Minutes

Meeting	EEF General Assembly
Date	07 October 2025
Time	**09:00-14:00 CET**
Location	Kursaal Convention Centre, SMR
Chair	Quentin Simonet
Minutes	Shannon Bruchard-Gibbons

Attendees:
NF's presented

AUT – Elisabeth Max-Theurer, Cornelia Schupfer, Franz Schiefermair
BEL – Cathy Marlier
BUL – Peter Cholakov, Kroum Rachkov , Velyana Zhelyazova
CRO – Alan Andabaka
CZE – Petr Kuklik, Lenka Sekaninova
DEN – Jens-Erik Majlund
ESP – Venancio Garcia Ovies
EST - Katrin Pill
FIN - Jukka Koivisto
FRA - Catherine Bonnichon - De Rancourt
GBR – Fields Wicker-Miurin, Jim Eyre
GER - Philine Ganders-Meyer
GRE – George Dimaras
HUN - Dorottya Strobl
IRL – Denis Duggan, Avalon Everett
ISR - Amichai Alperovich
ITA - Marco Di Paola, Simone Perillo, Andrea White, Alessandra Raponi,
NED - Hidde Frankena
NOR – Emil Flam
POL - Tomasz Półgrabski , Karolina Mądry
ROU - Marilena Mladin
SMR – Elisa Zafferani
SRB - Ana Branković
SUI – Michel Sorg
SVK - Zuzana Baciak Masarykova
SWE – Sandra Ruuda, Johan Fyrberg
UKR –Tetiana Sheinich, Kostiantyn Bondariev
NF's represented
ALB, BIH, CYP, LAT, LIE, LUX, MKD, MON, MLT, POR, SLO, TUR

LTU – Did not attend
Guests:
FEI Fransico Lima

EEF Quentin Simonet
George Dimaras
Elisabeth Max-Theurer
Nayla Stoessel
Soenke Lauterbach
Simone Perillo
Alan Andabaka
Klaus Roeser

Teodor Sheytanov
Shannon Bruchard-Gibbons
Luz Bella Lendinez Martinez

Pt.	Topic	Speaker	Annex
1	**Welcome & Introduction by the President** EEF President, Quentin Simonet, opened the General Assembly at 9:00 am, welcoming all National Federations and delegates. He expressed sincere gratitude to the San Marino National Federation for their hospitality and for hosting both the gala dinner and the meeting in an outstanding manner. In his opening remarks, he reflected on the sense of community that unites riders, teams, and federations across Europe, stressing the importance of efficiency, collaboration, and mutual support, especially in light of ongoing political challenges across the continent. He emphasised that the federation's strength lies in its unity and collective commitment to governance, transparency, and inclusivity. Highlighting the elections scheduled for the day, he described them as a democratic milestone for the organisation. QS thanked the membership for their consistent engagement, which has made the federation more relevant than ever, and reiterated his confidence in continued cooperation. He concluded by wishing everyone a productive session and again thanked the San Marino NF for their generosity. The General Assembly approved the appointment of the Secretary of the GA, Teodor Sheytanov.	QS	
2	**Quorum** TS confirmed the quorum, with 39 of 40 National Federations either represented in person or by proxy (27 in person and 12 by proxy). TS noted the enthusiastic atmosphere following the previous evening's gala and continued with outlining the voting procedure, explaining the contents of the distributed envelopes	QS	

	containing four ballots. He clarified that the vote on the Longines EEF Series (LES) rules would be conducted under the weighted voting system, as approved in 2022, and reminded delegates to ensure their voting papers corresponded to their allocated number of votes.		
3	**Appointment of Scrutineers** QS proposed the appointment of the scrutineers. The General Assembly approved the appointment of Franz Schiefermair (AUT) and Dorottya Strobl (HUN) as scrutineers.	QS	
4	**Approval of the Agenda** QS presented the agenda for approval. The General Assembly approved the agenda as presented.	QS	
5	**Membership (affiliation, suspension, exclusion)** QS informed the General Assembly that all matters concerning membership were covered in the Annual Report. The General Assembly approved the report and confirmed no further membership actions were required.	QS	
6	**Approval of 2024 General Assembly Minutes** The minutes of the 2024 General Assembly were presented and approved by the Assembly without amendment.	QS	X
7	**Approval of 2025 Extraordinary General Assembly Minutes** The minutes from the Extraordinary General Assembly held in Frankfurt in May 2025 were approved by the General Assembly.	QS	X
7A	**Approval of the Annual Report of the Board 2024/2025** The General Assembly approved the annual report as presented.	QS	X
8	**Approval of the Financial Report 2024/2025** ***(included in the annual report)*** QS introduced the Annual Report and the accompanying Financial Report for 2024/2025. He noted that the year had been marked by an external audit conducted by Ernst & Young, following the Assembly's decision at the previous session to enhance transparency and accountability. The audit revealed that previous bookkeeping had been based on receipts rather than the date of	QS	

