



ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
MONTEVIDEO (URU)
21 November 2017

Approved by the General Assembly on 20 November 2018

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ATTENDANCE LIST

FEI BUREAU

Ingmar De Vos	FEI President
John Madden	FEI 1 st VP/Chair Jumping Committee
Shaikh Khaled Al Khalifa	FEI 2 nd VP/Chair Group VII
Maria Gretzer	Chair Athletes
Brian Mangan	Chair Audit & Compliance
Frank Kemperman	Chair Dressage
Karoly Fugli	Chair Driving
Brian Sheahan	Chair Endurance
Giuseppe Della Chiesa	Chair Eventing
John McEwen	Chair Veterinary
Armagan Özgörkey	Chair Group I
Hanfried Haring	Chair Group II
Sadyr Mamytov	Chair Group III
Mark Samuel	Chair Group IV
Mary Binks	Chair Group IX
Carmen Barrera	Chair Group V
Luiz Roberto Giugni	Chair Group VI
Jack Huang	Chair Group VIII

CHAIR OF NON-BUREAU STANDING COMMITTEES

Andrew Finding	Chair FEI Nominations
Erik Dagfinn Elstad	Chair FEI Tribunal
Peter Whitehead	Chair Medical
Robert Thompson	Chair Reining
John Alexander Eccles	Chair Vaulting

FEI MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Sabrina Ibanez	Secretary General
Malina Gueorguiev	Secretary General's Office
Ralph Straus	Commercial

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

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Grania Willis	Communications
Leanne Williams	Communications
Bettina de Rham	Dressage, Para-Equestrian Dressage, Reining & Vaulting
Harald Muller	Education & Standards
Manuel Bandeira de Mello	Endurance & Driving
Catrin Norinder	Eventing & Olympic
Jacqueline Braissant	FEI Solidarity
Claude Praz	Finance
Tim Hadaway	Games Operations
Gaspard Dufour	Information Technology
John Roche	Jumping
Francisco Porrás Lima	Legal
Mikael Rentsch	Legal
Lucinda Arsenio	President's office
Göran Akerström	Veterinary

NFS PRESENT

Othmane Benslimane	ALG-Group VII
Gregorio Werthein	ARG-Group VI
Mary Seefried	AUS-Group VIII
Dietrich Sifkovits	AUT-Group I
Frank Spadinger	AUT-Group I
Bahrüz NabiyeV	AZE-Group III
Wendy Laeremans	BEL-Group I
Natallia Kalesnikava	BLR-Group III
Alesia Machulskaya	BLR-Group III
Benjamin Maekopo	BOT-Group IX
Ronaldo Bittencourt Filho	BRA-Group VI
Gisele Serrano	BRA-Group VI
Elizabeth J. van Schelle	BRA-Group VI
Haidar Alzu'Bi	BRN-Group VII
Jose Gamarra	BOL-Group VI
Juan Pablo Pino	BOL-Group VI
Kroum Rachkov	BUL-Group I
Teodor Sheytanov	BUL-Group I
Jon Garner	CAN-Group IV
Megan Krueger	CAN-Group IV

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
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Chris Sorensen	CAN-Group IV
Eve van den Bol	CAY-Group IV
Felix Halcartegaray	CHI-Group VI
Cristian Herrera	CHI-Group VI
Luis Soria	CHI-Group VI
Rocio Echeverri	CRC-Group V
Jorge Alejandro de Cardenas García	CUB-Group V
Bohumil Rejnek	CZE-Group I
Ulf Helgstrand	DEN-Group II
Venancio Garcia Ovies	ESP-Group I
Marti Hääl	EST-Group II
Fred Sundwall	FIN-Group II
Virginie Couperie-Eiffel	FRA-Group I
Quentin Simonet	FRA-Group I
Jason Brautigam	GBR-Group II
Iain Graham	GBR-Group II
David Holmes	GBR-Group II
Alec Lochore	GBR-Group II
Stephan Ellenbruch	GER-Group II
Soenke Lauterbach	GER-Group II
George Dimaras	GRE-Group I
Juan Luis Rodriguez	GUA-Group V
Manoj Jalan	IND-Group VIII
Rajendra Kumar Swain	IND-Group VIII
Mohammad Kazemian	IRI-Group III
Masoud Khalili	IRI-Group III
Ronan Murphy	IRL-Group II
Regine Fitzner	ISV-Group IV
Cesare Croce	ITA-Group I
Marco Di Paola	ITA-Group I
Andrea White	ITA-Group I
Denise Cole	JAM-Group IV
Betty Wates	JAM-Group IV
Yasuhiko Haruta	JPN-Group VIII
Kazuya Hirayama	JPN-Group VIII
Yuri Yagi	JPN-Group VIII
Sergey Buikevich	KGZ-Group III
Manasbek Sultanov	KGZ-Group III
Nadia Chahbi	MAR-Group VII
Badre Fakir	MAR-Group VII
Sundar Rethinavel	MAS-Group VIII

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
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Mou Soon Yap	MAS-Group VIII
Daniela Garcia Nigaglioni	MEX-Group V
Theo Ploegmakers	NED-Group II
Maarten van der Heijden	NED-Group II
Ellen Damhaug Scheel	NOR-Group II
Carsten Sörlie	NOR-Group II
Vicki Glynn	NZL-Group VIII
Abdullah Khan Niazi	PAK-Group VIII
Abid Salim Khan Tarin	PAK-Group VIII
Leticia Diaz Benza	PAR-Group VI
Andrea Zuccolillo	PAR-Group VI
Sandra Ramirez Selis	PER-Group VI
Napoleon Valdez Ferrand	PER-Group VI
Zbigniew Jankowski	POL-Group II
Bader Al Darwish	QAT / AEF-Group VII
Ahmed Bedoui	QAT-Group VII
Mihnea Virgolici	ROU-Group I
Wessel Strauss	RSA-Group IX
Khizir Atakuev	RUS-Group III
Maxim Kretov	RUS-Group III
Marina Sechina	RUS-Group III
Melanie Chew	SGP-Group VIII
Asen Stojanov	SRB-Group I
Rafat Awad	SUD-Group VII
Ghazi Hamad	SUD-Group VII
Claude Nordmann	SUI-Group I
Sandra Wiedmer	SUI-Group I
Vladimír Chovan	SVK-Group I
Bo Helander	SWE-Group II
Annika Tjernström	SWE-Group II
Ingrid Teng	TPE-Group VIII
Atif Bulent Bora	TUR-Group I
Osman Kiliç	TUR-Group I
Ghanem Al Hajri	UAE-Group VII
Adeeb Al Hammadi	UAE-Group VII
Ashraf Elliathy	UAE-Group VII
Hussam Zummit	UAE-Group VII
Mahmoud Zyoud	UAE-Group VII
Mykhaylo Parkhomchuk	UKR-Group III
Beatriz Balparda	URU-Group VI
María Noel Cola Ferres	URU-Group VI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

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Andrés Cottini	URU-Group VI
Gustavo Dos Santos	URU-Group VI
Federico Garcia Brum	URU-Group VI
Héctor Lazcano	URU-Group VI
Guillermo Lockhart	URU-Group VI
Maria Del Rosario Martinez	URU-Group VI
Rodolfo Rodriguez	URU-Group VI
Martin Rodriguez	URU-Group VI
Claudio Silveira	URU-Group VI
guillermo valente	URU-Group VI
Heber Viana	URU-Group VI
Gabriel Vidal	URU-Group VI
Will Connell	USA-Group IV
Murray Kessler	USA-Group IV
William Moroney	USA-Group IV
David O'Connor	USA-Group IV

MoU Signatories representatives

Julie Lee	AEF
Carina Mayer	EEF
Mariette Withages-Dieltjens	IDOC
Jon Doney	IJOC
Roly Owers	WHW

FEI GUESTS

Susan Alcala	Ariat International
Marc Laemmer	Boehringer Ingelheim
Erich Schoett	Boehringer Ingelheim
Marcela Parsons	Brazilian Para-Equestrian
Sami Alduhami	Deputy Chair Group VII
Andrew Smith	Equestrian Community Integrity Unit
Martin Smith	Equestrian Community Integrity Unit
John Stevens	Equestrian Community Integrity Unit
Pablo Mayorga	FEI Honorary Vice-President
Mark Bellissimo	FEI WEG Tryon 2018
Sharon Decker	FEI WEG Tryon 2018
Michael Stone	FEI WEG Tryon 2018
Karim Badaro	FEI World Cup™ Arab League Coordinator
Andrew Parsons	International Paralympic Committee

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
21 November 2017, Montevideo (URU)



