



Madrid, February 28th 2017

FEDERATION EQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

Capt. John P. Roche
Director of Jumping

Dear John,

We have reviewed in depth the document you sent the National Federations on December 20th, regarding the worldwide harmonization of the entry fees for Jumping competitions. The ESP opposes to the idea of such harmonization, as it stands in the proposal, and we would like to make the following considerations:

- The way this change has been presented, as a harmonization, when is more a substantial and a complete change of system and philosophical concept. We believe it is unacceptable that such philosophical change can be proposed without a discussion with most countries that are affected. The facts and reality is that most the International competition at all levels resides in Europe. Also, Europe, is where we have an industry that covers all the spectrum of the sport, from top to bottom. So, to propose a change, the opinion of Europe must be decisive to develop it.
- Regarding the depth of the proposal we believe that any proposal must take into consideration the promotion of young horses and riders on the lower levels to guarantee their possible transition into the higher levels of the competition. Competing with the best in the best competitions should be a big incentive for the sport.

In consequence, the following points must be observed and preserved:

- o Competitions from 1* to 3*

The development of the sport must be guaranteed. This should be done with a system that is simple, fair and transparent. One flat fee like up to now, that include a fair amount and that is not “enhanced” different imaginative ways always different in concept and amounts. If we accept the new proposal this will lead us to:

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- The sport will become unaffordable. At least with in our territory, and per the feedback we are receiving from different stakeholders, specially the people that are not from top sport, we may lose more than 50% of international participation at shows. We are convinced that could be the case in the most of the European countries.
 - The connexion with the different levels of the sport will disappear. The top sport will become completely unreachable.
 - The chain of development for riders and horses would become totally affected.
 - We believe for the upcoming countries in Europe these fees will become impossible to meet for most people
 - The level of interest for the top sport will decrease and this will have a negative impact for our sport's awareness.
- Competition 4* and 5*

We should reinforce these competitions with an aim to have the best possible conditions in quality of infrastructures and price money. There should a fee in accordance with this level, again understandable, common to all shows and transparent.

As a possible solution, the ESP NF suggests a complete reconsideration of the harmonisation system, considering, aligning the interest of the rest of the world with the ones where most the sport resides, Europe.

With kind regards,

Venancio García Ovies
Secretary General
Royal Spanish Equestrian Federation