



## **FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR**

**Malmö (SWE), 16-17 January 2010**

### **REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

Eventing National Safety Officers (NSOs) from 20 NFs (AUS, AUT, BEL, CAN, CZE, DEN, ESP, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, IRL, ITA, NED, POL, POR, RUS, SUI, SWE - [see participants list annex I](#)) met in Malmö (SWE) to review the FEI Eventing Risk Management plan presented by the newly appointed Chairman of the Eventing Committee and FEI Eventing Safety Consultant. [See also FEI Press communication annex II.](#)

Thanks are extended to the Malmö Horse Show / City of Malmö and the SWE NF for the kind invitation.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

##### **2011 Eventing NSO Seminar date : 29-30 January 2011**

##### **Summarized conclusions of the discussions and working sessions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar dedicated to Eventing Safety and Risk Management:**

The progression of the Safety concept in Eventing to Eventing Risk Management has allow for a clearer more systematic approach to the discipline together with a understandable vision statement.

Representatives of NF/NSOs demonstrated the greatly heightened awareness of risk management shown over the last two years and also the continually evolving nature of Eventing. A Risk management culture can now be identified.

The following main topics were identified:

- ❖ Spreading the vision and ideas (awareness) regarding the sport in the NF (for national officials, trainers, coaches, riders, etc.) and ensuring the extension of this culture change to all nations world-wide organising Eventing and participating in the sport.
- ❖ most important priority is to increase the awareness of safety with the riders
- ❖ Education to ensure that riders and officials are aware of their responsibility in the sport
- ❖ Near misses needed to be accounted for in statistics not only accidents

##### **NSO role were clarified as follows:**

- providing the national statistics on a 6-monthly basis
- liaison between the NF and the FEI for information on any national or international fatal accident of rider or horse
- spreading the vision and ideas (awareness) of the updated risk management approach to the sport in the NF (national officials, trainers, coaches, riders, etc)

##### **Bi-annual statistics to include:**

*Competition information*



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- Total number of competitions
- Total number of competitions by levels (0.80 m and under, 0.90 m, 1.00 m, 1.10 m, 1.15 m)

*Starter information*

- Total number of starters
- Total number of starters by levels
- Total number of riders and horses competing in events

*Fall information:*

- Total number of falls
- Total number of falls by levels
- Total number of horse falls
- Total number of horse falls by levels

All the above would include data from both national and international competitions hosted in that particular country

**Improvement of data collection regarding falls and injuries**

The inclusion of national data was identified as crucial to establish reliable data to produce significant statistics.

All NFs organizing Eventing are encouraged to develop fall reports forms for national competitions in order to improve the collection of information on falls.

More efforts to correctly monitor injuries of riders and horses should be made

**AGENDA**

<b>1.</b>	<b><i>Update on Risk Management Policy &amp; Action Plan</i></b>
<b>2.</b>	<b><i>National Federations presentations (GBR, ESP, BEL, FRA, POR, CAN, POL, CZE, SWE, ITA, GER, NED)</i></b>
<b>3.</b>	<b><i>Review of International and National Eventing Statistics</i></b>
<b>4.</b>	<b><i>Report of Working Groups:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b><i>Cross-country guidelines</i></b></li><li>- <b><i>Horses and Riders Education</i></b></li><li>- <b><i>Disciplinary Procedures</i></b></li><li>- <b><i>Risk Management policy Improvement and revision</i></b></li><li>- <b><i>Data monitoring and review</i></b></li></ul>
	<b><i>Discussion of Tattersalls Safety Forum Report May 2009</i></b>
	<b><i>NSO Roles and responsibilities</i></b>
	<b><i>Conclusions (see above)</i></b>

**1. UPDATE ON RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLAN**

by G. Della Chiesa



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The FEI Eventing Committee agreed in March 2009 to evolve the concept of Safety in Eventing to FEI Eventing Risk Management to reflect the reality of the sport. Eventing especially the Cross Country is a risk sport however it is well understood that riding itself can be a risky activity. The aim is to manage the risk to levels which are acceptable and accepted. It is clear that an accident happening in any competition (international or national) affects the entire sport

The fundamental idea of the Risk Management concept was to develop a clear policy and a vision. The Eventing Committee has produced this policy, developed an action plan, and set measurable goals based on established International Standards and principles. Such a policy will allow the Committee to take systematic decisions regarding Eventing with focus on the long term plan.

### **VISION:**

The Risk Management vision statement produced by the Eventing Committee is now included in the Rules for Eventing: ***"Eventing constitutes an exciting and challenging all-round test of riding ability and horsemanship within an accepted and acceptable level of risk."***

***"Every effort must be made to ensure that, at each level, responsible athletes are participating with progressively trained horses in order not to be exposed to a higher risk than what is strictly inherent to the nature of the competition".***

The athletes responsibility has been emphasized.

### **ACTION PLAN**

The main branches of action are divided in two: (see also FEI website <https://family.fei.org/Disciplines/Eventing/Pages/FEIEventingRiskManagementActionPlan.aspx>)

- **Active (primary) actions:** preventive - avoid falls, i.e:
  - Riders: Training, Education, Disciplinary procedures, Medical preventing measures (riders being fit to compete, well trained), etc.
  - Horses: Training, Veterinary preventive measures
  - Courses & Fences: Vision and FEI Cross Country Guidelines. These have been developed by the Eventing Committee together with the top level Course Designers. This document can be updated at any time, gives the FEI vision for the Cross Country courses at each level.
  - Officials: Training, Education, Assessment
  - Rules: Minimum requirements, Licensing
- **Passive (secondary) actions:** actions which can limit (avoid) the consequences of a fall i.e.:
  - Protection of riders: improving helmets, body protectors
  - Riders medical coverage: improving action of Medical officers at events
  - Horses veterinary coverage: Veterinarians at an event
  - Fences: development of deformable (Dutch pole, Swedish strap, etc.) and frangible (traditional pin reverted pin)

### **National Federations actions:**

- Appointment of a National Safety Officer - compulsory for all countries organizing International Eventing now integrated in the 2010 Rules for Eventing, Art. 500.3
- National Statistics: providing bi-annual statistics using the provided template
- Annual Eventing NSO Meeting: attendance of the NSO

### **Monitor and review (FEI responsibility)**

- Follow-up review



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- Setting benchmarking
- Producing annual Statistics
- Setting Measurable goals

## MEASURABLE GOALS

Benchmarking indicators and the targets have been set on levels and formats (1\*, 2\*, 3\*, 4\* and CIC/CCI). The average of 2004-2008 will be calculated on the percentage of falls related to the number of attempted jumps (jumping efforts) rather than fences. The benchmark have been set to include unseated riders and horse falls and within horse falls - rotational falls.

The statistics collected over six years showed some indicators. For each indicator, the history (the average of the last 5 years), the target (the average of the next 5 years) and the watch level will be included.

The goal is not to achieve zero falls but an acceptable and accepted level of risk.

The Committee had agreed the target for the next 3 year of a reduction of the average number of horse falls by 10 % for 1\*, 2\* & 3\* and 20 % (higher figures) for 4\*.

The alert level has been set to the double of the target.

Benchmarking for total number of falls as a percentage of starters			
Competition level	Average 2004-2008	Alert level	2009-2013 target
1 star (reduction 10%)	4.33 (1 every 23)	7.80 (1 every 13)	3.90 (1 every 26)
2 star (reduction 10%)	6.42 (1 every 16)	11.60 (1 every 8)	5.80 (1 every 16)
3 star (reduction 10%)	8.58 (1 every 12)	15.60 (1 every 6)	7.80 (1 every 13)
<b>4 star (reduction 20%)</b>	15.54 (1 every 6)	24.90 (1 every 4)	12.43 (1 every 8)
<b>Average</b>	<b>6.00 (1 every 17)</b>	<b>10.80 (1 every 9)</b>	<b>5.40 (1 every 19)</b>
Benchmarking for horse falls as a percentage of starters			
Competition level	Average 2004-2008	Alert (Watch) level	2009-2013 target
1 star (reduction 10%)	1.17 (1 every 85)	2.10 (1 every 48)	1.05 (1 every 95)
2 star (reduction 10%)	2.01 (1 every 50)	3.60 (1 every 28)	1.80 (1 every 56)
3 star (reduction 10%)	2.83 (1 every 35)	5.10 (1 every 19)	2.55 (1 every 39)
<b>4 star (reduction 20%)</b>	6.09 (1 every 16)	9.74 (1 every 10)	4.87 (1 every 21)
<b>Average</b>	<b>1.82 (1 every 55)</b>	<b>3.28 (1 every 30)</b>	<b>1.64 (1 every 61)</b>

**The GBR NSO Jonathan Clissold:** commented on the average for the percentage of horse falls per fence jumped and within that percentage of rotational horse falls, was one of the hardest statistic to obtain accurately as the results do not indicate that some horses get eliminated and how many fences they have been actually jumping etc.

It was agreed that assumptions had to be made as only the direct routes were counted for all horses, and all horses were counted as having jumped all fences on the course.



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However the figure is important to have a better understanding if falls are more related to the number of jumping efforts rather than to the level of competition.

**GER NSO - Frits Otto-Erley** expressed that other FEI disciplines could benefit greatly from the Risk Management review.

**Eventing Committee Member - Anne-Mette Binder:** For the last three years since the first NSO meeting in Copenhagen, there has been a lot of talk and good ideas- now a tool has been developed to monitor these good ideas and present them to the sport in general, demonstrating the serious approach taken by Eventing. The statistics as a tool show some interesting surprises.

**Eventing Committee Deputy Chairman - Andrew Griffiths:** so many persons have been involved in this project and it is great to see it develop to the overall concept.

**NED NSO -Teun Platenkamp:** it is often a combination of several factors which cause a catastrophe. Our sport is risk driven and not rule based.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS**

The presentation are accessible on the restricted area of the FEI Family for National Safety Officers as well as on the FEI website.

**GBR NF – Jonathan Clissold, NSO** (presentation available on the FEI Family NSO restricted area):

Jonathan Clissold reviewed the work of Bristol University in 2008 and 2009 (refer also to the presentations given in Copenhagen 2008 and Hartpury 2009) on the different type of fence testing used during competitions in Great Britain to improve the development of safety systems.

The test fences have been used to improve the understanding & measuring the impact of the horse on a fence and to carry out the structured field testing. Fence failure criteria can be developed to serve as basis for new safety systems. Key question is when should a safety fence be activated and how should it be activated to be safe. 23 % of horses hit the testing fence Good Year in 2008 and 48 % the British Eventing fence in 2009.

Each time the fence is hit, a video was taken and the forces and velocity were recorded. The frangible pin is set to break at 7500 Newton's, it was established that not many impacts were above the value and therefore could probably be reduced without having too many fences breaking.

The field search, the database have been completed and now a fence failure specification can be produced to be tested on other fences and determine how any frangible material should perform. Any new fence developed in Great Britain can now be tested and approved by the GBR NF.

*Clayton Fredericks asked if any update on the integrity of the existing frangible pin existed?*

*Jonathan Clissold explained that the manufacturer has changed and the pin have improved is they are not as brittle when initially developed, the pin now absorbs slightly more energy and it fails in a more elastic way. A second generation of the pin will be developed out of different material as the current frangible pins does not maintain its integrity when hit 40-50 times - breaking earlier than when new.*

A DVD developed by British Eventing for Cross Country training was presented. The DVD highlighted common rider faults on Cross Country that could be addressed with training,



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such as riding with too high speed, approach to fences and jumping techniques over a variety of fences.

**British Eventing Safety DVD** (available on the British Eventing website under: <http://www.britisheventing.com/page.asp?section=769&sectionTitle=Safe+cross+country+riding>)

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa commented that if riders today ride badly at high risk there is often no sanction, it is important that the near misses are included in overall risk management concept in the future as bad riding is a key part of the overall risk.*

*José Ricardo Lupi NSO POR explained that in some countries, the riders with a clear round on XC are convinced they had a great round, even if the riding was not good.*

*Peter Gray NSO CAN suggested to implement a warning system to stop riders from XC control before serious accidents happen.*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa opened the question how to fulfil the FEI responsibility of making sure that riders and horses are progressively trained if such riders obtain a qualifying result? Penalties by using the dangerous riding rule should be probably used more often.*

*Fritz Otto-Erley NSO GER explained that in GER style competitions were organised and such competitions could help the riders in being aware of their responsibility and improving the XC pictures.*

*Charles Maudlin NSO IRL suggested that riders should all have a coach/trainer*

*Felicissimo Aguado Arroyo NSO ESP stated if a level of acceptance for bad riding on a couple of fences was difficult to determine – as it was difficult to have a global view of the entire course of a rider at most events.*

**ESP NF – Felicissimo Aguado Arroyo, NSO** (presentation available on FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area):

The ESP NSO presented an overview of Eventing in Spain. The national statistics showed a low number of competitions and riders in Spain. He assured however that the ESP NF realised the importance of taking the appropriate measures regarding Safety for Eventing. National Seminars were organised every year for Course Designers and Technical Officials to review safety issues for Eventing.

Regional, National and International competitions were organised but one of the difficulties was to obtain regional information. He felt that the priority was to increase the awareness of safety with the riders. The goal was to provide improved information each year on the Spanish Safety plan.

**BEL NF – Dominique Maes, NF representative** (no written presentation available):

The representative of the BEL Eventing explained that the number of competition and riders were small in Belgium. Only a small budget was available for Eventing and the sport was run through volunteers. The production of national statistics was a problem as, the data collection process was still being determined more than in the statistics process. i.e: compulsory identification of reasons for elimination in the results for all national competitions. The BEL NSO has set the target to attend all 2010 national competitions together with an international rider in order to discuss fences and construction in view of





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improving the XC courses and building-up the contact between the officials and organisers.

**FRA NF – Emmanuelle Schramm, NSO** (*presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area*):

The FRA NSO explained the French National safety program which was based on a management strategy of 3 key areas for improving safety: equipment, organisation and education of which 3 areas had been defined: rules, regional series dedicated training, study and analysis of accidents. The National system of competitions then was divided in 4 principal categories : club, pony, amateur and Pro, according to the category, the qualification system is not the same.

The National French Eventing rules now differentiate serious dangerous riding incurring elimination or riding incurring a penalty only.

- Elimination applies when A Dressage average mark is lower than 4,25, more than 16 penalty points in Jumping, a fall or dangerous riding in Cross Country.

- Penalty points will be awarded in case of: non-respect of the starting order, starting before the order, a refusal within the time, outside assistance, dangerous riding, "obligatory passage" omitted or in the wrong order, a 2<sup>nd</sup> try on a direct route (rider is obliged to take slower option after a single refusal on a direct route)

The main rule for the management of falls is that after a fall of a horse, the horse must re-start at a lower level. It is compulsory for Organizer to record the falls in the results by fall category using defined levels from 1 to 4 (in terms of severity of the falls; 1 - least serious, 4 requiring hospitalization).

All horse falls (related to a fence or not) are recorded at the NF in the history of the horse and this information is available to all by Internet.

Regional training is organized every two years for organizers, officials, coaches and riders. A team of NF appointed experts travel from region to region and offer a course which aims to cover all aspects of competition safety. The course contents are based on the organization of the event, the key actors of the event, the competitors responsibilities, the coach duties.

Analysis of the statistics were also presented using a small number of high level events. One statistics is based on the number and seriousness of falls. Then on the condition of the horse. The problem is that the return of reports from the organizers is not optimal.

The aim of the FRA NF is to collaborate with the FEI and other National Federations to share information.

*Adrienne Hofer, DEN NF: is it compulsory for the rider to have a coach?*

*Emmanuelle Schramm: This was compulsory at club and pony level – on the entry form of the rider with the name of the coach was to be stated, but this did not apply to the other levels.*

**POR NF – José Ricardo Lupi, NSO** (*no written presentation available*):

The POR NSO explained that he had not been in the position for a long time and a very small budget was allocated to Eventing in the POR NF. Every competition is run under the Portuguese Association responsible for Eventing in Portugal. The POR NSO indicated that he had started data collecting with difficulty.



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Part of the data collection could also include specific information on behavior of horses during an event. i.e. review of administration of herbal remedies to the horses for the Dressage as it was felt that this area should be studied and remain under attention.

In Portugal the promotion of Eventing safety and education of riders was not well developed as the level in Portugal was not very high and definitely needed improvement.

*Pierre Michelet, Member of the Eventing Committee commented on the behavior pattern of horses during competitions was being more and more developed i.e. as in Show Jumping white fences cause more problems to horses. In Eventing, course building must include the perspective of the horse to understand the questions asked on Cross Country.*

**CAN NF – Peter Gray, NSO** (presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area):

THE CAN NSO Canada explained that Canada was a big country with 2'000 registered members competing in Eventing. Collecting the data was difficult however the reason for statistics was well integrated. Many safety measures had been implemented in Canada on a National level such as:

- The red flag warning system implemented in 2009: to stop a rider on course for dangerous riding, this rule change had proven to be difficult to implement as many national events would not have an organised communication system through a control centre
- frangible pin technology for open oxers (more than 1m in height and spread) was introduced at all level events as well as a deformable log (developed by 2 international Canadian riders) also used in the USA.
- As NSO (also competitor and coach) he was involved in the training and education of coaches and riders. To lower the risk of people involved in the sport, safe Cross Country riding techniques are now part of this coaching to educate riders to safe Cross Country riding. Many riders (especially in the young riders) go from the beginning to the end of the course without changing their balance, position or speed. A training video had been produced to explain the optimum galloping position between fences, balancing as approaching the fence, where the shape of the gallop changes (not necessarily the speed), and how length of strides and rider's positions varies according to the type of the obstacle, the nature of terrain etc.