Esther Ahles	Longines
Juan Carlos Capelli	Longines
Miguel Palmer	Longines
Valeria Rochon	Longines
Luis Osvaldo Barcos	OIE
Heidi Moosdorf	OTTO
Michael Moosdorf	OTTO
Cesar Hirsch	PAEC
Martin Atock	Peden Bloodstock GmbH
Anthony Lowry	

Key:

I = Information/Discussion/Details

R = Resolution/Decision

T = Task

1. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

FEI President Ingmar De Vos opened the General Assembly by welcoming all those present and by delivering a keynote speech highlighting the main achievements of the year (see Annex I). **(I)**

At his request, a minute of silence was observed in memory of all those who passed away in 2017. **(I)**

2. QUORUM

The quorum was reached with 63 National Federations (NFs) present who in addition held 42 proxies for a total of 105 eligible votes. **(I)**

3. ELECTION OF SCRUTINEERS

The General Assembly unanimously elected the Scrutineers for the General Assembly as follows: **(R)**

- Andrea White (ITA), Chair
- Andrea Zuccolillo (PAR), Member
- Maxim Kretov (RUS), Member

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Affiliation

Applications from the following countries were currently under study according to the FEI procedure for affiliation: Afghanistan, Aruba, Burkina Faso, DPR Korea, Nepal, Nigeria and Uganda. The seven countries would be visited by their respective Group Chairs in order to present an updated report to next year's General Assembly. **(I)**

4.2. Suspension

Irak – Palestine – Yemen and Myanmar were suspended for non-payment of the annual subscription. Suspension would be lifted as soon as the payment of the 2017 annual subscription is received. **(R)**

Note from Headquarters: Irak, Palestine and Yemen have now paid the outstanding subscription fee and are therefore members in good standing.

4.3. Exclusion

Mongolia was excluded from the FEI for non-payment of 2 consecutive annual subscriptions. **(R)**

4.4. Request for a change of Regional Group from MGL NF

Following the decision to exclude the MGL NF, this point was no longer relevant. **(I)**

5. APPROVAL OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

5.1. FEI Ordinary General Assembly, Tokyo (JPN) 2016

The minutes of the FEI Ordinary General Assembly 2016 held in Tokyo (JPN) were approved. **(R)**

6. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The FEI Annual Report 2016 was approved. **(R)**

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

7.1. Approval of 2016 accounts and auditors' report

The CFO presented the audited financial statements for 2016. Explanations of the allocation of the exceptional surplus were given. The CFO underlined the excellent financial situation of the FEI. **(I)**

The 2016 audited financial statements were approved by the GA as proposed. **(R)**

8. AUDIT & COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

8.1. Committee Report

The Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee presented his report for 2017. He explained the work carried out during the past year and thanked the FEI Headquarters for the collaboration in their investigations. **(I)**

9. RELEASE OF THE BUREAU & SECRETARY GENERAL FOR 2016

The General Assembly unanimously released the FEI Bureau and Secretary General for the financial year 2016. **(R)**

10. APPOINTMENT OF FEI AUDITORS

The FEI proposal to appoint PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC) in Lausanne as auditors for the 2017 accounts was approved by the General Assembly. **(R)**

11. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL CHARGES

11.1. 2018 Financial Charges

The 2018 Financial Charges are unchanged from 2017 and have been approved by the General Assembly. **(R)**

12. FEI ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

This point was removed from the GA agenda. **(I)**

13. BUDGETS

13.1. 2017 Updated Financial forecast

The CFO gave extensive explanations of the updated 2017 financial forecast. The report was approved by the General Assembly as presented. **(R)**

13.2. 2018 Budget

The General Assembly approved the 2018 budget as presented. **(R)**

14. APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO REGULATIONS

14.1. FEI General Regulations

The proposed changes to the FEI General Regulations were unanimously approved by the FEI General Assembly. **(R)**

14.2. Internal Regulations of the FEI

The proposed changes to the Internal Regulations of the FEI were unanimously approved by the FEI General Assembly. **(R)**

14.3. Olympic Qualification procedures for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Further to the discussions held in the previous day, the vote for the approval of the Olympic Qualification Procedure 2020 was done per disciplines. **(I)**

Applying for all three Olympic disciplines, the following additional modification was approved without comments. The deadline to achieve Minimum Eligibility requirements (certificate of Capability) of "18 May 2020" to be replaced by "5 weeks before the Sports entry deadline for Tokyo2020". **(R)**

Jumping: The Olympic Qualification Procedure 2020 for Jumping was unanimously approved without any comment with the following addition to the Reallocation of unused qualification places:

"Unused individual quota places» for the Pan American Games: *1. If the unused individual quota place is earned through the 2019 Pan Am Games, the quota place will be reallocated to the NOC of the next best ranked Athlete on the overall individual classification at the 2019 Pan Am Games, excluding NOCs already qualified.*" **(R)**

Eventing: The Olympic Qualification Procedure 2020 for Eventing was unanimously approved without any comment. **(R)**

Dressage: The Olympic Qualification Procedure 2020 for Dressage was approved further to a vote with 12 NFs against the proposal and 1 abstention. **(R)**

15. JUMPING

15.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Jumping Committee reported to the General Assembly that he would be leaving the FEI Bureau following the General Assembly and that he loved this organisation. For him it had been an honor and privilege to serve on the Bureau. He thanked the FEI Jumping Director, Headquarters and the staff for all their support. It had been a fantastic experience for him and he was of the opinion that he had gained from his experience much more than the FEI had. **(I)**

He thanked the NFs and all the stakeholders for their support, during his period in office, to introduce all the changes that had been made. He hoped that he had contributed positively to the sport and thereby improving the sport in general. Most of all, he hoped that the changes that had been introduced would improve the sport in the interest of our partner the horse. **(I)**

Referring to the proposal to prohibit the use of hind boots used for enhancing performance over a staggered time period as defined in Article 257.2.5, the Chair mentioned that the General Assembly would be asked to vote on a staggered introduction system as presented to NFs prior to the General Assembly. **(I)**

If the General Assembly should decide not to vote in favor of a staggered introduction system for prohibiting the use of such boots, NFs would then be asked to vote on 1st January 2021 as the introduction date. **(I)**

The Chair's report was accepted by the General Assembly. **(I)**

15.2. Decisions taken by the Bureau

The Chair informed the General Assembly that the FEI Bureau, on the occasion of its meeting in Montevideo URU, had approved a number of alterations to the following rules **(I)**:

- FEI World Cup Jumping Series rules for the season 2017 / 2018
- FEI Nations Cup rules for the season 2018
- World Jumping Challenge rules for the 2018 season
- FEI Ponies Jumping Trophy rules
- Global Champions League rules, introduction of a Global Champions Tour Super Grand Prix to be held on the occasion of the Global Champions League Play-off for the winners of the GCT Grand Prix competitions during the course of the year to be held in Prague (CZE) December 2018.

15.3. Jumping Rules and Rules for Championships & Games: Modifications

The General Assembly approved the alterations to the FEI Jumping Rules and the Rules for Championships and Games as presented in the relevant annex. In addition, the General Assembly accepted that Articles 241 and 242 of the Jumping rules could be changed so that blood in a horse's mouth would incur elimination and no longer disqualification. **(R)**

At the request of the General Assembly the following two items were voted on separately and accepted by the General Assembly. **(R)**

- To prohibit the use of hind boots used for enhancing performance over a staggered time period as defined in Article 257.2.5
- Annex V, CSI Invitation rules

Prior to a vote being taken on the CSI Invitation rules, the Chair explained to the General Assembly that if the proposed CSI Invitation System should not be approved by the General Assembly, the CSI Invitation System in effect at the time of the General Assembly would remain in effect. He also mentioned that the FEI would examine very carefully how the new invitation system affects athletes, Organising Committees and all stakeholders as well as the rankings. He emphasised that the FEI was committed to perfecting the CSI Invitation System over time by continuing to evaluate the system. **(I)**

Note from FEI HQ: The two Pilot Phases planned for week 11 (12.03.2018 – 18.03.2018) and week 21 (21.05.2018 – 27.05.2018) have been postponed by a few weeks in order to allow the FEI Online Invitation System to be thoroughly tested and to ensure that all technical aspects are functioning correctly. Therefore the full launch of the FEI Online Invitation System will not be implemented on 30 July 2018 as stated in Annex V of the FEI Jumping Rules 2018, but at a later stage once the FEI Online System is fully operational (the final date to be confirmed shortly). In the meantime and until then the 2016 CSI Invitation Rules will apply. (I)

16. DRESSAGE

16.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Dressage Committee presented his report. He mentioned that judging had been the main focus point of the Committee and Dressage Judging Working Group (DJWG) this year. There was progress and the introduction of the Freestyle Degree of Difficult had proven to be a success and was conducted again at this season's FEI Dressage World Cup™ WEL. The Chair thanked his Committee and the DJWG for the hard work. The Chair also thanked Maribel Alonso (MEX), out-going Member of the Committee for her commitment and great input during her four years on the Committee and welcomed Andrew Gardner (GBR), recently appointed as new Member. **(I)**

16.2. Decisions to be taken by the Bureau

The FEI Nations Cup™ Rules were approved for 2018. The Chair mentioned however that there had been several requests to make further amendments to the Nations Cup Rules. The Dressage Committee would review these amendments in the coming weeks and seek further approval as necessary. **(R)**

16.3. Dressage Rules: Modifications

The Chair confirmed that after discussion with the different Regional Groups and the presentation at the Rules session, the HiLo proposal was withdrawn and rather would be tested in 2018. As a consequence, no changes would either be proposed to the Role of the Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) for 2018.

Regarding the proposal on the Collective Marks, article 432, this proposal was maintained and was presented for vote at the GA. This proposal was approved by majority, there were 5 votes against and 2 abstentions. **(R)**

The further proposed amendments to the Dressage Rules, effective 1 January 2018 were unanimously approved, to include the lately added missing text on the introduction of the Freestyle in Medium Tour. **(R)**

17. PARA-DRESSAGE

17.1. Technical Committee Report

In the absence of the Chair, the Para-Dressage Director presented her report. It was highlighted that as of 2018 Classification Rules would replace the Classification Manual, in line with the IPC Code of Compliance requirements and was presented for approval at this GA. It was also mentioned that the Classification research project was well underway now and the FEI was about to finalise the selection of the University who would conduct the Research on Classification as required by the IPC. **(I)**

17.2. Decisions to be taken by the Bureau

N/A

17.3. Para-Dressage Rules: Modifications

The Para-Dressage Rules, with modifications effective 1 January 2018 were unanimously approved. **(R)**

17.4. Para-Equestrian Classification Rules: Modifications

The Para-Dressage Classification Rules, effective 1 January 2018 were unanimously approved. **(R)**

18. EVENTING

18.1. Technical Committee Report

The report of the Technical Committee was approved without any comment. The Chair of the Eventing Committee took this opportunity to refer to his end of term and thank all involved in the FEI for the great support throughout his mandate. The impressive effort of the equestrian and Eventing community to develop the vision for the future of the Olympic Games had been a difficult one but with the strong solidarity in the sport, there was now an opening to an Olympic Dream to many new nations and new athletes. **(I)**

18.2. Decisions taken by the Bureau

The Chair referred to the FEI Eventing Series rules to take place in 2018 and confirmed that these had been approved by the Bureau. **(I)**

18.3. Eventing Rules: Modifications

The Chair referred to the rules changes proposed for the 2018 and 2019 Eventing Rules. These were approved unanimously without any comments. **(R)**

19. DRIVING

19.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Driving Committee referred the General Assembly to his report as presented in the Annex. The GA approved the report. **(R)**

19.2. Decisions taken by the Bureau

The Chair informed that minor amendments to the Driving World Cup™ rules were approved by the Bureau early in the year as the season started before the GA. **(I)**

19.3. Driving Rules: Modifications

The Chair made a presentation following the discussions held on the previous day during the rules session:

The proposal to change the penalty points from 0,25 to 0,30 in Article 963.5 "Time Penalties in the Sections" and Article 963.4.2 "Times" was withdrawn.

The starting order for the Dressage and Marathon in CAIOs and Championships would remain with the following wording:

Article 948 Starting Order - Draw for the Dressage

The draw for the starting positions for all Athletes in the Dressage Competition will be made after the first Horse Inspection, in the presence of the Ground Jury, Technical Delegate and Chefs d'Equipe, according to the following method.

The total starting places will be divided into six blocks (A to F) and the Athletes will be allocated to each block as follows:

Block A - Individual Athletes 1/3

Block B - First Athletes in each Team

Block C - Individual Athletes 1/3

Block D - Second Athletes in each Team

Block E - Individual Athletes 1/3

Block F - Third Athlete in each team

The team members positions will be filled first according to the draw of countries and the starting order within each team previously declared, after the Horse Inspection, by its Chef d'Equipe. The Chef d'Equipe of a team with only two members must declare which starting position shall remain vacant.

The individuals positions will then be determined according to the drawing order of the nations, i.e. first nation with individual athlete only will chose a starting place from block A, C or E followed by the second until the individual places are filled up.

Article 948 Starting Order - Draw for the Marathon

A second draw will be done after the Dressage;

a) The Athletes are divided in two groups along the Dressage result with group A (the worse placed 50%) and the group B (better placed 50%).

If there is an odd number of Athletes the group A will be the bigger one.

b) Each group is drawn separately by the Chef d'Equipes or by the Individuals themselves.

c) The B-group will be listed always second.

Procedure of the draw: The names of the Athletes of one group are in one box and the starting numbers in another; the President of the Ground Jury or the Foreign Judge takes one name out of the box and the relevant Chef d'équipe or Individual (or an Official) takes a number out of the other box.

After each group the starting list can be produced.

The Chair asked for the approval of the rules modifications with the amendments showed in his presentation. **(I)**

The rules modifications proposal was approved. **(R)**

The Chair thanked the work and support of his Deputy Chair, Klaus Christ, whose role had been essential for the modernisation of the discipline. **(I)**

20. ENDURANCE

20.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Endurance Committee referred the General Assembly to his report as presented in the Annex. The GA approved the report. **(R)**

20.2. Decisions taken by the Bureau

No decisions were taken by the Bureau.

20.3. Endurance Rules: Modifications

The Chair asked the discipline Driving Director to present the rules modifications proposal.

Before inviting the Endurance Director to come present the rules modifications, the FEI Secretary General clarified that following the discussions held during the Rules Session the previous day, the decisions to be taken during the General Assembly regarding all rule changes to Endurance would be implemented on the 1st January 2019. During the course of 2018 there would be further opportunity to make additional adjustments to the Rules to be implemented in 2019.

Those articles where Regional Groups and NFs had voiced their concern/disparity, either during the Regional Group Meetings or during the Rules Session would be voted on separately. **(I)**

The first article to be voted separately was Art. 812 – Weights.

Art. 812 – Weights

The proposal to be voted at the General Assembly was to have either 75Kg as proposed by the Endurance Committee or 70Kg as proposed by several NFs (please refer to comments from NFs accompanying modifications to the FEI Endurance Rules) in Senior competitions and Championships.

The GA was first asked to vote for 75Kg and thereafter for 70Kg. 70 Kg received a majority of votes in favor.

The final wording for Art. 812 – Weights is the following **(R)**:

*812.1 At all senior Championship, the minimum riding weight for Athletes must be **70Kg** to include all riding equipment (Article 812.6).*

812.2 At senior CEI3, the minimum riding weight is **70Kg** – details to be clearly shown on the approved ride schedule.*

812.3 At CEI 1 and 2* alternative weight divisions or gender divisions may be allowed, subject to prior approval by the FEI, and must be clearly specified in the approved ride FEI Schedule.*

812.4 There shall be no minimum weight in Young Rider and/or Junior Competitions.

The second article to be voted on was Art. 814 new stars for Cis and CIOs:

Art. 814.1.5.1 & 814.1.5.2

During the discussions with the Regional Group Meetings, it had been pointed out that sentences highlighted hereunder pertaining to maximum pulse at Vet Gates for the new 5* and 4* events, should be removed from the final wording of the proposed changes as they were already included elsewhere in the Rules. The Endurance Director explained the redundancy to the General Assembly and asked the sentences be removed.

*814.1.5.1 – 5 Star: All rides of 160 km in one day. **Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes.** Prize Money, or in kind value, of more than 50'000CHF.*

*"...814.1.5.2 – 4 Star: "...**Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes.**"*

After much confusion, which was partially due to the proposal for the new star systems, and following statements from the delegates of the UAE and MAS NFs regarding the voting process the General Assembly voted on the modification to the Articles.

The vote had to be repeated for clarity. The final wording approved is as follows **(R)**:

814.1.5.1 - 5 Star: All rides of 160 km in one day. Prize Money, or in kind value, of more than 50'000CHF.

814.1.5.2 - 4 Star: All rides of 160 km in one day, or 90-100 km per day over 2 days, or 70- 80 km per day over 3 days or more. Prize Money, or in kind value, from 10'000CHF up to 49'999CHF

The third article to be voted on was Age of Horses Art. 815

Art. 815.2.4

The modification to the initial proposal was allow Youth Championships and the Regional Championships to compete with 8 years old horses, to help the development of the sport. The General Assembly was therefore asked to include the follow sentence highlighted hereunder:

*815.2.4 – For 5-Star, CEIOs and Championships (excluding Young Horse Championships where the minimum age must be 8 years **and Championships under 130 Km**) Horses must be at least 9 years of age.*

The modification was approved by majority. **(R)**

The fourth article to be voted on Art. 816 Championships

814.1.5.2

The Director of Endurance explained that the proposed modification to this article was similar with the one already voted for Arts. 814.1.5.1 - 5 Star and 814.1.5.2 - 4 Star, but now for Championships and asked that the General Assembly to remove the following sentence from the Art:.

It was voted to remove the sentence "...*Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes.*"

The modification was approved by majority. **(R)**

The fifth article to be voted on was Article 816.3.19 – Regional Championships

Article 816.3.19

The Endurance Director informed that the modification to this article was to reduce the number of qualifying rides for horses and athletes from two to one.

The following wording was agreed upon **(R)**:

Horses:

816.3.22 Horses must have successfully completed at least one CEI 1.*

Athletes:

816.3.25 Athletes must have successfully completed at least one CEI 1.*

Having finished voting on the separate articles, the General Assembly was asked to approve the remaining modifications to the Endurance Rules as included in the General Assembly Annexes. The General Assembly approved the modifications. **(R)**

Further to the approval of the general Endurance Rules the delegates of MAS and UAE declared that they were uncertain whether they had approved or not the new star system and were unhappy with the process. **(I)**

The FEI President, explained that the 5 star rule had indeed been voted on during the last vote. However, the implementation to Endurance Rules would only take place as of 1st January 2019. He invited the Endurance Committee and department to clearly establish a memo on what had been decided as there would still be a procedure to allow consultation and discussion during the course of 2018 for implementation in 2019. **(T)**

The President stated that the concerns from MAS and UAE would be included in the Minutes and the Endurance Technical Committee tasked to consult with everybody during the course of 2018 in order to the community had the opportunity to provide its feedback. The President also confirmed that he would personally oversee the process. **(T)**

21. VAULTING

21.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Vaulting Committee presented his report which was unanimously approved. **(R)**

21.2. Decisions to be taken by the Bureau

N/A

21.3. Vaulting Rules: Modifications

The Vaulting Rules, with modifications effective 1 January 2018 were unanimously approved. **(R)**

22. REINING

22.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Reining Committee presented his report which was unanimously approved. **(R)**

22.2. Decisions to be taken by the Bureau

N/A

22.3. Reining Rules: Modifications

The Reining Rules, with modifications effective 1 January 2018 were approved, one vote against. **(R)**

23. FEI NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chair of the Nominations Committee referred to his written report and briefly explained the three recommendations done in the report to the General Assembly: **(I)**

1. Gender and Representation:

The FEI and Group Chairs, with their Nomination Committee representatives, to continue seeking more candidacies for appointment or election with special emphasis being taken to encourage more women to come forward; being a proportion of 50% of gender representation the ideal scenario.

In this sense the Chair made an update on gender and representation showing a positive trend from the work on encouraging increased candidacies from women and National Federations with low levels of representation.

The number of women on committees in 2017 has increased to 33% from 32% in 2016 and 28% in 2015, and there is also a significant increase in the overall number of candidates coming forward for consideration in 2017 - 78 candidates have been vetted from a good cross section of National Federations.

2. Bureau Members work load:

Bureau members to engage in "exit interviews" as they complete their terms of office, perhaps with the President and/or Secretary General to establish their views about what works well and what might be improved;

Bureau members to share their individual roles with another suitably qualified person, perhaps a deputy.

The Chair also raised a question to the Bureau for future consideration regarding unsuccessful candidates (i.e. those not elected to occupy a given position) that show a high and useful profile for the FEI. In particular the question is: how can the FEI better make use of the individual who is not successful in the election process and benefit from his knowledge and experience? **(I)**

Finally, the Chair made reference to the part that, out of the overall role, the Nominations Committee played in the general good governance of the FEI. **(I)**

24. ELECTIONS

24.1. Regional Group Chairs

The General Assembly re-elected Armagan Özgörkey (TUR) as Chair of Regional Group I for an additional term of four years (2017-2021). **(R)**

The General Assembly re-elected Carmen Barrera (ESA) as Chair of Regional Group V for an additional term of four years (2017-2021). **(R)**

24.2. Technical Chairs

The General Assembly elected Stephan Ellenbruch (GER) as Chair of Jumping Committee for a term of four years (2017-2021). **(R)**

The General Assembly elected David O'Connor (USA) as Chair of Eventing Committee for a term of four years (2017-2021). **(R)**

The General Assembly re-elected Frank Kemperman (NED) as Chair of Dressage Committee for an additional term of four years (2017-2021). **(R)**

24.3. FEI Audit & Compliance Member

The General Assembly elected Vicky Glynn (NZL) as Member of the Audit & Compliance for a term of two years (2017-2019). **(R)**

24.4. FEI Tribunal Chair

The General Assembly elected Henrik Arle (FIN) as Chair of the FEI Tribunal for a term of two years (2017-2019). **(R)**

24.5. FEI Tribunal Members

The General Assembly elected Constance Popineau (FRA), Cesar Torrente (COL) and Harveen Thauli (CAN) as Members of the FEI Tribunal. After having done a draw by the Chair of the Nominations Committee and the FEI legal department the terms are: four year term (2017-2021) for Cesar Torrente (COL), 2 year term (2017-2019) for Harveen Thauli (CAN) and for Constance Popineau (FRA). **(R)**

24.6. FEI Nominations Committee Members

The following Nominations Committee Members were elected or re-elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term 2017-2019: **(R)**

Group I Nayla Stössel (SUI) - elected

Group II Ellen Damhaug Scheel (NOR) - elected

Group III Alesia Machulskaya (BLR) - re-elected

Group IV Betty Wates (JAM) - re-elected

Group V Diego Vallejo (COL) - elected

Group VI Guillermo Lockhart (URU) - elected

Group VII Hussam Zummit (LBA) - elected

Group VIII Melanie Chew (SIN) - re-elected

Group IX Zara Nicolle (ZAM) - re-elected

24.7. Deputy Group Chairs

The General Assembly elected the following Deputy Group Chairs for a term of four years (2017-2021). **(R)**:

Sandra Wiedmer (SUI) - Group I

Daniela García Nigaglioni (MEX) - Group V

24.8. Election FEI Vice Presidents

Further to a proposal from the FEI Bureau the General Assembly elected Sheikh Khaled Al Khalifa as First Vice-President for a term of one year (2017-2018) and Mark Samuel as Second Vice-President for a term of one year (2017-2018). **(R)**

25. APPOINTMENT BY THE BUREAU OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS – FOR INFORMATION

The General Assembly were informed of the following appointments made by the FEI Bureau **(I)**:

FEI Veterinary Committee Member

Martha Misheff (USA) and Kirsten Neil (AUS) were appointed to replace outgoing members Siraya Chunekamrai (THA) and William Dwight Hooten (USA) for a term of four years (2017-2021).

FEI Medical Committee Member

Mark Hart (USA) was appointed to replace outgoing member Allen Sills (USA) for a term of four years (2017-2021).

FEI Jumping Committee Member

Santiago Varela (ESP) was appointed to replace outgoing member Kamal Bahamdan (KSA) for a term of four years (2017-2021).

FEI Dressage Committee Member

Andrew Gardner (GBR) was appointed to replace outgoing member Maribel Alonso (MEX) for a term of four years (2017-2021).

FEI Eventing Committee Member

Philine Ganders-Meyer (GER) was appointed to replace outgoing member Marcin Konarski (POL) for a period of four year (2017-2021).

FEI Driving Committee Member

Richard Papens (BEL) was appointed to replace outgoing member Klaus Christ (GER) for a period of four year (2017-2021).

FEI Reining Committee member

Adam Heaton (GBR), Troy Heikes (USA) and Magdalena Szarszewska (POL) were appointed to replace outgoing members Pete Kyle (USA) and Pierre Ouellet (ITA) and resigned member Sue Baeck (BEL). After having done a draw by the Chair of the Nominations Committee and the FEI legal department the terms are: four year term (2017-2021) for Adam Heaton (GBR), Troy Heikes (USA) and 1 year term (2017-2018) for Magdalena Szarszewska (POL).

FEI para-Equestrian Committee Member

Katherine Lucheschi (ITA) was appointed to replace outgoing member Sue Cunningham (AUS) for a period of four year (2017-2021).

26. FEI SOLIDARITY

26.1. Activity Report

The FEI President and Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee reported on the FEI Solidarity programme 2017. **(I)**

During his visits to several NFs in 2017, he had had each time the opportunity to meet with the countries' NOCs and Sports Authorities. These visits were the occasion to listen to NFs concerns and to promote and improve the FEI Solidarity Programme. **(I)**

Facts and figures showed a regular increase of the NFs projects supported by FEI Solidarity. **(I)**

On the financial situation of the FEI Solidarity, the FEI President informed that further to the positive financial result of the FEI an extraordinary contribution of CHF 1M had been put into the FEI Solidarity fund in 2016. In addition to that, there is the annual contribution from the FEI operational budget for the FEI Coach Education Programme, the FEI World Challenges and for the FEI Solidarity Committee meeting. Besides FEI Solidarity also benefits from some licensing revenues and the financial support from the IOC-IF Development programme for the FEI Course for Administrators. **(I)**

Finally, the FEI President further mentioned that the funds allocated to the 2016 FEI Solidarity projects were entirely financed from the FEI operational fund rather than from the FEI Solidarity Fund itself. He also emphasised that the unused money from projects that were for some reasons abandoned or stopped are automatically put back to the FEI Solidarity Fund. As a result, all this has contributed to secure a reserve of about CHF 2M for FEI Solidarity for the future. **(I)**

The FEI President expressed his hope that the FEI would be again able to make a contribution to the FEI Solidarity Fund next year and so increase the financial potential of it. **(I)**

In terms of programmes supported by the FEI Solidarity, the FEI President mentioned the following **(I)**:

- FEI CAMPUS which was not only about Officials' education but also a platform open to everybody to learn about many different topics including Horsemanship.
- The FEI course for NFs Administrators which was a new initiative had taken place at the Headquarters in October 2017. A group of 11 people from all over the world had been invited to learn how to work with the FEI, how to promote their sport, how to work with social media, how to deal with legal affairs, etc. This was also the opportunity for the FEI to use this "pilot" course to learn about the NFs administrative constraints and continue to

improve and adapt the content of the course to their needs. This initiative would continue and NFs would be invited to submit applications for the person they identify in their organisation to come to the Headquarters. The course of five days would be free of charge. Participants' travel expenses and accommodation would be financed by the IOC-IF Development programme.

- The IT NF Platform which is an IT solution offered to NFs to help them administrate their sports in a modern way. Four workshops had been organised so far and 25 NFs were benefitting from the platform.
- The ESEE (Equestrian Sports Educative Events) which was a tool to educate national officials including coaches, athletes through workshops of four days finishing by a competition. This programme which involved all FEI Disciplines had been quite successful with 10 ESEEs delivered in 2015 and 47 in 2017.
- The FEI Development Officer travelled to more or less 20 NFs in 2017 with the aim of helping them to develop their sports structures and systems, to educate coaches and advise them in the development of their National Development Plan which was a condition to get funding for projects.
- Coach Education was a very long standing education programme continuously developing towards new disciplines. The President mentioned the very positive feedback received from Maria Gretzer, the Chair of the FEI Athletes Committee and from David O'Connor (USA) after their involvement as Assessors in the assessment process of Level 3 coaches from Latin America. Both reported on the high quality of the coaches they assessed and finally the programme talked from itself with an impressive growth in the number of coaches impacted.
- The FEI President mentioned also the FEI World Jumping and Dressage Challenges the growth of which was the result of a review of both formats in order to adapt it to the real needs of development and very positive results were seen in the discipline of Jumping especially while Dressage which had reviewed its format recently as room for improvement.

The FEI President concluded by mentioning that:

- The FEI Solidarity Programme's major impact on the development of horse sport observed today was on the education of human resources in regions
- More than 40 Regional Technical Experts trained via the FEI Solidarity programme were delivering education in the nine FEI Regional Groups
- Regional Technical Experts were now also actively involved in the National Development Plan of their proper NF
- New NFs had joined the FEI Solidarity Programme, such as Algeria, India, Iran, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Palestine, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia

After his report on FEI Solidarity activities 2017, the FEI President invited Mr Juan Carlos Capelli, Vice-President of Longines to take the floor. **(I)**

Mr Juan Carlos Capelli announced a new Longines partnership with the FEI to support a retraining of racehorses programme initiated by FEI Solidarity, i.e.: the “FEI Solidarity Retraining of Racehorses in partnership with Longines”, which long-term objectives are to **(I)**:

- Increase participation in the equestrian sport in specific countries/regions by providing more horses;
- Grow equestrian sports in countries/regions where the access to sport horses is limited by educating riders and trainers; and
- Give racehorses a second chance at the end of their flat racing career.

Those horses would be retrained as sport horses to perform in the disciplines of Jumping, Dressage, Eventing and Endurance.

Mr Capelli further reminded the long tradition of Longines involvement with the horse and the equestrian world and in particular the involvement of Longines in flat racing and show jumping since a century. He underlined that today Longines was also involved in Dressage, Eventing, Driving and Endurance, FEI disciplines which were perfectly in line with the values of Longines: Tradition, Elegance and Performance. Therefore it was only natural for Longines to support the retraining of racehorses. **(I)**

The FEI President expressed his confidence that the retraining of horses would help towards the development of equestrian sport in regions where the transport and quarantine was still an issue and made the access to sport horses difficult. He stressed that these horses deserved a second chance and he was confident that FEI Solidarity could deliver such a programme especially after a successful “pilot” project initiated in this field. The FEI President thanked Longines and especially Mr Capelli for their support to this initiative. **(I)**

26.2. Appointment of Solidarity Committee Members

The FEI President informed that Members of the FEI Solidarity Committee were appointed for a one (1) year term and may serve a maximum of four terms. **(I)**

The General Assembly approved the composition of the FEI Solidarity Committee for one (1) year as follows **(I)**:

		Appointed at GA	Outgoing at GA
Group I	Ingmar De Vos (BEL), FEI President and Chair	2014	
Group II	Theo Ploegmakers, President NED NF	2015	2019
Group III	Marina Sechina, President RUS NF	2017	2021
Group IV	Eve van den Bol, President CAY NF	2017	2021

Group V	Juan Luis Rodriguez, President GUA NF	2016	2020
Group VI	Pablo Mayorga, ARG FEI Honorary Vice-President	2017	2021
Group VII	HRH Princess Haya Al Hussein, JOR FEI Honorary President	2014	2018
Group VIII	Mona Tep, President CAM NF	2017	2021
Group IX	Hugues René, President MRI NF	2015	2019

27. VETERINARY MATTERS

27.1. Technical Committee Report

The Chair of the Veterinary Committee referred to his report but wished to highlight a few items. **(I)**

The Veterinary Department with support of the Committee had reviewed the Education for Official Veterinarians and he was pleased to see that the new format seemed to be working very well. **(I)**

The training of Course Directors had led to a higher level of interactivity with the participants and thus increased the quality. **(I)**

The Veterinary Chair also informed shortly on the IHSC-OIE Workshops that he found extremely important and well organised. The first three organised in Johannesburg, Guatemala City and Montevideo had been very successful with good support from the NF's. **(I)**

The National Head Veterinarian meetings that had been held back to back with the IHSC-OIE Workshops. He stressed the importance of these meetings and thanked the Solidarity Department for their support and funding. The Veterinary Chair pleaded to those NF's that did not had a National Head Veterinarian to ensure that they enlisted one as soon as possible. **(I)**

The Global Endurance Injury Study was essential and had successfully delivered important results during the year. The results had enabled FEI to propose evidence based changes of endurance regulations. The Veterinary Chair informed about the extension of the contract with Glasgow University that also included taking the Injury Surveillance project into Eventing. The Chair stressed the need for detailed information of horse injuries. **(I)**

The level of fatalities was extremely low. In order to further develop the reporting of fatalities, a Post Mortem Examination protocol had been developed by the Veterinary Department with support of world leading pathologist. **(I)**

Within Clean Sport a quality testing program for the FEI Approved Laboratories had been rolled out in order to facilitate quality and harmonisation. A protocol for application, approval and maintenance for FEI Approved Laboratories would be

rolled out shortly. The level of education within the field of Clean Sport had also increased. Finally The Veterinary Chair informed about the upcoming review of the Equine Prohibited Substance List. **(I)**

27.2. Decisions taken by the Bureau

No points were raised under this item. **(I)**

27.3. Veterinary Regulations: Full Revision

The Veterinary Department with support of the Veterinary Committee had done a rewrite of the FEI Veterinary Regulations that was put forward to the General Assembly for approval. The objectives of the rewrite were **(I)**:

- Remove information and focus on regulation
- Clarifications
- Remove contradictions
- Logical organisation
- More user-friendly
- Harmonisation with the Sports Disciplines

The Chair asked to make an alignment in regards of inspection of Vaulting horses, Article 1035: Inspection must be done before the horses were used in training. This was already in the Vaulting rules but must also be included in the Veterinary Regulations. The Chair also made a clarification of the implementation of Article 1126.14. The IT Department and Veterinary Department would set up an IT platform up where Equine Therapists could apply to become FEI Permitted Equine Therapists. Further to that the Veterinary Department would produce a protocol to support the NF's administration of this task. A reasonable time for listing would follow these initial steps and no stewarding would be made on Article 1126.14 until 1 July 2018. The Chair expressed how pleased he was with this very valuable step forward and asked the GA to accept the 2018 Veterinary Regulations. All were in favor. No one against. No abstentions. **(I)**

