



FEI
Att. of: John Roche
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High Performance Department

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Date	Our reference	Your Reference	Subject
1 March 2017	AG		CSI-CSIO Requirements

Dear John,

Referring to the proposed worldwide harmonization of the CSI-CSIO requirements, we would like to make some remarks of which we hope you will take them in consideration:

As NF we are aware of the fact that our sport globalizes more and more and we strongly encourage this development. What we and the FEI should take into account, is that Europe represents 75% of the sport worldwide and should therefore be of big importance for the FEI's strategy.

Our main concern regarding the harmonization of the entry fees, is that it will become too expensive to compete in CSI's. This goes entirely against the concept of equestrian being a people's sport and brings equestrian in Europe back to an elite sport. It will only increase the distance between the national and international sport. This will result in less identification with and interest in the international riders and events. Less interest leads to less spectators, sponsors and media coverage and consequently a weakened perspective for the Olympic future. If European OC's can finance their events almost purely by entry fees, there is less need for the integration of sponsors and media. Again, this will weaken the equestrian position in the international world of sports.

Besides our remarks mentioned above, we are to the opinion that eventually it will lead to a declined number of international events, whereas it is likely that shows will become national events again. This will result in less FEI registered athletes and horses and therefore less income for the FEI due to fewer events and less rider and horse registrations. It may also destroy the structure of building up young horses and riders in international events and the important connection of international sport and breeding.

Fore the above mentioned reasons we strongly recommend to withdraw this proposal.

Remaining

If the FEI, besides the entry fees, would like to harmonize more CSI/CSIO Requirements (for example also the requirements regarding FEI passports), we hope being involved in this decision making process.

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Hope to have informed you sufficiently. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Maarten van der Heijden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Drs. Maarten van der Heijden

*Director of High Performance and Foreign Affairs – Secretary General
Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation*