

Session 1: Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission Final Report and proposed action plan

Monday, 29 April, 09:30 – 12:00

Speakers' biographies

Sabrina Ibáñez - FEI Secretary General Moderator

Sabrina Ibáñez was appointed FEI Secretary General in January 2015. She has been with the FEI since 1991 and holds a bachelor's degree in Science in Communications and History from Boston University and a diploma in Sociology, Politics and Management of Sport Science from the Universities of Lausanne, Leicester, and Montpellier.

Ibáñez was elected President of the Association of Paralympic Sport Organisations (APSO) in 2017 and was re-elected for a further four-year term (2021-2025) in 2021. She is a member of the IOC Gender Equality Working Group and was on the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governance Review Group, which completed its works in 2022.

Ibáñez has chaired the ASOIF Diversity and Gender Equality Consultative Group since 2020.

Sabrina Ibáñez is fluent in English, French and Spanish.

Malin Axel-Nilsson (SWE) Technical moderator

Malin Axel-Nilsson holds a PhD ([“The Match Between Horse and Rider”](#)) in ethology and animal science from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala with special competence in horse ethology and match between horse and rider.

Prior to her PhD, Malin Axel-Nilsson graduated from the agronomist programme at SLU, followed by language studies at La Sorbonne in Paris and a year as a superintendent at Gothenburg University.

For many years, she was part of the stable management group at the Gothenburg Horse Show, having special responsibility for horses and grooms.

She has worked as a teacher, quality manager within food certification, and a researcher and project manager with focus on sustainable food production and Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) at the unit for Sustainable Consumption and Production at the Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE).

Malin Axel-Nilsson recently started the company [Hästologen AB](#) with the aim to spread research-based knowledge about the horse and the match between horse and rider. She is also the co-founder and Head of Content and Education of the Swedish Horsetech company [HayHay](#).

Göran Åkerström D.V.M. (FEI HQ) – Veterinary Director

Göran Åkerström has been the FEI's Veterinary Director since 2015. Before joining the FEI, he worked for Sweden's Animal Welfare Board, the Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Trotting Association. A graduate of the Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU), Åkerström was also Director of its Farrier School and a member of the management board for SLU's Institution of Animal Environment and Health, and an equine veterinary practitioner from 2002 to 2011.

Mikael Rentsch (FEI HQ) – Legal Director

Mikael Rentsch joined the FEI in 2006 and currently holds the position of FEI Legal Director overseeing a team which focusses on all legal matters relating to the FEI Rules and Regulations; litigations and compliance with the WADA code; prevention and education on legal issues related to the sport; safeguarding athlete welfare and the level playing field; bidding processes and negotiations, review and drafting of contracts; intellectual property; sport nationality; liaison with the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU) on investigations and reports; and informing the public on legal issues related to the sport. Mikael is a member of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS), which safeguards the independence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and is responsible for its administration and financing.

Mikael holds a Law Degree from the University of Lausanne and a Master's Degree (LL.M) from Duke University.