The Veterinary Regulations for 2018 were approved. **(R)**

28. CLEAN SPORT

28.1. Global Equine Anti-Doping Control Medication Programme (EADCMP)

The Chair of the Veterinary Committee informed that there had been an increase of positive cases and stated that this should be expected following the roll-out of the Global EADCMP. One major reason was that now all samples were analysed by the FEI Approved Laboratories. The Chair thanked the President for his support to develop and implement the Global EADCMP. **(I)**

28.2. Equine Anti-Doping Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMR) – Modifications

The EADMCRs were unanimously approved by the FEI General Assembly. **(R)**

29. MEDICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chair of the Medical Committee gave a presentation of his report. **(I)**

There was no further comment. **(I)**

30. FEI MANAGEMENT REPORT

30.1. Commercial & Marketing presentation

The Commercial and Marketing strategy and initial results were presented. The strategy revolved around the insight that each of the FEI Disciplines was unique and therefore required individual and clearly defined positioning in order to make them more engaging for their respective fan bases, easier to explain and simpler to understand. **(I)**

This approach would clearly change the way the FEI worked, not in terms of quantity but in terms of the quality of the focus applied to each of the different sports. It also changed the way the FEI tackles communications and branding with a distinct brand identity for each of the disciplines. It changed the way content was approached, with the development of content specific for each discipline whilst also producing non-sports related content related to the horse and rider. The latter was done to reach a wider audience and had the possibility to engage with this audience to promote the FEI competitions, horse welfare and horse sport in general. The approach also changed the way the digital platforms were managed with the development of a digital destination for each discipline. Whereas, currently the FEI Facebook page provided information on all disciplines and other organisational matters, as of today (21 November), each discipline community had their own Facebook page where all relevant information could be found. And lastly, this also changed the way sponsorship was defined within the FEI, focusing on attracting sponsors for the each of the FEI Disciplines and their key series. **(I)**

2017 had been a successful year for the FEI in terms of sponsorship sales. On top of the already existing deals with FEI Top Partner and Official Time Keeper Longines, Ariat and JetSet Sports, 5 new sponsoring deals were concluded. **(I)**

To grow the sport, attract new fans, to be relevant to a wider and younger audience and for the sponsorship program to be successful, driving digital engagement was absolutely key. The Page Views on FEI.org had almost quadrupled and made a significant increase in 2017. Facebook video views were

almost 9 times higher since 2015. Instagram followers had gone up close to 800%, while YouTube views were up over 30%. **(I)**

Providing and sharing tools with National Federations was key to the global success of the sport. The FEI had developed a widget platform so that National Federations could access web-services that could be directly integrated onto their National Federation Website. The discipline ranking widget had been launched and was available on the platform. The Widget platform was available on inside.fei.org. **(I)**

The FEI would make social media content available for cross posting on the National Federations social media channels. This service could be accessed by contacting the FEI social media team who then could make videos available to the National Federations. **(I)**

In March 2017, the FEI launched a new platform for FEI.tv. The platform provided more content, was easier to navigate and could be accessed from different devices. The FEI would make vouchers available to all National Federations offering their members to get a subscription for FEI.tv at a discounted rate. More information would be sent in an FEI Update. The FEI President, with the support of the members of the FEI Bureau, had also decided to offer a free FEI.tv subscription to all National Federation Presidents and Secretary Generals. An FEI Update would also be sent out with more information on how to access this. **(I)**

31. FEI TRIBUNAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The Chair of the FEI Tribunal gave a presentation of his report. **(I)**

There was no further comment. **(I)**

32. EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT - REPORT

Lord Stevens stated that events in that past two years had put governance in the spotlight, like never before and that not enough governing bodies were prepared to change. However, the FEI was seen as an example for setting the standards and for its willingness to make the necessary changes. Integrity, sustainability and credibility were very important. **(I)**

There were harassment and sexual abuse issues in the sporting world, as seen in the recent scandals in football in the UK, or in gymnastics in the United States. International Federations needed a whistleblower mechanism, such as the ECIU. **(I)**

ECIU continued to do many investigations and anonymity was paramount, otherwise people were not keen to use the system or the hotline. **(I)**

In the past year, the ECIU undertook a number of investigations that came to the ECIU's attention from various sources, such as grooms, riders, horse enthusiasts and the media. Some examples of the concerns were allegations of bribery, bullying, and manipulations of results. **(I)**

The ECIU had also deployed CCTV at major FEI events (FEI World Cup™ Finals in Omaha, FEI European Endurance Championships in Brussels, FEI European Jumping, Dressage Championships in Gothenburg, and the Longines FEI Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona). **(I)**

ECIU operated in total independence and the ECIU would go where the evidence lead them. Since the initial work of the ECIU, there had been an increase of the number of reporting. 152 reports were made to the ECIU last year (compared to 136 in 2016). All of them had been or were being investigated. **(I)**

33. OLYMPIC GAMES /PARALYMPIC GAMES

33.1. Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Update

The Tokyo2020 Equestrian Sports Manager, Yasuhiko Haruta, presented a progress report for the Olympic Games including venue construction, competition schedule, test event and general points in regard to the organization to lead up to the Olympic Games with less than three years to go. The Jumping and Dressage competitions would be held at the same venue in Baji Koen as for the 1964 Olympic Games. The venue was being completely refurbished with the buildup construction works starting in January 2018 in the involvement of the Japanese Racing Association. The permanent construction works are expected to be completed in 2019.

The Olympic Test Event had been provisionally scheduled for August 10-12 2019, with Dressage and Jumping at Baji Koen and Cross Country at Sea Forest.

IPC President, Andrew Parsons, had been invited to the FEI General Assembly. This was his first International Federation (IF) Assembly that he attended in his capacity as IPC President since his election Abu Dhabi (UAE) in September 2017.

The IPC President highlighted that one point of his manifesto was to strengthen the relationship between the IPC and IFs and to work in close cooperation with NFs as well. He was very honored to be invited and to address the FEI GA and is very pleased with Sabrina Ibáñez's, FEI Secretary General election as Chair of the newly created APSO (Association of Paralympic Summer Organisations). He encouraged NFs who do not yet have a Para-Equestrian Dressage programme to approach the FEI and IPC to seek help to set up such programme.

He further mentioned that he is a great fan of Para-Equestrian Dressage, that he had attended several editions of FEI World Equestrian Games and that he would be delighted to be invited 2018 Games in Tryon. He is very pleased to see the amazing development of the sport from the time that Para-Equestrian Dressage had been taken over by the FEI all the way up to the Paralympic Games in Rio2016, and that this success proves that the decision taken at that time was the right one.

33.2. Olympic Programme 2024

The President referred to his initial statement in regard to the confirmation of the IOC of the inclusion of Equestrian sports in the 2024 Olympic Games Program. The President also referred to the clear message received from the IOC and quoted President Thomas Bach: *"Following the selection of the host city and on proposal of the IOC Executive Board, the 2017 IOC session in Lima has confirmed the place of Equestrian in the sports program of the Olympic Games 2024. The IOC thanks you for the ongoing partnership we share in the planning and delivery of the Olympic Games and for your ongoing focus on your sport and Athletes. The IOC looks forward to our continued collaboration with regard to the preparation for the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020 and the first steps towards our shared goals for the Olympic Games 2024 including detailed discussions in due course regarding the event program, athlete quotas and venue planning."* **(I)**

34. YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

34.1. 2018 Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires (ARG)

Mr Leandro Larrosa, CEO Organising Committee, 2018 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Buenos Aires reported to the General Assembly on the plans in place for the 2018 YOG in Buenos Aires. He informed that the Organising Committee had presented its bid to host the 2018 YOG to the IOC in 2013 and had demonstrated in its bid how the athletes from all over the world would be received in Buenos Aires. A video used for the 2018 YOG bid was shown. **(I)**

Thanks to IOC agenda 20/20 four new sports had been added to the YOG program. Great emphases was being place on having the first ever gender equal Olympic Games. The age of athletes would range from 15 to 18 years. The Games would be hosted between 6th and 18th October 2018. Having two weekends and holiday between the start and finishing dates of the Games would allow the Games to have many visitors. In total there would be thirty-two sports. The YOG OC was working very closely together with IOC administration and all International Federations. **(I)**

The YOG OC had developed a master plan of the city which showed the international airport in the Southern part of the city close to the Olympic Village. In the Northern part of the city was a regional airport. The master plan also

included the YOG official transportation routes connecting all the YOG venues which would not affect the normal flow of traffic in the city. **(I)**

