



MINUTES
FEI EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Mexico City (MEX)
21 November 2023

APPROVED BY THE CHAIR¹

¹ As per Article 16.1 of the FEI Statutes: "Minutes of any General Assembly shall be supervised by the Secretary General or their designee and approved by the Chair."

ATTENDANCE LIST

FEI BOARD

Ingmar De Vos	FEI President
Mark Samuel	VP/Chair Group IV
Jack Huang	VP/Chair Group VIII
Jessica Kurten	Chair Athletes (Excused)
Janice Shardlow	Chair Audit & Compliance
Stephan Ellenbruch	Chair Jumping
Maribel Alonso	Chair Dressage (Excused)
Karoly Fugli	Chair Driving
David O'Connor	Chair Eventing
Christian Lozano	Chair Endurance
Amanda Bond	Chair Para Equestrian
Pavla Krauspe	Chair Vaulting
Jennifer Hall	Chair Veterinary
Mark Hart	Chair Medical
Theo Ploegmakers	Chair EEF Group
George Dimaras	Chair EEF Group
Sadyr Mamytov	Deputy Chair Group III
Carmen Barrera	Chair Group V
Esteban Abedrabbo	Chair Group VI
Sami Al Duhami	Chair Group VII
Brigitte Mathias	Chair Group IX

FEI MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Sabrina Ibáñez	Secretary General
Frédérique Reffet Plantier	Manager, Secretary General's office
Francisco P. Lima	Director Governance, President's office
Barbara Rodel	Executive Assistant, President's office
Ralph Straus	Director, Commercial (Excused)
Olivia Robinson	Director, Communications
Vanessa Martin	Senior Manager, Communications
Malina Gueorguiev	Manager, Governance Communications, Stakeholder & Media Relations
Ronan Murphy	Director, Dressage, PE, Reining & Vaulting
Frank Spadinger	Director, Education & Officials
Manuel Bandeira de Mello	Director, Driving
Catrin Norinder	Director, Eventing & Olympic
Christina Abu Dayyeh	Director, Endurance (Excused)
Jean-Philippe Camboulives	Development Officer, Solidarity
Claude Praz	Director, Finance
Tim Hadaway	Director, Games Operations

Gaspard Dufour	Director, Technology & Sport Services
Jérôme Begey	IT Business Analyst
Todd Hinde	Director, Jumping
Mikael Rentsch	Director, Legal
Aine Power	Deputy Director, Legal
Göran Akerström	Director, Veterinary

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS (NON-BOARD MEMBERS)

Nayla Stoessel	Chair Nominations Committee
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FEI TRIBUNAL

José Alfonso RODRIGUEZ	Chair FEI Tribunal
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NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

HYNES Cecilia	ARG
FREEMAN Christie	AUS
MAX-THEURER Elisabeth	AUT
SIFKOVITS Dietrich	AUT
RAMSINGH Catherine	BAH
ARCHER Monique	BAR
LAEREMANS Wendy	BEL
MARLIER Cathy	BEL
MASTERS MCDOWELL Jaime	BER
MELLO Heidi	BER
ITURRALDE Diego	BOL
RIVERA DE TRIOLET Liliana	BOL
GUTIERREZ Tatiana	BRA
VAN SCHELLE Elizabeth	BRA
HOOD James	CAN
ROBERTSON Lisa	CAN
RIOS Victor	CHI
VILLALOBOS Maria Paz	CHI
LAN Tianmingzi	CHN
ZHONG Guowei	CHN
BAMBA Cheick Hamed Ibrahim	CIV
OUEGNIN Stéphane Joseph	CIV
BERMUDEZ ACUÑA Mauricio	COL
GARCIA DE MARTINEZ Maria Del Rosario	COL
ARGUEDAS ZAMORA Emiliano Alonso	CRC

ECHEVERRI Rocio	CRC
CRUZA Alexander	CUB
KUKLIK Petr	CZE
SEKANINOVA Lenka	CZE
RODTWITT Morten Schram	DEN
MANTILLA COMPTE Jose Vicente	ECU
ELDERINI Hanan Hamdy Mohamed	EGY
HATAB Hesham Mohamed Tawfik Mohamed	EGY
ROMANO CRUZ Jose Dimas	ESA
GARCÍA OVIES Venancio	ESP
MEDINA GARCÍA Joaquin	ESP
HÄÄL Marti	EST
MANNINEN Marjukka	FIN
SIMONET Quentin	FRA
EYRE Jim	GBR
WHARTON Malcolm	GBR
ERBEL Hans Joachim	GER
LAUTERBACH Soenke	GER
MELGAR BARDALES Juan Manuel	GUA
KUH Gerald	HKG
TODA Masami	HKG
DITTMANN Heike	HON
PASCUA Ana	HON
DUGGAN Denis	IRL
LALO Ken	ISR
FITZNER Regine	ISV
PERILLO Simone	ITA
WHITE Andrea	ITA
LALOR Heidi	JAM
HASHIMOTO Shigeru	JPN
YAGI Yuri	JPN
BINKS Mary K. B.	KEN/HBM
BUIKEVICH Sergey	KGZ
HAN Se Woong	KOR
PARK Suyung	KOR
HASAN Anas	KSA
IBRAHIM Fuad	KSA
ALALI Nabilah	KUW
ALJASEM Waleed	KUW
ZAKKA Nizar	LBN
THIRY Francois	LUX
CHAHBI Nadia	MAR
FAKIR Badre	MAR

COSSIO Juan Manuel	MEX
DAVID FAES Rafael	MEX
GARCIA NIGAGLIONI Daniela	MEX
ZAMBRANO PLANT Patricio	MEX
BOELHOUWER Iris	NED
VAN DER VORM Annemiek	NED
SANNUM Tore	NOR
BOWDEN Julian	NZL
AL BUSAIDI Munther Saif Hamed	OMA
AL NASSERI Hamood Ali Saif	OMA
BARLETTA Heraclio	PAN
AL HAJ Ayman	PLE
AL SHAER Diana	PLE
KOCZUROWSKA WAWRZKIEWICZ Kaja	POL
AVÓ Vasco	POR
RENTE Bruno	POR
AL-THANI Ahmad Nooh AH	QAT
M. I. AL-MANSOOR Nouf Mohammed	QAT
VENTER Sharlene	RSA
TEREKHOVA Elena	RUS
SORG Michel	SUI
BACIAK MASARYKOVA Zuzana	SVK
CHOVAN Vladimir	SVK
FYRBERG Johan	SWE
LUNDH Wiveka	SWE
RUUDA Sandra	SWE
KETUSINGHA Nara	THA
BAYRAMDURDYEV Pygy	TKM
BERDIMYRADOV Berdimuhammet	TKM
YEH Yi-Cheng	TPE
AMY Costelloe	TTO
BIBER Hatice Bilun	TUR
AL YEHYAEE Sultan Khalifa	UAE
AL ZYOUD Mahmoud	UAE
MILOVANOVA Andriy	UKR
PARKHOMCHUK Mykhaylo	UKR
GRIFFIN Hallye	USA
O'MARA Tom	USA
GAZIEV Bakhromjon	UZB
COUTTENYE Elena	VEN

MoU SIGNATORIES REPRESENTATIVES

TARIN Abid	AEF
SHEYTANOV Teodor	EEF
ZAYRIK Omar	IDOC
KÜÇÜK Ali	IJOC
MATHY JR. François	IJRC
OTTAVIANI Eleonora	IJRC
OTTAVIANI Beatrice	IJRC
NEWMAN Jessica	JWI
HIRSCH Cesar	PAEC
OWERS Roland	WHW

MEDIA

TAME Eduardo	Montando.com
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NATIONAL FEDERATIONS (REPRESENTED ONLINE)

ADRIANO ANTÓNIO Januario Marcos	ANG
TEIXEIRA DO CARMO Jose Calos	ANG
EASTON	ANT
GOCHER Darren	AUS
NEFICA Alma	BIH
POITAN Nastassia	BLR
DAVIES Sandy	BOT
HUGHES Sean	BOT
AL ALAWI Ghaleb	BRN
CHOLAKOV Peter	BUL
RACHKOV Kroum	BUL
NORODOM Nanda Devi	CAM
TEP Mona	CAM
KRUEGER Meg	CAN
ALBERGA Mary	CAY
TESSEMA TSEGAHUN	ETH
KOIVISTO Jukka	FIN
BOUIX Frédéric	FRA
DUBOURG Sophie	FRA
ANCLIFF Jenalynn	GBR
BAILEY Lynne	GBR
BRAUTIGAM Jason	GBR
COUNSELL Andrew	GBR