	action, resulting in inaccuracies in the presentation of financial results. The Board has since implemented corrective measures and adopted a new accounting approach. QS clarified that overlapping semi-final events held in late June 2024 and early July 2025 affected the fiscal balance, as costs spanned two financial years. The financial statements showed a loss for the year, attributed to the change in bookkeeping method, timing overlaps of major events, and provisions for an ongoing legal case involving the former Secretary General. Despite this, the cash position remained stable, with a surplus, compared with the previous year. The cost of the external audit and the Extraordinary General Assembly were also noted. QS assured members that the Board was acting in full transparency and that all relevant financial information had been shared with the GA. A representative of the Dutch Federation thanked the Board for its openness and proposed the creation of an advisory group to review budget allocation and spending efficiency. QS welcomed the suggestion and agreed to bring it to the Board for discussion. EEF Board members Klaus Roeser and Alan Andabaka elaborated on how the new accounting system would enable quarterly reviews rather than annual ones, improving oversight. The General Assembly approved unanimously both the Annual Report and Financial Report.		
9	**Release of the Board and Secretary General for the accounting year 2024/2025** QS requested the formal release of the Board and Secretary General from liability for the 2024/2025 accounting year. The Assembly unanimously approved the releases.	QS	
10	**Approval of the appointed EEF Auditors for 2025/2026** QS proposed the renewal of the external audit arrangement for 2025/2026, maintaining the commitment to transparency through independent review. The General Assembly approved this proposal. EEF Board member George Dimaras recommended engaging one of the major international auditing firms (“the Big Four”), and QS confirmed the suggestion would be submitted to the Board for consideration.	QS	
11	**Presentation and approval of the Budget for 2025/2026** ***(included in the annual report)***	QS	

	QS presented the budget for the 2025/2026 financial year, noting it was built upon the recommendations of the recent audit and aligned with the new accounting practices. He reiterated that while discrepancies were identified, the audit found no indication of fraud. The confidential EY report remained available for individual consultation by the member NFs. QS invited questions from the floor; the NED NF commended the transparency and proposed establishing an external working group on audit and compliance, which QS agreed to present to the Board. The General Assembly approved unanimously the 2025/2026 budget.		
12	**Presentation and approval of Longines EEF Series Rules season 2026** ***(weighted voting system approved by the EEF GA 2022 will be applied)*** GD introduced the updated Longines EEF Series rules for 2026, explaining that while no major changes were introduced, several clarifications were made to ensure consistency and accuracy. Key amendments included specifying that teams that retire or are eliminated do not receive points or prize money, adjusting the prize fund to €60,000 (replacing CHF with EUR) and removing the wording of maximum jump height of 1.50m to allow course designers more flexibility. GD reviewed the rule approval process, which involves consultation with National Federations, the Jumping Working Group, the Board, and finally the FEI Jumping Committee. He also announced that the Longines EEF Series Final was successfully held in Avenches, Switzerland, and that negotiations were underway for a new five-year cycle with Longines starting in 2026. GD explained the tender process for organising future events and emphasised the need for a consistent and sustainable calendar. The weighted voting system was applied, and the rules were approved with 209 votes in favour—the maximum possible under the system.	GD	X
13	**Election:** TS announced a change in the elections for the position of 1st Vice President. Among the three candidates originally presenting, Zuzana Baciak Masarykova (SVK) has withdrawn and will only present as a candidate for a Board Member position.		