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa commented that Risk Management started from good riding. The key part of Risk Management that needed to be underlined was the education and training of riders and horses*

**POL NF – Marcin Konarski, NSO** (presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area):

The POL NSO stated that 2008 had been a turning year for Eventing in Poland further to two serious accidents (one rider in the warm up area and one horse on the Show Jumping) during an international event and not on the Cross Country.

Since Many discussions took place with the National Safety Officer and the National Eventing Committee and the following measures have been implemented:

- ❖ A compulsory medical health certificate for all Polish riders -all riders must be examined every 6 months by a sport medical clinic.
- ❖ Penalties have been added to the rules for excessive speed on the Cross Country, for level of events of 0.80 cm, 1.00 cm, 1.05 cm.





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- ❖ For riders stating competing - an exam has been introduced to testing knowledge of Dressage, Show Jumping and theoretical aspects.
- ❖ to participate in Eventing training, riders must have:
  - valid medical examination results,
  - competitors under 18 must have a valid parent's or guardian's permission
  - competitors must have valid qualifying results (based on the FEI qualifying results).
- ❖ All falls are registered by POL NF and a record of accidents are published on the website
- ❖ Competitors requiring medical assistance after fall during the competition are entered in the falls database. Information of the accident must be included in the TD report.
- ❖ To go back to competition riders must obtain a medical certificate stating that the riders are fit to compete. Horses having had a horse fall must also be seen by the Team Veterinarian and obtain a certificate before going back to competition.
- ❖ At lower levels of competitions training at the water fences is possible.
- ❖ In all national competitions during the cross-country course the competitors must wear approved protective headgear and body protectors.
- ❖ Professional training has been implemented for trainers and riders. A team trainer is appointed for juniors and young riders.
- ❖ For the last two years professional training for TDs and CDs has been introduced with a national licensing system.

Spreading awareness of Eventing Risk Management in Poland is a priority.

**CZE NF – Bohumil Rejnek, NSO** (*presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area*):

The CZE NSO presented the situation of the progress in Eventing Risk Management since the previous year:

26'000 members are currently member of the CZE NF of which 1'500 are actively involved in Eventing. The CZE Safety Committee is working together with the CZE NF and with the support of the GER NF. Shortly after its foundation, this Committee dealt with the serious accident of Jiri Cipra CZE rider who suffered serious injuries at an event in Poland (*referred to also in above report*).

Annually approx. 20 competitions are organised in CZE NF in Eventing, with an average 1'100 riders competing every year.

- ❖ Riders: A training program has been set up for young riders to teach the required equestrian skills with emphasis on the warming up before a competition (on the ground and on the horse).
- ❖ Trainers: Great emphasis has been put on the education training of coaches and trainers, to ensure that they are up to date with the latest trends in the training of riders.
- ❖ Officials: Training of Judges and Course Designers will include as of 2010, first aid courses.
- ❖ Cross Country: Since 2009 frangible pins have been used. Another preventive measure include analysis of collision situations and falls with the help of videos and photos. When designing courses particular attention to safety of the horses and riders has been included as well as attention to safer distance between the spectators from fences.
- ❖ Extension of safety of riders and horses education for equestrian centres including with the help of the media to amateur riders. Specialised equestrian media but also



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newspapers, magazines and tv's for rider public to promote the new Eventing safety program.

The goal of the CZE NF for 2010 and the following years is to decrease risk of injuries created in dangerous situations both whilst riding and caring for the horse. For 2010, a series of courses on safety for competition officials in equestrian centres and clubs all over the republic will take place.

**SWE NF – Mats Björnetun, NF representative** *(presentation available on the FEI website and the FEI Family NSO restricted area):*

**Swedish NF strap:**

The developer of the specific safety strap device explained that further of having been involved in Eventing for the last 15 years, he also ran a company producing safety equipments for cars and their testing during car crash tests.

The strap has now been used in two national competitions in Sweden, of which one has been filmed. One of the issues was measuring the sliding over force of a horse. The system is based on a strap that opens when the fence is hit. Several kits have been created to be used on uprights, corners, narrow fences. Replacing kits are also available. A testing machine has now been put in place to allow the testing of the fences and obtain statistics together with an expert of the Gothenburg University. All tests done will be available on the official website: <http://newera.mim.se/>

**ITA NF – Giacomo Della Chiesa, NSO** *(presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area):*

**Italian Frangible fence:**

The ITA presented the project of the ITA NF of a frangible fence system. This fence was used at an event in September 2009 at three different levels. The fence was constructed as an upright straight vertical. The frangible device was a wooden pin which is placed in the pole, a hole is drilled in the vertical and in the horizontal pole and the pin is placed in. Ropes secure the pole to avoid it rolling away. All riders (approx. 70) were briefed that the Ground Jury would inform them in the case of a broken pin of the eventual penalty. The fence was filmed and the pictures were studied. Some horses touched it but the wooden pin did not break, some touched it with either front or hind legs or both. A horse hit it strongly and the pin broke, however the Ground Jury decided not to penalise the combination as the fence was an "experiment".

*Wayne Copping: this system was tested in Australia and worked well, it seems to be a very good idea and further study of it should be done. It was a simple solution, non expensive and very promising.*

**GER NF – Frits Otto-Erley, NSO** *(presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area):*

**Actualisation of national guidelines for Course Design – National and International levels:**

The GER NSO stated that for the GER NF that improvement of the knowledge of Safety and Risk Management in Eventing was very essential. The presentation covered the following:



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1. Risk Management Dates and Facts : Number of Eventing competitions held in Germany in 2009 was 1'173 for a number of starters of 25'405, (some regional competitions no information had been collected, therefore the figures are partially projected / estimated).
2. Horses and riders training / Coaching programs: As of 2010, all Pony, Junior and Young Riders team members in Dressage, Jumping and Eventing must pass the sports badge ("Sportabzeichen") to ensure a grade of fitness to compete. The German Pre-Novice Championships would now include cross running test(alternatively swimming) to make aware the necessity of condition for cross country riding. Since autumn 2007, a training programme on reflex has been implemented including the fall and fitness training for (Eventing) riders (tuck & roll)
3. Riders protection / Tack and equipment: The research group of the university's hospital Hamburg Eppendorf, led by Prof. Norbert Meenen and joined by team medical practitioner Dr. Manfred Giensch were continuing their work on the causes for accidents in equestrian sport (not only Eventing) and supported the development of suitable protectors, e.g. test of Airbag systems and helmets.
4. Officials training and education Cross Country Design: Every year in February, a national course for all officials (Judges, TDs, CDs, Stewards, Safety Officers) active in CIC and CCI and major national competitions was organized. A qualifying and certifying program for fence judges has now also been put in place.