GRAHAM Iain	GBR
NICHOLLS Helen	GBR
WILSON Lindsay	GBR
GACHECHILADZE Tornike	GEO
KARAKASILIS Konstantinos	GRE
STROBL Dorottya	HUN
MARCIANO Triwatty	INA
SINGH Jaiveer	IND
EVERETT Avalon	IRL
AL-DULAIMI Ali	IRQ
FRAWLEY Lee	ISV
AL HUSSEIN HRH Princess Alia	JOR
SAMAMAH Razan	JOR
ZIMAREV Leonid	KAZ
ŠAKYTĖ Gintarė	LTU
YAP Mou Soon	MAS
DANESE Marco	MON
DE CORIOLIS Bertrand	MRI
FRANKLE Richard	NAM
STEYLMarna	NAM
MOSCHOS Anastasios	PAN
CABALLERO Lorena	PAR
ZUCCOLILLO Andrea	PAR
MONCADA NOVOA Ricardo	PER
BARRERA-JUBAN Michelle	PHI
VIRATA Xavier Francisco	PHI
KAMINSKI Marcin	POL
FRUTUOSO DE MELO António	POR
MLADIN Marilena	ROU
SANNE Ian	RSA
KOGAN Olga	RUS
VADNJAL Rok	SLO
MICHELOTTI Sergio	SMR
DIMITRIJEVIC Jelena	SRB
ELSEYSue	SWZ
MARTIN Justine	SWZ
CHEN Linda Yi-Ju	TPE
ARFAOUI BASMA	TUN
AL ADHAB Mohammed Essa	UAE
ALHAJRI Ghanem	UAE
SANCHEZ Julio Cesar	URU
MORONEY William	USA
IBRAGIMOV Nodirbek	UZB

ALAHMAR Hashed
BESHR Gamil
PATON John
SMIT Samantha
HAY Shayne

YEM
YEM
ZAM
ZAM
ZIM

MoU SIGNATORIES (REPRESENTED ONLINE)

ROESER Klaus
WERTH Isabell
KEENAN Linda
GRIFFITHS Andy
STEWART Sue
KATAN Lucy
BOUDON Xavier
PEDERSEN Jan

IDRC
IDRC
IDTC
IEOC
IEOC
IGA
JOC
WBFSH

OBSERVERS

SCOTT-BARRETT Hugh
Chair
SHAFIEE Ramin
HELESKI Camie

Candidate for FEI Driving

Iran
EEWB Commission

GUESTS

DURMUSER Burcu
WARAN Natalie
GIUGNI Luiz Roberto
SCHIENDORFER Urs
VUILLEUMIER Michael
KIM Ken
RICH Tom
OROZCO VIZCAINO Alejandra
HAMERLINCK Lieselot
TSOU ALEX
WILLIS Grania
ATOCK Martin
BARCOS Luis

Guest 3i Inc
EEWB Commission
Honorary Board Member
Longines
Longines
Pivo Inc
Pivo Inc
Vaulting Chair of MEX NF
Cavalor
LAMI-CELL
PAEC
Peden Bloodstock GmbH
WOAH

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Key:**I** = Information/Discussion/Details**All points in these Minutes are "I" unless indicated otherwise****R** = Resolution/Decision

NOTE: The Agenda, Annexes, presentations and any supporting documents could be found on the FEI Website here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/general-assembly/2023>

1. OPENING BY THE FEI PRESIDENT

"Ladies and gentlemen, dear members and friends of the FEI, dear equestrian fans and members of the media,

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening, "Buenos dias", "Buenas tardes", o "Buenas noches" depending on where you might be in the world and welcome to the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2023!

It's an absolute pleasure to be here in Mexico City, a first-time for the FEI General Assembly, and what has already proven to be a wonderful backdrop for this important annual meeting!