	TS outlined the order and process of the elections, confirming that each candidate will present to the General Assembly. The candidates for 1st Vice President are Simone Perillo and Alan Andabaka. The order of presentations are SP followed by AA. It was agreed that all members may remain in the room during the presentations, ensuring fairness and transparency as all candidates' presentations were shared in advance of the GA.		
13.1	**EEF Board Member – 1st Vice president** **(for the term 2025-2029)** Two candidates stood for election: Simone Perillo and Alan Andabaka. Each presented their vision for the EEF. Simone Perillo highlighted his focus on horse welfare, youth development, and strengthening continental cooperation through initiatives such as the Longines EEF Series and regional championships. Alan Andabaka centred his message on fairness, respect, and unity within the federation. Following the presentations and questions, the General Assembly conducted the first round of voting. The voting result Round 1: • Simone Perillo - 23 (twenty-three) votes • Alan Andabaka – 15 (fifteen) votes TS clarified that, in accordance with the EEF Statutes, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is eliminated. As there were only two candidates, in line with the EEF Statutes, a second vote was required to confirm the election of Simone Perillo by simple majority. TS asked the GA to proceed with the vote using the designated ballot papers. The second round of voting • Simone Perillo – 27 (twenty seven) votes • Invalid – 9 (nine) votes • 1 (one) abstention Simone Perillo was confirmed as elected by simple majority. He thanked the Assembly for its trust and pledged to serve with integrity and collaboration.	QS	X
13.2	With Article 16.3(c) approved at the Extraordinary General Assembly, the vote for Second Vice President proceeded between Jim Eyre (GBR) and Peter Cholakov (BUL). Both candidates addressed the Assembly. Jim Eyre emphasised integrity, global	QS	X

	advocacy, and the need for strategic engagement with emerging equestrian nations, while Peter Cholakov focused on unity, innovative thinking, and balanced development between established and emerging federations. The GA voted and the result is: • Peter Cholakov – 25 (twenty-five) votes • Jim Eyre – 14 (fourteen) votes Peter Cholakov was elected for EEF 2nd Vice-president. Peter Cholakov addressed the Assembly expressing his gratitude for the confidence placed in him and committed to working constructively with the Board.		
13.3.	Four candidates presented for election: Konstantin Bondariev (UKR), Jim Eyre (GBR), Zuzana Baciak Masarykova (SVK), and Sandra Ruuda (SWE). Results on Round 1: • Zuzana Baciak Masarykova – 3 (three) votes • Jim Eyre – 9 (nine) votes • Sandra Ruuda – 15 (fifteen) votes • Konstantin Bondariev – 11 (eleven) votes No one was elected. Following successive rounds of voting, Zuzana Baciak Masarykova was eliminated in the first round Results on Round 2: • Jim Eyre – 9 (nine) votes • Sandra Ruuda – 18 (eighteen) votes • Konstantin Bondariev – 12 (twelve) votes No one was elected. Jim Eyre was eliminated in the second round. Results on Round 3: • Sandra Ruuda – 25 (twenty five) votes • Konstantin Bondariev – 14 (fourteen) votes in the third round of voting, Sandra Ruuda was elected by the General Assembly for the position of Board member. Sandra Ruuda thanked the Assembly for its confidence and pledged to bring her experience in horse welfare and youth development to the Board. Her election was noted as an important step in improving gender balance on the EEF Board.	QS	X
14	**Any other business** QS invited any final interventions. No new motions were introduced. Members expressed appreciation for the transparent conduct of the Assembly and elections.	QS	

15	**Closing** In his closing remarks, QS thanked all participants for their active engagement and congratulated the newly elected board members. He acknowledged the outgoing Board member, George Dimaras, for his 13 years of dedicated service to the federation and the Longines EEF Series. GD delivered a brief farewell to the Assembly, expressing his continued commitment to the sport and the EEF. QS confirmed that the next General Assembly would be hosted by the Irish National Federation in Dublin in September 2026, coinciding with Ireland's presidency of the European Council. Denis Duggan presented the Irish Federation's invitation, warmly welcomed by the Assembly. QS also confirmed the Board's endorsement of the European candidate, Klaus Roeser, for the FEI Dressage Committee Chair election and noted his continued commitment to serve on the EEF Board. KR shared insights into the current challenges facing dressage and the need to address judging reform. The session concluded with the presentation of a promotional video for the 2026 Mediterranean Games in Taranto. QS officially closed the General Assembly at 11:39 am CET expressing his gratitude to the San Marino NF for their hospitality and to all participants for their constructive contributions to a productive and historic meeting.	QS	

Quentin Simonet
President

Teodor Sheytanov
Secretary General