Four parks were located around the city. The YOG OC had developed a new approach to the YOG which was based giving athletes and spectators a new experience which included recreation, culture and sport. **(I)**

The Olympic Village would be delivered on time and on budget. Construction would be completed by December 17. The Olympic Village would be handed over to the YOG OC by March 2018. The Olympic Village was a project perceived as a legacy project from the beginning creating a major urban regeneration in an area of the city for more than 200'000 people. **(I)**

The Youth Olympic Center was under construction and would serve after the YOG as the National Training Center for high performance. **(I)**

Mr Gregorio Werthein, President of the ARG NF presented a short video of the 2017 FEI South American Young Riders, Junior and Children Jumping Championships held in October 2017 was shown. The Equestrian YOG would be held at the same venue, Club De Argentino which is located in the heart of the city. The venue had a long tradition with equestrian sport, given that the 1966 FEI World Jumping Championship and the 1995 Pan Am Games were held at the same venue. The new infrastructure would leave a considerable legacy for the next generation and for the sport in whole. The ARG NF was working very closely with the YOG OC and the FEI Jumping Director to put together the necessary infrastructure in a sustainable way. This team work had also led to the ARG NF finalizing and signing off all the operational plans one year in advance. Work was being carried out on the grass footing in the main arena and the footing in the indoor arena would be ready by the time for the YOG. **(I)**

The stands for spectators and stables had already been constructed. The YOG OC was working on a leasing program to acquire the 40 horses needed for the YOG. By taking this approach the budget for the YOG could be reduced considerably. This would be done through public tender offer which would be in the interest of the entire Argentinian Equestrian Community. **(I)**

At the time of the General Assembly ten NFs had qualified athletes, twenty places were still outstanding. The dead line date for securing a certificate of capability was 30th June 2018. **(I)**

35. FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES/ FEI CHAMPIONSHIPS & FINALS

35.1. FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2018

An update on the FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2018 was given to the General Assembly by Sharon Decker, Chief Operations Officer at the Tryon International

Equestrian Center (TIEC). The Tryon International Equestrian Center in North Carolina (USA) would host these Games from 10-23 September and promised a spectacular event. **(I)**

The presentation included updates and information on the site development, hotels and other accommodation, equestrian facilities and the overall Tryon ambitions for this event. **(I)**

Tickets were now on sale and media accreditation was open. For all information and videos visit at <https://tryon2018.com/>. **(I)**

35.2. FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2022

The FEI President updated the General Assembly on the FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2022. **(I)**

Following the very recent decision of the bidder from Samorin (SVK) to withdraw their bid the FEI Bureau had decided to re-open the bidding process for the 2022 edition of the Games. **(I)**

Under a revised timeline, the FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2022 would be allocated at the in-person FEI Bureau meeting in November 2018. **(I)**

35.3. Allocation of FEI Championships & Finals – *For information*

National Federations were informed about the FEI Championships & Finals allocated by the FEI Bureau: **(I)**

Jumping:

Longines FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final in Barcelona (ESP) from 4 to 7 October 2018.

Eventing:

2019 FEI European Eventing Championship for Young Riders & Juniors in Maarsbergen (NED) in July-August (exact date yet TBC). This was not communicated to the General Assembly as agreed with NED NF and the Organiser.

Vaulting:

2020 FEI World Vaulting Championship in Flyinge (SWE) from 28 July to 2 August.

Additionally, the Bureau allocated the following Series subject to the signature of the Host Agreement:

FEI PONIES JUMPING TROPHY 2018

- Final:

Mechelen (BEL): 26-30 December

- Qualifiers:

Herning (DEN): 18-22 October

Lyon (FRA) 31 October – 4 November

Stuttgart (GER): TBC

FEI YOUTH NATIONS CUP 2018

- Final:

Paris Villepinte (FRA): 23-25 November

- Qualifiers:

Opladebeek (BEL): 5-8 April

Gorla Minore (ITA): 18–22 April

Fontainebleau (FRA): 3-6 May

Wierden (NED): 30 May – 2 June

Samorin (SVK): 2-5 August

Ciekocinko (POL): 30 Aug – 2 Sep

Chevèze (SUI): 11-14 October

Lamprechtshausen (AUT): TBC

Hagen (GER): TBC

36. FEI SPORTS FORUM 2018

The FEI Sports Forum would be held on 26 and 27 March 2018 at the IMD Business School in Lausanne. This was earlier compared to previous years due to the dates of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Final in Paris (FRA) and the Easter holiday. **(I)**

The Secretary General presented the basic concept. The first day would be dedicated to Youth. The panel would be composed of two athletes aged between 18 to 25– a female and a male – from each of the Olympic disciplines and Vaulting. Endurance would also be considered as it was the second largest FEI discipline. Geographical balance would be respected. Additional selection criteria would be developed. **(I)**

These young people would be invited to the FEI Headquarters before the Forum and would be briefed on the FEI structure and activities. A number of questions related to the challenges faced by the FEI for the future and ways to overcome them, would be put to them. The questions would focus on the pertinence of age categories, relevance of competition formats, ways to facilitate transition between categories, optimisation of communications, ideas on pony sport, etc.

The athletes would work with a mentor and the sessions would be managed by a moderator. **(I)**

The second day would feature sessions on the FEI World Equestrian Games™, Officials Working Group, and the Dressage Working Group. **(I)**

Additional information would be provided to the NFs in due course. **(I)**

37. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The FEI General Assembly 2018 would take place in Bahrain from 16 to 20 November. This was the same time window as in 2017 but a modification by a day was possible as negotiations with hotels were ongoing. **(I)**

Delegates from North America expressed concerns that the General Assembly would clash with Thanksgiving, which was a key family holiday. The President explained that, while the General Assembly's dates took into consideration events on the international sports calendar such as IOC meetings, IF Forum, etc., the FEI would try to accommodate as much as possible the requests of the various regions. **(I)**

Applications for hosting the General Assembly 2019 could be sent until March 2018. Allocation would be made during the in-person Bureau meeting in June 2018. Allocation for more than one edition were also possible depending on the applications received. **(I)**

Criteria for hosting the General Assembly had been adapted and the FEI was ready to provide strong human resource and finance support. The President encouraged NFs to contact the Event Manager for any further questions and to apply. **(I)**

38. NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

38.1. Items raised by NFs

No item was received for discussion. **(I)**

39. INTERNATIONAL HORSE SPORTS CONFEDERATION (IHSC)

39.1. IHSC – OIE Regional Workshops & Research project

The President informed about the ongoing extensive work of the IHSC and the upcoming General Assembly of the IHSC that was to take place in Hong Kong in December. The Veterinary Director made a Power Point presentation on the IHSC-OIE Regional Workshops, the philosophy behind and the methods that were used in this promising project to facilitate temporary regional movement of competition horses. The Veterinary Director also gave an update on the research projects that were financed and monitored by the IHSC. The President thanked the Veterinary Director and his team for the successful work and asked the GA if there were any questions. There were no questions but the Russian delegate informed on the recently signed agreement between the Russian Equestrian Federation and the Russian Authorities on importation of horses to Russia. This agreement was intended to make temporary importation of international competition horses into Russia much easier. The President congratulated the Russian Equestrian Federation on this great step forward. **(I)**

40. WORLD HORSE WELFARE

Dr Roly Owers from World Horse Welfare made a Power Point presentation on the social contract between the horse sports and society in general. **(I)**

Dr Owers also announced that the FEI and World Horse Welfare together would organise the first World Horse Day on 17 September at WEG in Tryon. All equine species would be considered and efforts made to include all sorts of organisations including United Nations into to this project. The President informed that the FEI Bureau supports the initiative and that he personally would do his best to convince also the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities at the IHSC GA to join the project. **(I)**

41. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

41.1. Recognitions

Just before closing the 2017 FEI General Assembly, the President made special presentations to the following outgoing members **(I)**:

- Andrew Finding, Chair, Nominations Committee, 2011 – 2017, for his outstanding contribution to the FEI and for having lifted the name of the Committee to a higher level. The FEI would continue counting on his expertise.

- Erik Elstad, Chair, FEI Tribunal, 2013 – 2017, for having always played his role in such an exceptional and independent way.
- Giuseppe Della Chiesa, Chair, Eventing Committee and Bureau Member, 2009 – 2017, who finished his eight-year term and was appointed as an Honorary Bureau Member. He was thanked for having always been a truly great leader of his discipline and a very strong Committee Chair.
- John Madden, outgoing 1st Vice President and Chair of the FEI Jumping Committee, who was made Honorary Vice President. "I don't have enough words to say how much I appreciate your contribution ... without your contribution, this organisation would not be where it is today ... I am sure we will meet often around an arena..." the President said.