As expected, it's been colourful few days already. The discussions have been fruitful, the debates insightful and the atmosphere absolutely amical!

So, before I go any further, allow me, on all our behalf, to thank our hosts - the Mexican Equestrian Federation - and namely their President Juan Manuel Cossio - for the warm and exceptional hospitality they have generously extended to the global FEI Family.

For this third consecutive Hybrid General Assembly, with us in Mexico City we have 69 National Federations represented by delegates in-person and 34 National Federations participating and voting online.

We also have a number of representatives from Official Stakeholder Groups with whom we have signed Memorandums of Understanding attending this GA, members of FEI staff with a special mention for our Secretary General, Sabrina Ibáñez, who leads the team day in and day out, and two new key hires this year whom some of you will have met on the road already.

Our new Director for Jumping, Todd Hinde from Australia who started in September, and Ronan Murphy from Ireland, our new Director for Dressage, Para Dressage, and Vaulting who joined us in July.

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Needless to say, their onboarding has been swift and extremely intense, but I am sure also extremely insightful, with so much happening both on and off the field of play.

And of course, we have the FEI Board, who are here with me on stage, always ready to provide their invaluable council. Each with their very own areas of expertise and representative of different interests and regions of the world.

On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to excuse our Athletes' Committee Chair and Executive Board Member Jessica Kuerten, who could not be with us in-person in Mexico City but is following all the discussions very closely online.

And also, our Dressage Chair Maribel Alonso who had to leave our General Assembly unexpectedly for urgent family reasons.

We wish the both all the best.

As is customary, the General Assembly is being live streamed for the public, and is accessible for all to watch live and in replay on the General Assembly Hub, with all documents pertaining to this meeting, as well as wrap ups from all the meetings held so far this week also publicly available on the GA Hub which is in line with our commitment to good governance and transparency.

But before I delve into the General Assembly week, and the decisions we have ahead of us, I would like take a moment to share our concern and express the sadness we are all feeling in regards to the devastating and deadly conflicts around the world, such as the ongoing war in Ukraine and more recently the escalating situation in Israel and Palestine.

The loss of life and the destruction of livelihoods is absolutely heart-breaking, and as a community, a sport and an international governing body, it is important that we can support our global equestrian family and related horse populations in the most meaningful way we can.

In recent weeks, we have been in contact with the National Federations of Israel and Palestine, and we are developing a plan to provide support to the equestrian community in Palestine, as we have done for Ukraine, following severe damage to several equestrian infrastructures, as well as little or no access to veterinary supplies and facilities.

Where for Ukraine also the support from EEF and USEF is very much appreciated, for Palestine we are very happy to see a strong support and commitment from the National Federations of Group VII.

With the FEI Solidarity Emergency Relief Fund, we were able to bring some respite to our colleagues and equestrian friends in Turkey and Syria earlier this year following a devastating earthquake, and in New Zealand following Cyclone Gabrielle.

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These unpredictable and devastating situations are an unfortunate reminder of just how important it is to have FEI Solidarity Programmes and an Emergency Relief Fund in place, so that we can provide support to our members and our community in times of hardship, but also, so that we can be there when the time comes to rebuild.

It is our duty to keep the momentum going, and in spite or even in the name of all the hardship, we need to continue to plan for the future of our sport;

We need to remain focused on improving ourselves and what equestrian stands for; and we need to believe in the power of sport and the positive impact we can have on individual lives and communities.

This is very much the Olympic message: one of hope, optimism, solidarity – and working together for a better world and a better sport.

And as simple as it sounds, this is why we are all here this week in Mexico City. So, what's happened so far?

At the FEI Board Meeting on the 18th of November, a number of important decisions were made with regards to Rules for series as well as appointments of Officials for the Paris 2024 Games and the allocation of major events, especially the FEI World Championships 2026 so congratulations to Aachen and Al Ula.

But we also decided to lift the protective measures for Russian and Belarussian athletes allowing them in future to compete as neutral individuals. But the conditions still need to be established as well as the timeline.