The Course Design Guidelines include:

Concept planning of the XC Course: Importance of knowledge of rules and regulations, as well as the layout of the line, ground and footing, topography, distribution of the fences (in CNC 1 effort per 100-110m), design of the fences, distances and safety were included.

A booklet is available on the GER NF website: link to be provided by the GER NF.

Tasks and Requirements at the different Levels: Intensity of questions on the Cross Country course according to the different levels are explained in the booklet.

Construction of Fences: Some ideas on construction of fences to make them safe and unbreakable are shown in the booklet.

Photo-examples for safe and unsafe fences: 50 pictures/examples are shown in the booklet with full explanation of what should be done and not done.

**NED NF – Teun Platenkamp, NSO and Gert Naber NF representative** (*presentation available on the FEI website and FEI Family NSO restricted area*):

### **Risk in Eventing**

The NED NSO stated that risk was inherent to the sport of Eventing. An integrated safety management system was important as a tool to anticipate risk in Eventing. This safety management system needed to be based on figures and conclusions to help improve the sport.

At competitions a crisis management plan is in place however officials must share their information. The near misses during a competition must also be recorded. Every breach was loss of trust from the public, press, owners, riders, sponsors etc. A "pro-active approach" is a must, and "Situational Awareness" must be integrated.



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Should Safety in Eventing be "Rule-based or Risk-based"? Rules are needed to deal with the risk but many officials apply these rules without estimating the situation. The riders and officials must be aware of their responsibility. Stopping a horse in doubt is better than to let it continue and things go wrong as in case of doubt, safety should always prevail. Failures or mistakes in Eventing are in themselves not fatal however in combination with other factors they can cause a catastrophe.

Funding of national safety programs are a problem – in the Netherlands a safety fund has been created from the contribution from entry-fees of all riders in all classes of € 2.50. The fund was used to set up projects and allow the Dutch pole to be used at each event.

*Anne-Mette Binder: the rules should be used by officials as a tool to help them in their role.*

### **Experience in practice with the frangible Dutch pole**

The NF Representative reported that the breakable pole had been used since 2001 in the Netherlands. It had been introduced to the FEI in 2008 and as from 2009 it had been possible to use it under certain restrictions in FEI competitions.

- ❖ The breakable pole was made of cardboard with a special coating and was produced under ISO-standards to ensure a fixed breaking point. It was lightweight, durable and affordable. It could be painted in different natural colors, and available in different sizes (diameter 30, 40 and 50cm).
- ❖ As from 2010, the Dutch pole was compulsory at every competition in the Netherlands. Rules had been defined with Course Designers on how to use the pole, it clearly stated on which kind of fences the pole be used, where on the vertical pole they must be fixed, etc.
- ❖ A distribution centre delivered to all the 26 national competitions. The poles were delivered 2 weeks before the event. The costs are paid by the "National Eventing Safety Fund" (riders pay for "Eventing Safety Fund" € 2,50 per start).

The National Eventing rules for 2010 included the following changes:

- ❖ If a Dutch rider competes at International level, if he is eliminated twice in a row at the same level he must go back down one level.
- ❖ The possibility to give a qualifying result only to the top 50 % of the riders (based on the Dressage starters) of a competition would be examined at the end of 2010 for possible implementation for 2011.
- ❖ A license system is being prepared for Eventing instructors as it is already the case in Dressage and Show Jumping.

*Charles Maudlin: asked if there was a penalty for breaking the pole? Gert Naber answered that there was no penalty*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa: asked if statistics were kept on the number of poles broken? Gert Naber answered that it was estimated that poles are broken once or twice a year, however additional data regarding the speed of horses on the approach, where the pole was hit (middle or extremities, etc.) needed to be collected.*

## **3. REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STATISTICS**

by G. Della Chiesa

Further to an introduction by Giuseppe Della Chiesa, it was agreed that a unified system of format for presenting statistics is essential. The lesson learnt was that it took time to collect good quality data.



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Statistics were indicators to measure the trends in the sport - however figures needed to be put in the context of the sport.

In the last 6 years in international competitions, 6 riders fatalities occurred. More than 2.3 million fences were jumped during this period of time.

### **National Statistics:**

For national statistics clear entities must be set to define what should be traced in all countries to understand the level of the sport in each country.

The form on minimum information on National Statistics was reviewed. The terms were explained:

Number of registered riders and horses: includes the number of individual riders and horses which took part in at least one competition at International or National competitions from pony classes to International levels.

It was mentioned that certain NFs couldn't obtain this information as this was managed by other regional organizations not linked (unaffiliated) to the National Federation. It was a strong recommendation to obtain all information as in the eventuality of a serious accident it is very important to have a global view of the sport in the country.