The FEI President also made presentations to Rudolfo Rodriguez and Guillermo Lockhart, respectively President and Secretary General of the Uruguayan Equestrian Federation, thanking them for their generosity in hosting the General Assembly in such a perfect and smooth way. **(I)**

42. CLOSING

He thanked the Secretary General and the Staff for their dedication and support, and the National Federation delegates for their contribution and passion for equestrian sport. It was not always easy to find the best solutions but he believed that, together, the best decisions had been made. **(I)**

The 2017 General Assembly in Montevideo was then declared officially closed. **(I)**

ANNEX I

FEI PRESIDENT OPENING ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Welcome to the FEI General Assembly 2017 here in Montevideo, Uruguay, and I would like to start by thanking the Uruguayan NF, in particular its President Mr Rodolfo Rodríguez, and Secretary General William Lockhart, who has been the driving force for a couple of years behind the organisation of this General Assembly. We have already experienced the warm hospitality of Uruguayans and the National Federation and I think we can say how very happy and grateful we are to be here and I look forward to a great meeting today and a great gala tonight, so thank you very much on behalf of the FEI and the National Federations.

I also would like to congratulate and welcome the new Presidents and Secretary Generals that were elected during the last year and who some of you are here today at this General Assembly for the first time and I hope you enjoy our General Assembly and all the meetings and discussions that we have.

I also would like to welcome our special guest. Today, we have the great honour to have the newly elected President of the International Paralympic Committee with us, Mr Andrew Parsons. I must say that we really appreciate your presence here today. This is the first International Federation you are visiting so this is a première for us and for you. so we say "welcome". The fact that you are here is a change in the course of the organisation, I would say, because you are reaching out to us, you are here, and I think this is the first time since quite a few years that this is happening and we thank you for that and look forward to working with you.

And lastly, of course, I would like also to welcome our partners, our sponsors:

Mr Juan Carlos Capelli, Longines Vice President and Head of International Marketing

Mrs Susan Alcalá, Vice President, Partnership Marketing at Ariat International

Dr Erich Schött, Head of Strategic Business Unit Equine, and Marc Laemmer, Global Marketing Equine at Boehringer Ingelheim

Mrs Heidi Moosdorf and Mr Michael Moosdorf from Otto Sport.

It has been a very busy and challenging year. That is basically what I have to say but I think all in all it was very positive.

Our sport continues to grow and is expanding at an amazing rate. In 10 years the number of events has more than doubled and we are now seeing a steady and annual increase of around 8% in terms of events and 4 to 5 % in terms of registered athletes. These are incredible statistics, especially in this very diverse and competitive sports market. And not only is our sport growing, but the quality and the presentation is better than ever before.

We have had some fantastic events this year, many World and Continental Championships for seniors, but also many championships aimed at the next generation, our youth athletes across all the FEI disciplines. We also had brilliant World Cup Finals in Omaha, great sport, great atmosphere, full of suspense and anticipation. And more recently, the first edition of the Longines FEI Nations Cup Jumping Final in Barcelona, which was everything we had hoped for.

I am happy to report also - and you will have seen in all reports that you have received - we had a good financial year in 2016 and this allowed us to support the Nations Cup Jumping, where we were without a partner for a year. We were able to pay from our own financial resources without having to go into the reserves. We supported also the World Cup Dressage and I am very happy to say that we were also able to add around 2 million CHF for Solidarity.

Remember, over some years it has almost been a mantra for National Federations and for our stakeholders and the athletes and organisers, with regard to Nations Cup, that I needed to find a partner and I was very happy to find Longines prepared to support that project. It made it especially easy for our community and organisers because we did not bring in a new sponsor that would put in danger the existing commercial structures of these organisers because we were bringing in a bank, an insurance or a car; all of them have already these kind of brands as partners so we would have had to make a very difficult choice by kicking an existing partner out or not, so I was very happy that Longines was prepared to do this and it also shows their support not only for our sport but also for the FEI. This great dream that we were able to present to the media during the Championships in Gothenburg is not only about the Nations Cup but is also a modern prolongation of the existing agreement we have already in place with Longines for instance for the World Cup. But we will have to deliver. They will bring in a lot of financial support to the table. We, as an organisation, together with the organisers, have to deliver and we need to increase of value of our products in order to provide the right return on investment to our sponsors. In a competitive market, this is really a key priority.

So I would like to thank Longines for this great partnership. We are working hard with our Commercial team to further implement our commercial strategy and to drive the promotion and the visibility of equestrian sports to new levels and I am happy to see that there are already the fruits of this work, because sometimes

we get comments asking if we are not putting all our eggs in the same basket... No, clearly not! Because we were very happy to have other new partnerships this year like Boehringer Ingelheim for FEI Campus, CNSI which is an agreement in China which is a very important market and which includes the FEI website in Chinese, e-commerce and e-Games, so that is also a very dynamic agreement. We have Otto Sport which is also helping us with Campus, and SAP, which produces the Spectator Dressage Judging app, so our commercial programme is starting to generate income and starting to work. Now it is discipline based and after fixing the Nations Cup Jumping, the priority will of course be on Dressage and Eventing and then we will work further on the other disciplines.

Concerning the Olympics, as I said already before, we are very happy that in the end the formats that were approved last year by the General Assembly have been accepted by the IOC. I was also happy to get confirmation after the Session in Lima that equestrian sport is confirmed for the Olympic Games in 2024 in Paris but we still need to work on events as we still do not know yet what disciplines and what events will be on the programme. So we need to continue working on that. How? By first of all organising good Games in Tokyo. A very important point now is the cost control of the Games. It is one of the top priorities of the IOC given that it is more and more difficult to find candidates to organise these events. We need to look at the costs and try to reduce them as much as possible. We may also need further work on some reviews of our formats, like we did last year, and we need to be courageous in doing that. I would also like to say that I was very honoured and proud to be asked to become an IOC member, but this is an achievement of all of us and a recognition for what equestrian sport and the FEI has done in embracing the Olympic Agenda 2020 of President Bach, having the courage to look at new formats, to think out of the box, and this together of course with the fact that we are the Olympic champion in gender equality, together with the fact that we are really in the frontline and taking the lead in good governance initiatives. I think that is an appreciation from the IOC, something that our community has achieved and hope I will be a good representative of you in the IOC.

Paralympics! Well, again welcome, Mr President. You know that Sabrina, our Secretary General, was elected president of APSO, the Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations, in Abu Dhabi where you were also elected, so you are almost colleagues, so this is also an important achievement for us. We are taking the lead with Federations and we look forward to working together with you and the IPC.

FEI Solidarity, our development programme, has also continued to spread its wings. We have been working for a long time on FEI Campus but I am happy that we finally succeeded to go online and show what we are doing. More than 2'000 registrations, almost 15'000 longer learning sessions and 250'000 page views were registered up to October. This really shows that this programme is filling a real demand.

We have some important points on the agenda of this General Assembly. We have of course the Olympic Qualification and again, without repeating myself too much, I think we really came to a fair and balanced proposal and I would like to thank again not only the three musketeers - the three Olympic Chairs - but also the National Federations for becoming involved in this project. We have the invitation system for Jumping which is really a very important point and we have to see this in a much larger context: the modification of the ranking rules but together with the new invitation rules and, hopefully next year, an online invitation system which will guarantee that the spots that are allocated to our athletes based on the Longines rankings will be used. I know it is not always easy, and as a governing body the FEI needs to try to find the best solutions for all the stakeholders. That is why I am also happy that after we maybe didn't do such a good job last year at the General Assembly as we had to withdraw the approved rules, we organised a meeting where all the active actors - Federations, athletes and organisers - were invited and where the proposal was discussed to reach a compromise. Will this make everybody happy? Probably not. That is what happens with a compromise. You need to try to find the best solution for everybody and make everybody at least less unhappy. But we need to break eggs to make an omelette.

Changes or challenges for the future? Not too many changes I hope, but some important goals such as the continued growth of our organisation and the development with support of FEI Solidarity, the continued good financial health of our organisation, and taking further initiatives in good governance. Commercially, we will find new partners, deliver good World Equestrian Games in 2018 and we are very happy to have a delegation from Tryon here with us. We also need to finalise Olympic and Paralympic Rules for Tokyo and let's not forget that we need to test them, because it's clear that the Olympic Games cannot be a test event.

I had the pleasure to visit many countries and NFs and get to know the individuals who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to grow the sport. We are really fortunate to have such a passionate community. We may be diverse, we may not always agree, but our heart is in the right place.

I would like to thank the Bureau and the Executive Board for the great cooperation this year, for all their support and hard work. I would also like to thank the FEI staff who works tirelessly. I know I am sometimes very demanding but they have all their hearts in the right place and are very motivated to deliver a good job, and I would like to thank you for being here, for contributing to this process in a positive and constructive spirit and dialogue. Thank you for your time!