There were also discussions around strategic planning and positioning for the FEI; governance related protocols, among others, and the much-anticipated delivery of the Final report – A Good Life for Horses - by the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission which you will hear more about today from their Chair Professor Natalie Warran.

Their vision for the future involvement of horses in sport is an important body of work, and I take this opportunity to thank the Commission for their commitment to the process.

The holistic scope of action they have outlined, which will contribute to a larger strategy and concrete measures the FEI will be presenting at the Sports Forum next year.

Science-backed research is vital when it comes to driving and implementing change in the equestrian landscape, or imposing new Rules and legislation around horse welfare.

So, I wanted to briefly touch on some of the research the FEI is involved with or leading behind the scenes, in a bid to grow the knowledgebase and help make informed decisions for the future of the sport.

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This is of course not the full list but here are some of the key projects I wanted to highlight and also emphasise our financial commitment:

- *A study on the correlation between footing and forces in a horse's limb. This is being conducted by Professor Lars Roepstorff from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and is being funded 100% by the FEI.*
- *We are also working towards the development of a saliva-based method for in-competition testing with the objective to develop a non-invasive method to sample horses during Endurance Rides.*
- *A study on Artificial Intelligence and gait analysis with the aim to see if this data could be a supporting tool in the evaluation of a horse's fitness to compete;*
- *And finally, a study on fluid therapy in horses in order to establish fundamental knowledge in an area which is lacking in evidence-based research, with the aim to provide the necessary science to provide correct treatment guidelines as well as areas to strengthen in the FEI Veterinary Regulations.*

I mentioned these because I do feel it's important to talk about these studies and to raise awareness, as there is a lot of misinformation in the community, and we are often criticised for our lack of commitment to horse welfare and wellbeing – which could not be further from the truth.

These are just some examples of the different science backed research we engage in, and research takes time, and there is a due process which we must respect if we want solid and data driven conclusions that can lead to actionable recommendations. Processes which are not always followed by many of our critics. And if you do have any questions about any of these research programmes, don't hesitate to get in touch with the FEI Veterinary or Games Operations Teams to find out more.

Alongside the important strides we are taking to further guarantee horse welfare and wellbeing within our sport, we also have important strides we need to take in terms of environmental sustainability.

An area where I believe we have strong credentials, but could definitely do better. There is also a lack of AWARENESS regarding the many resources and tools out there, and there is often a misconception as to who is concerned and what "sustainable" measures might entail.

As presented yesterday during the Sessions, we have dedicated Sustainability Guidelines and a second edition was launched earlier this year, which have been curated specifically for Equestrian Organisers and can be applied in a modular way in order to best suit different needs and circumstances.

We also have some inspiring examples of successful initiatives at Events and in the community which should and could be used as models. But also, here there is little awareness or perhaps the perception is misguided, so a lot tends to stay under the radar and we don't get the traction we need in order to really drive greater implementation of sustainability protocols at the rate I believe we should.

So, for me the big question is, how can we drive that awareness and shift the perception that sustainability is only relevant to the select few, is time consuming, expensive, and a nice to have but not a necessity...

Because it is a necessity, and everyone needs to get on board – whether you are hosting a World Championship at a temporary venue or are the owner of a small-scale equestrian yard, your actions can make a big difference. It's not about radically changing the way you run your events, your yard, or your business – it's about adopting a mindset that makes sustainability part of the plan rather than an afterthought.

When I attended the World Horse Welfare Conference in London on Sustainability two weeks ago, this was my overarching impression. While there is a clear desire and passion to make a difference and find new ways of doing things that are more sustainable, many of the lessons learned and the resources we have in our repertoire are simply not known.

So, there is a gap we need to fill. And rather than working separately in our own spaces, we need to come together and shine a light on best practice, and create an expectation and a standard for all our stakeholders to champion. This needs to be part of our daily mantra and of course part of OUR mindset.

And I know this is at the top of all of your personal and professional minds because we are ultimately doing this for our kids – the youth of today - who will inherit our mistakes but hopefully also our solutions and our mindset!

As for accessibility, which is very much about making our sport and our events more inclusive, this was also discussed during the Sessions yesterday, and again, we have some solid examples of how Organisers have planned around accessibility. And we now have Guidelines for our Organisers which the FEI created based on the lessons learned at major Championships these last 2-3 years.