*Adrienne Hofer: certain NFs register riders for all disciplines and not specifically for one discipline.*

*Dominique Maes: within the existent databases (FEI, FRA, GBR) a definition of the information correlated to falls was needed, what determines accidents, parameters from National events are very important.*

*Clayton Fredericks asked if it was not counterproductive to include pony data in the statistics. What measurable achievements would be made if no influence was possible at national level (different organizations)?*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa: measurable goals would not be measured on this part of the data as these can only be set on the part of the sport where control is possible. A full picture of the sport in a country was required.*

*Adrienne Hofer: National Federations have the responsibility to rule the sport in their country including the "unofficial" national events.*

*Peter Gray: after Hartpury's NSO meeting last year, the CAN NF made a big incentive to improve its data collecting. This resulted in 2009 with a big increase of number of falls, most probably due to better data collection. 35 % of the falls recorded, occurred at a level of competitions under 80 cm.*

*Frits Otto-Erley: it is very difficult to define in the total number of registered riders competing in Eventing as in GER NF all riders competing were licensed under the same system not taking into account the discipline.*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa: maybe it would be easier to count all the riders who started once in a competition, sorting them in the results database using the unique riders.*

**It was agreed that the consistent national information to be collected would be defined as follows:**

Total number of starters: number of riders/horses (combinations) started a competition

Level of competitions: classes (each competition with a separate classification)

Total number of unseated riders: number of unseated riders



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Total number of horse falls: including if possible including breakdown between rotational and non rotational falls

*Bob Powles: AUS NF don't collect systematically the fall report, results do not currently report the falls in the results. This creates a difficult situation to produce statistics.*

The national statistics received for 2009 showed one rider fall every 47 starters and one horse and rider fall every 305 starters. This is general data but the quality is not good enough to be used for this year.

It was suggested to divide the competitions by height of Cross Country course. This would enable a comparable set of data for all National Federations.

### **FEI INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS**

The international statistics were presented. 73 % of competitions were entered in the system for 2009, the final report should be available at the end of February 2010.

- ❖ FEI number of competitions were increasing.
- ❖ Distribution of competitions per level, 4\* competitions are less than 2% of all competitions, 43 % of 1\* competitions, 37% of 2\*, together they represented a large part. This needed to be a factor when applying of Risk Management.
- ❖ CICs were 60 % of competitions and CCIs, 40 %.
- ❖ The number of starters at the 1\* level represented 50 % of all starters. It was important to highlight the role of National Federations, as the starters entering the 1\* level are qualified/certified through the National Federations system. It underlines the responsibility of the NF to ensure that these riders and horses are prepared for the level.
- ❖ Falls statistics were divided by competition levels (1.10, 1.15 and 1.20). The trends for 1\* level are 1 fall every 23 starters, 2 \* level 1 fall every 16 starters, 3\* level 1 fall every 12 starters, 4\* level 1 fall every 7 starters. The average was 1 fall every 17 starters for all levels. The percentage of falls was decreasing. The Eventing Committee following the policy and with the plan of Risk Management had decided to include measurable benchmarks and goals for the next 3 years: i.e. reduction of 10 % of the percentages for 1\* to 3\* competitions, and 20 % for 4\* competitions.
- ❖ Unseated riders overall represented 1 fall every 25 starters, horse falls 1 fall every 55 starters for all levels.
- ❖ The risk of injury was much higher in horse falls and even higher for rotational falls. It was believed that the number of rotational falls had been reduced.
- ❖ For 2010, the project was to include more accurate data on the consequences of the falls. The actual classification of falls would remain, a follow up would be put in place in order to obtain the actual consequences of the fall.
- ❖ For unseated riders falls, the risk of having a serious injury is of 1 every 50 falls. For rotational falls, the risk of having a serious injury is of 1 every 4 rotational falls.
- ❖ Relating the injuries to starters, it appeared that the risk of a serious injury was of 1 every 384 starters as an average of 2004 to 2009 collected data.

*Teun Platenkamp asked in the perspective of acceptable risk, how the Eventing Committee decided to minimize the figures as this demonstrated that the risk is not acceptable at the actual level.*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa stated that the committee believed that improvement was possible and for this reason set the goal of reducing these figures. Every fatality on its own was unacceptable, but in order to run the sport, there must be an acceptable level of risk defined that all involved in the sport must be aware of.*





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*Dominique Maes: asked why the 10 % decrease (and 20 % for 4\*) would be based on the number of horse falls as a percent and not on injuries: Giuseppe Della Chiesa: the element that can be easily measured and for which clear comparison can be made are horse falls and not injuries for the inconsistent quality of information on injuries.. But as there is a proven stable ratio between type of falls and injuries, the reduction in the number of horse falls will consequently determine a reduction in the number of injuries.*

#### **4. WORKING GROUPS - PRESENTATIONS**

*The participants were divided up in working groups to study a number of different pre-established themes and the following conclusions were reached:*

##### **CROSS-COUNTRY GUIDELINES – group led by Wayne Copping (AUS)**

The FEI Cross Country guidelines were examined. The following suggestions were made:

- ❖ Include a list of jumps or styles of jumps per star level that would be the benchmarks for the basis that should appear on every course – useful guide for up and coming designers to use as a checklist. As an example for a One Star, palisades, verticals, tables, oxers, trakeheners, corners, drop fences brush fences, coffins, hard coffins.
- ❖ include a minimum width, per level for narrow fences (as per British Eventing BE rules)
- ❖ Include a table showing recommended distances between fences at combinations (see German federation rules).
- ❖ Include guidelines for number of combinations at each level (as BE rules).
- ❖ Include guidance on the profiles of fences and what is acceptable.
- ❖ Add directives on Course-measuring – explain that this must be done accurately – it has a reputation for being tight and riders shouldn't be forced to ride faster than they need.
- ❖ Include a system of measuring spreads – top spread, bottom spread
- ❖ Include Guideline for accepted measures to fix different styles of fences, especially portables
- ❖ At to rules that Course-designers should be present at all meetings and briefings
- ❖ Include a recommendation that notice should be taken of position of sun at fence all through the day
- ❖ Recommend to committee to add to rules the restriction to 2 attempts at the same fence, instead of 3?
- ❖ Recommend to committee to add to rules for a compulsory requirement of alternative route for riders in the case of refusal on the direct route

Course Designers and Officials should take particular care not to build/design above or under the level of competition. The consequences would be either that the rider is prepared for the level and is then exposed to a higher risk than the one for which he is prepared, or the rider believes that he's successful at the level and then goes to the higher level without being fully prepared.

