POR	
✓	Ronald Gaerty	Member	MLT	
✓	Kroum Ratchkov	Member	BUL	
✓	Frank Spadinger	Member	AUT	
<b>Other members and invités that couldn't attend</b>		<b>Title</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>Excused</b>
	François Thiry	Member	AUT	✓
	Amichai Alperovich	Member	ISR	✓

**Last modification on:** 7 June 2011

<b>Agenda</b>				
<b>Pt.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Time (min)</b>	<b>Annex</b>
<b>Annex:</b> X=attached; *= In your possession; **=to be emailed by [dd.mm.yyyy]				
1	Opening and Acceptance of the Agenda			
2	Approval of the WD document, regarding the FEI riders, horses and shows registrations			
3	Identification of common problems			
4	FEI new structure			
5	AOB			

**Minutes**

- Opening and Acceptance of the Agenda  
Manuel Bandeira de Mello welcomes the Working Group Members.  
The agenda of the meeting was accepted.
- Approval of the WD, sent by the Chair  
The WG members approved unanimously the presented document, Annex I of these minutes.  
The document refers to the distribution by Continents of the FEI NF's, Riders and Horses registrations at the FEI in 2010 and the number of FEI Shows held by Continents, as well, from 2008 to 2010.  
The thoughts and conclusions of the Working Group, are also part of the document.

3. Identification of common problems from SN and SF

To be able to help the NF's of the two Groups it is essential that the WG may have the knowledge of what are the real problems.

In order to establish communication with these NF's and to try to have feedback of their necessities, the WG produced an Action Plan as follows:

Action Plan

1- Identify the needs of each NF by:

- (a) Check on how a particular organisation works;
- (b) Enquire about the hopes and aspirations of each NF;
- (c) Suggest which 'solidarity' programme is indicated;
- (d) Ensure that each organisation is using its possibilities;
- (e) Advise on which developed NF could act as 'mentor';
- (f) The FEI/EEF to establish a 'roving' team of inspectors to visit a given a given 'SN & SF' at its request and to report back with observations and suggestions;
- (g) Educate SN&SF by regular updates and feedback regarding why things should change, if the general, common good requires it;

2 - Follow up:

- (a) The above would categorize each SN & SF according to its present standing;
- (b) The next thing is to group together the SN & SF of equal level;
- (c) Reward progress by upgrading standing and invite promising riders to more important shows;
- (d) The FEI/ EEF to establish a 'roving' team of organising officials, (judges and stewards). These would arrive on a three day visit to a requesting SN & SF. On the first day, these may lecture the local officials in order to educate them regarding the latest developments. On the second day, they would supervise the organisation of an event, together with the local officials. Such event would take place on the third day. Finally, these would identify local promising officials to attend target courses.

3 - Olympic Games:

- (a) It is essential that participation to the finals be earned through qualification;
- (b) Qualification rounds should be organised on a continental basis, thus ensuring the presence of universality at the Games. IOC rules demand this!
- (c) Participants would have the chance to qualify through six continental 'final' shows;
- (d) The best riders from each continent are thus automatically chosen to go to the Games, having earned their right to participate;
- (e) The riders who enter the qualification rounds but fail to qualify may rightly claim that they had participated in the Olympic qualification rounds. Thus they would not have been denied the chance to qualify.
- (f) Due consideration must be given to strong NFs who keep high the interest in the sport. Justice demands that these are afforded fair representation;

4 - Competitions:

- (a) At this stage, it should be possible to reward hard working SN & SF who may not have a great wealth of good riders.....but do have a few.
- (b) These riders should be allowed to form 'combined teams' to participate in target events suitable for them to gain experience, and which allow them to progress;
- (c) The riders who prove themselves capable of taking the sport more seriously are thus encouraged to do so;

4. FEI new structure

The WG agreed that for the FEI new structure some basic principles have to be insured, firstly that the FEI remains on the actual system one NF one Vote.

The WG feels that a change as to be effective, but as to be enforced according with the interests of our sport, an Executive Board of 7 members would be acceptable, if a Sports Council may have a word on what it concerns the regulations and interests of sport, the Executive Board must play the role of the day t day management.

In other words, we could have the Technical Committees working as a Sports Council, which plays the rule of a regulation Board for sport.

5. AOB

Two items were raised:

- 1- To change the name of the WG, from "Small Nations" to "Small and Developing Nations", this will put on the consideration of the EEF Board, as it is the normal body within the EEF to accept the change and formalize it;
- 2- It was agreed, that the Chairman of the WG, would make efforts to know what financial supports are available for the NF's, starting on EU programs, FEI Solidarity Program, IOC Solidarity program and at the International Group of Equestrian Qualifications (IGEIQ).

Once we have the knowledge of the available programs we must inform the NF's involved according with their needs.