But we need to spread the word, and raise the bar in terms of our expectations when it comes to making Events more accessible. And once again, we need to shift perception – because this won't cost more and it won't take more time, but it does require including accessibility into planning from the very start and not as an afterthought.

These are all facets or areas which we know aside from their intrinsic benefits also have a strong influence on society's perception and acceptance of our sport. And ultimately, our sport is only as strong as our COLLECTIVE social licence to operate, and we need to work TOGETHER if we want to succeed and ensure a bright future for the next generation of equestrians.

Good governance and earning the trust of the community is another key pillar in our social licence to operate, and I believe TOGETHER, we have created a strong ecosystem, where the expectations in terms of governance are high, and we all understand the role we have to play if we want to have a seat at the table.

I am pleased to say that our efforts have been recognised and once again we have been designated as a leading International Federation in terms of governance by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations.

Our Rules Revision process is an example of our solid governance protocols, and I am grateful to all the Federations, the FEI Committees, and Official Stakeholders for their valuable contributions and feedback over the past few months - as well as the FEI HQ team - and I hope the Rules Session yesterday where we discussed the key changes to be voted at the GA today was beneficial.

I understand not everyone agrees with every proposed rule change, and this is a reflection of our very diverse community. But as always, we have all the cards on the table, the rationale for all decisions is clearly outlined, and we have the best interest of the sport, and our number one stakeholder the horse, at heart.

Before we jump right into the busy agenda ahead of us (and all the voting), I wanted to take a small moment to talk about the incredible year we have had from a sporting perspective, and the challenging economic context in which we are operating, and were prepared for, but will need to continue to adjust to.

It was no surprise that 2023 was going to be challenging. General uncertainty in the global markets, rising costs and inflation in a post Covid era and the ongoing war in Ukraine inevitably had a toll on the FEI's financial results for 2022.

With a loss on our portfolio of almost 6million, we were able to limit the damage and absorb an important part of this loss, so that we are left with a final deficit of 2.5million.

This had been anticipated to an extent, but I do want to reassure you that the FEI remains financially healthy.

Nevertheless, we must be vigilant and ready to adapt in a changing economic landscape, so we have started the process of an internal audit to look at our revenues and expenses and to make sure that our operational budget is sustainable for the future. An area which I see as an important part of the legacy of my presidency.

And on the note of presidential legacy – I recently had the pleasure and honour of meeting up with my predecessors FEI Presidents, HRH Princess Royal and HRH Princess Haya, and I am happy to report that their enthusiasm and appreciation for equestrian sports remains high, and that they are in good health and very active.

Very active is also how I would describe the year we have just had – and what we can expect in the future...

2023 on a sporting front was tremendous and also relentless!

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We continued to increase the number of events in the FEI Calendar and can show that we are well and truly back on track with the rising trends from the pre-Covid phase.

If we compare 2022 to 2019, which is our most recent pre-covid year and our reference, we were already back on track with 4,545 Events, and close to our pre-covid numbers.

Then for this year – 2023 – even though it's not over yet, we are expected finish on 4,832 Events – so more than in 2019 and representing a 6.3% increase compared to 2022. This is an unprecedented growth in the last decade and an important milestone.

And, looking ahead, in 2024, we have 4,948 Events in the Calendar, which is more than 2023, so again, very promising figures for our sport, In addition, looking at the overall number of athletes starting at FEI Events, in 2019 413'105 FEI Athletes attended FEI Events.

And in 2022, even if the number of events was 3.46% lower than 2019, the number of athletes attending FEI Events was up to 427'817, which represents a 3.56% increase in the overall attendance of FEI Athletes.

So once again, figures which are increasing and going in the right direction, and show that we are in very good health!

We witnessed brilliant performances and heart-warming team spirit at World and continental Championships for seniors, youth, young horses, Nations Cup qualifiers, Finals and designated Olympic qualifying events for the different Regional Groups.

We had a trio of fabulous World Cup Finals in Omaha for Jumping, Dressage and Vaulting, and Bordeaux for Driving.