##### **HORSES AND RIDERS EDUCATION - group led by Peter Gray (CAN)**

*The Working group expressed its view that no further rules should be introduced as they were not in favor of over policing the sport. The following points for considerations was presented:*



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It was stated that a close relationship between the rider, the trainer and the parents was essential

**Young Riders:** In North America more falls are recorded in young riders classes as their ability to focus may not be as good as it could be. Riders must be better prepared.

Mental training and preparation for a sport is primordial. Assessment of riders must be introduced to determine if they are adequately prepared for the level. Young riders need to think (awareness) of safety and not only of going from start of the course to finish.

**Competition pressure:** Requirement for coaches and trainers to recognize pressure which riders don't deal with (pressure to obtain QR, pressure of parents, etc.)

North America have very few occasions to qualify for the 2\* level for example.

**Prevention:** In Canada, the NSO is required to send a letter to each rider riding in an unsafe way.

Cross Country style award was set up in 2009, 2 international riders judge 4 – 5 jumps this comes under the category of awareness, it enables rider to recognize their riding.

A rider must be thinking before he starts the competition of, at what point he will retire in case of non-performance

The Czech video was highly appreciated and the tuck and roll (from Germany) is a very good system for young riders.

Young riders entering their first FEI competition should have a coach.

**Trainers/Coaches:** Trainers have to understand the guidelines (what's required in a 1\*/2\*), trends in course design.

The importance of the course walk, riders must put the necessary attention and not be too casual about it. Mental training in order to deal with pressure.

**Physical Fitness:** Fitness schedules: since we've moved more to the short format we don't see any more fitness schedules published in various newspaper, horses and riders must be in a good shape to negotiate the course.

More respect for the sport must be promoted. Eventing is a risk sport which has become more accessible which is positive, however the adequate amount of respect must be incorporated.

### **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES- group led by Frits Otto-Erley (GER)**

*The Working group made the following recommendations and comments:*

**Riders responsibility:** Qualification does not necessarily mean apt for the level. Riders responsibility is crucial and must be a part of education specifically in Eventing.

**The definition of dangerous riding** might be any act of increasing the risk intensity during competition, it could be interesting to forward that to the legal department at the FEI in order to find an appropriate definition.

"Higher risk than what is necessary for the level of competition". One relevant article in the rules 519.1 and 519.2 is very interesting.

FEI Eventing Warning list published provided the following comments:

- ❖ Some sanction actions are immediate and some that are delayed actions.



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- ❖ Immediate action should take effect if possible (did the rider really have 3 refusals as reported, still doubts on the fall etc)
- ❖ Delayed action, takes place after consultation as mentioned in the rule (competition debriefing) with the officials and other (fence judge, witness), a sanction on a rider requires a hearing with the rider, as the rider's view of incident is important.
- ❖ Penalization is at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

It was recommended that cases of organizers' failures needed to be looked at

Near misses needed to be accounted for not only falls

### **RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY IMPROVEMENT AND REVISION- group led by Teun Platenkamp (NED)**

*The Working group presented the following comments and recommendations:*

Eventing should not be creating its own problem and the risk in the sport should not be advertised. The concept should be turned around and say define the sport for which we wish to minimize the risk. It should be communicated largely that all actions are taken to reduce the risk to a minimum.

Many sports have problems however the FEI Eventing position should only be that the risk is being dealt with.

Taking the Sweden as an example, in 2008 a fatal accident occurred at a SWE national Eventing, this was the first since 15 years, the Eventing Committee created rules safety rules, qualifications etc. Some of the rules needed to be reviewed as they led to creating a bad image of the sport and 50 % of the pony starters was lost which is the base for the sport. In Sweden the risk management was readdressed by introducing Cross Country schooling, creation of more XC activities, and promoting a positive view of Eventing.

This view needs to be expressed to the general public and media, emphasizing will not be done on the respect and understanding of the sport, preparation of horse and rider, responsibility of riders.

### **DATA MONITORING AND REVIEW – group led by Dominique Maes (BEL)**

*The working group reviewed the minimum statistics information and made the following recommendations based on the importance to define the exact terms to be used for the overall collection of data and the statistics.*

#### **COMPETITION INFORMATION:**

Definition of a Competition: defined by location and date (one place / one date), the competition can have several levels expressed by height (level)

It was emphasized that the definition would be difficult to implement as the term is different from the one used for International Statistics which could then create confusion.

- Total number of competitions (global)
- Total number of competitions by height (level) with distance and number of efforts for international and national - Levels being: 0.80 m and under, 0.90 m, 1.00 m, 1.10 m, 1.15 m
- Total number of starters
- Total number of starters by level (height)



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- Total number of riders competing in events: Registrations are difficult to obtain as for several NFs due to the fact that they are not registered for a specific discipline, therefore it would be based on the number of starters.

**FALL INFORMATION:**

- Total number of falls
- Total number of falls by levels
- Total number of horse falls
- Total number of horse falls distributed by levels

The issue with the falls was that most national competitions do not use fall reports and do not include mention the reason for elimination in the results.

It was suggested that the following definition for elimination be used in the results:

- By refusals
- By fall of rider
- By fall of horse
- Other

**INJURY INFORMATION – RIDERS:**

- Total number of rider falls with no consequences
- Total number of rider falls with temporary disability
- Total number of rider falls with permanent disability or fatality

It was suggested to all NFs needed to required that national competition filled fall reports and forward them to the NSO in order to collect injury information on.

Efforts to obtain data on the injuries sustained by horses must be made.

This is a minimum, NSOs could provide more information than the minimum requested.

## **5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF TATTERSALLS SAFETY FORUM REPORT**

### **OVERALL ORGANISATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION**

A meeting organized by the riders took place during the Tattersalls IRL International event, after the accident of the Irish rider at a national British class resulting in high emotion expressed at that time. The report was very interesting regarding to the riders view of Eventing Risk Management in general.