And lastly, although I could go on, we saw many firsts at the Asian and Pan American Games – two major events I had the pleasure of attending – with new nations competing and reaching the podium. But also new milestones in terms of the level of competition, and the diversity of the Officials taking part.

As for next year, well it's already front and centre in all our minds.

We are on the Road to Paris – this is certain.

23 Nations have already qualified to send one or more teams to the Olympic and Paralympic Games – and there are still some more to come in Dressage, Para Dressage and Eventing with the composite team allocations based on Olympic Rankings and Regional Rankings.

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A special mention must go to the seven nations that have covered all their bases and already secured team slots across the four disciplines of Jumping, Dressage, Eventing and Para Dressage – namely France, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, The Netherlands, and the USA.

We could not have dreamed of a more spectacular venue, and we are working hand in hand with the Paris 2024 Organising team and GL Events to not only preserve but also celebrate the beauty and historic significance of Versailles. We already know, this will be one of the iconic images from these Games, and there will be huge interest to capture equestrian sport with this fabulous backdrop.

Of course, this comes with a big responsibility but also plenty of opportunities, and it's on all of us to make sure that we make the most of these opportunities to showcase the very best of our sport, who we are as a community, and what we stand for.

This is going to be a COLLECTIVE effort – you will have noted this is a recurring theme in today's opening speech - and I am confident that TOGETHER we will deliver mighty and memorable Games for all the right reasons.

Another highlight on the 2024 sporting calendar is the launch of the Longines League of Nations, an exciting refresh of our sport's oldest and most prestigious team series, and the result of a consultative process, which I am proud to say was not a compromise.

That was one of the overarching criteria when we started to review the series with all the key stakeholders, that we could not round all the corners, please everyone and expect to succeed in today's competitive and changing sporting and media landscapes.

And I believe we have achieved what we set out to do. We knew we had the trust and overarching support from our Top Partner Longines and special thanks here to our great friend and supporter Urs Schiendorfer.

We had to be brave and committed to the outcome if we were to succeed. The FEI will naturally do everything its power to ensure the series succeeds – but I want to reiterate that the Longines League of Nations is not about the FEI, it's not for the FEI, it's about OUR sport, and represents OUR past, OUR future, and the values which we believe are at the core of everything that we do.

So, it is in ALL OUR interests to invest and give our very best to ensure this historic series remains iconic for generations to come.

We have a busy day ahead of us, so thank you in advance to all National Federations, Regional and Continental Associations, and our Official stakeholders for your valuable contributions, your continued support and professionalism. Thank you to all the Organisers of our Events, to our Officials, Athletes and dedicated sport personnel, the media and to our sponsors.

With a special thanks for our Top Partner Longines, with whom we celebrated 10 years partnership in 2023, for contributing wholeheartedly to the development and promotion of the very best of equestrian sport.

And last but not least, following this busy year, and before get stuck into the agenda, I would like to thank all the volunteers whose input and insights has been solicited more than ever these past years, the Committee Members, as well as the FEI Board and the wonderful FEI HQ staff for your unfailing and continuous support.

We are a diverse community, but we have a common destiny, and the choices you make today will affect our sport tomorrow.

So let's make this General Assembly count. Let's focus on our collective responsibility and make decisions we know are in the interest of our collective destiny. Let's use our collective expertise for the greater good.

But first, before we move on, let us remember the important individuals we lost since the GA 2022. Individuals that were part of our community and have shaped our sport – at local, national, regional and international level."

2. QUORUM

The quorum (68 National Federations) was reached with 69 National Federations present in-person and 20 National Federations online for a total of 89 eligible votes.

3. ELECTIONS OF SCRUTINEERS

The General Assembly elected the following Scrutineers for the Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly: **(R)**

- Nara Ketusingha (THA), Chair;
- Jukka Koivisto (FIN), Member; and
- Glenda Warbuton (SWZ), Member.

Out of 89 voting Delegates and 79 votes validly casted there were 77 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention. 9 votes were not received.

4. MODIFICATIONS TO THE FEI STATUTES

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Statutes, to come into force after the Extraordinary General Assembly. **(R)**

Out of 89 voting Delegates and 81 votes validly casted there were 79 yes, 2 no and 3 abstentions. 5 votes were not received.