Please refer to overall report published on FEI Web-site under  
<http://www.fei.org/sites/default/files/file/DISCIPLINES/EVENTING/Safety/2010-01-10%20Tattersalls%20Riders%20Safety%20Forum%20report%202009.doc>

This report stresses that "a higher level of fitness is required to ride shorter Cross County". The sport has changed and this point is now stressed by the riders

Minimum standards must be set - each NF must take responsibility for their riders and horses as minimum requirements does not necessarily mean that the rider is competent at a certain level of competition. The NF thinks must assess the ability of the rider. This is also the reason of changing the definition in the Rules for Eventing from "Qualification results" to "**Minimum requirements**".



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It was commented that FEI HQ has started to send letters to NFs flagging issues such as dangerous riding, not up to the level, etc. This measure has proven quite effective.

The FEI decides on the minimum eligibility requirements however now NFs must decide on the actual qualification of riders and horses.

Rider and horse falls should be mentioned in their record but this is not always wanted by riders. This is an issue to still evolve within the awareness concept.

## **6. NSO ROLES & RESPONSABILITES AND WEBSITE PLATFORM**

Referring to the previous two Eventing Safety meetings, the function/role of NSOs have gradually been defined. As of 2010 this function is now compulsory for all NFs organizing Eventing events as per the Eventing Rules.

The initial job description was defined during the 2009 Hartpury NSO seminar.

**JOB DESCRIPTION OF NSO:** NSOs are responsible for providing the FEI with:

1. National statistics on bi-annual basis (30 June, 31 December)
2. NSO is a liaison between the NF and the FEI for obtaining the information regarding any international or national (including regional) accidents of rider and horses. The NSO is responsible for filling in the forms on fatal accidents (available on the NSO restricted area website).
3. Spread FEI Eventing Risk Management vision and ideas (awareness) regarding the sport in the NF (for national officials, trainers, coaches, riders, etc.)

*Adrienne Hofer: It is very important to have a continuity with the person appointed as NSO, NFs should keep the same person working as NSO for several years to enhance the function and action.*

*Teun Platenkamp: it is also the responsibility of the NSOs to share the information with all the events through organizers, ground juries, course designers, technical delegates etc.*

*Emmanuelle Schramm: part of the NSO function in France includes participation in the education of Eventing officials*

### **PRESENTATION OF THE NSO RESTRICTED WEBSITE AND FEI PUBLIC WEBSITE:**

The Eventing / Safety (Risk Management) section of the FEI "public" website was presented as well as the NSO restricted area on the FEI Family to the participants. The platform was a tool for NSOs to communicate and to access all necessary documents. Each NSO had received the login and password in order to access this restricted area on the FEI web-site.

The FEI Eventing Risk Management Action Plan (ERMAP) data collection platform was also presented. This document was also available for consultation on the restricted area.

### **Safety Consultant Officer within the FEI**



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The concept of the Safety program which has now evolved to the Risk Management program was developed in the past years thanks to the vision of Giuseppe Della Chiesa and David O'Connor.

To build the program an additional position has to be created to reinforce headquarters input with a Safety Consultant Officer. This position has been held for a year with a limited financial support by Giuseppe Della Chiesa. Taking into account Giuseppe Della Chiesa's new role as Chairman of the Eventing Committee and due to a conflict of interest, this position would be vacant at the end of the year. Proposals or feedback on this position are welcome to be addressed to the FEI HQ: Catrin Norinder.

### **FEEDBACK ON MALMÖ SEMINAR FOR IMPROVEMENT**

**AUS:** the existing format was considered good, the seminar helped to understand the function of NSO and to determine the responsibilities. The possibility of posting and exchanging information on the NSO restricted area was thought to be a useful tool.

**BEL:** positive experience, the report on the seminar as well as the conclusions were essential as basis

**NED:** Discussion could be more widely spread if more input of riders, organizers, trainers, veterinarians, medical could be included to bring additional input and to renew ideas. Risk Management should be dynamic. Breakout sessions were very valuable to engage good discussion and thinking on a given subject with other nations.

**CZE:** very good idea most important to transfer information to the national Judges, TDs and CDs. It is most valuable to understand the Safety programs in other nations.

**NOR:** more riders and trainers would be appreciated during the seminar. Very important include presentations on the FEI website

**POL:** the seminar is a very good platform to exchange information. NSOs meeting must continue. A topic to be included for next year could be Proposals for rules changes.

**SWE:** it is a very good format and bringing the Eventing NSO team together is a important exercise

**DEN:** it's a very valuable exchange between the nations, it shows also how other nations deal with the same issues

**FIN:** sharing with the NSOs how they proceed in their country is very good experience

**FRA:** it is important to share experience, discuss the policy and discuss concrete decisions and measures to be taken during these meetings, maybe other sports could be invited to these seminars

**AUT:** a step forward has been taken NSO position was more clearly defined and contact with organizers will be made easier, Hopefully FEI will be in a position to give more power to NSOs through their respective NFs.





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**IRL:** very good format, internal problems within NFs can be shared during these meetings. Very good benefit of having the meetings in same the hotel as the accommodation (see also IRL report)

**RUS:** appreciation of all new information that now can be distributed national competitors and officials

**GER:** everything is said, the standard of social event here was very high

**SUI:** congratulations to Giuseppe Della Chiesa for the very good seminar.

**POR:** half a day more could be added on the schedule if not the seminar is very well developed

**ITA:** format is OK, rules that the officials can use and another thing is important is for National federations to line up with FEI rules

**ESP:** very good meeting for sharing experience. The overall picture of the NSO role it is much clearer and information can be brought back to the NF and help change some policies. It is great to have the view of the FEI for the next coming year. Regarding next year national rules could be a topic.

**CAN:** NSO function created 18 months ago. The meeting exceeded my expectations, it is making the job as a NSO a lot clearer. Riders should be invited. The national presentations are a very good way to see how the sport is evolving in the world

**GBR:** format has worked well it's a bit more intimate and this enables a better communication within the members.

Some countries have not been able to come as it is not easy for South America to send representatives. The FEI will try to organize NSO information sessions in other parts of the world.

## **2011 NSO SEMINAR**

**TO TAKE PLACE ON THE 29 – 30 January 2011**

LOCATION to be communicated as soon as possible.

**NSOs are encouraged to propose topics to be included in the next seminar.**