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WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

2024 ANNUAL REPORT to the General Assembly Cascais (POR)

WBFSH Department External Cooperation

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This report consists of:

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1) Introduction

The department of External Cooperation is run by the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and aims to bring external stakeholders and the WBFSH closer together. This includes organisations such as the FEI and the EHN, and the work is carried out in close contact with the general manager.

2) Activities

Executive Committee

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee met monthly with the management and the office of the WBFSH to talk about topics of current importance. The meetings were held digitally. Only in May, the meeting took place in London.

Recurring topics of current importance were for example:

- Cooperation with the University of Hartpury, in the development of a WBFSH Welfare Statement,
- Coordination of the Motion of understanding with the International Stud-Book Committee of Thoroughbred Studbooks,
- Planning of the two WBFSH webinars,
- Preparing the program for the 2024 General Assembly,
- Preparing the joint meetings with the Board and the motion of the Board,
- Preparing the FEI/WBFSH Council Meeting,
- Checking of applications of possible new memberships,
- Planning an analysis of the competition careers of former participants in the FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses.

Cooperation with FEI

On 1 March 2024, the members of the FEI-WBFSH Council had a meeting at Amsterdam Airport. It was agreed to meet at least once a year and exchange information on important topics from both organisations. Both presidents emphasised the difficult times that equestrian sport is currently experiencing due to the high-profile cases of alleged horse abuse.



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Both parties discussed the possibilities to make the Breeder's names compulsory on starting lists. It was agreed that it is not feasible to make it compulsory for National Federations to include the name of the breeders when registering horses in the FEI Database.

Notwithstanding this, it was agreed that FEI will raise the awareness among National Federations and encourage them to include the name of the breeder when registering horses. The WBFSH will ask their studbooks to raise the same awareness among their National Federation. Moreover, the FEI will check with timing companies the possibility to include the name of the breeder in the starting lists. Additionally, it was agreed to discuss the possibility to invite breeders to the prize giving ceremonies.

Furthermore, both parties discussed name changes of horses, when original/birth names are not maintained. It was agreed that there was no specific action to be taken in this regard. The horses' history could be found and was available on the FEI database. But some studbooks allow very long names that cannot be displayed properly.

The FEI provided an update on the FEI-WBFSH Data Exchange Project and presented the actions taken to date regarding this project. The project is running with the German National Federation and their studbooks. France and the Netherlands are the next countries to be involved in the project. Both parties agreed on the suggested next steps.

FEI and WBFSH highlighted the importance of the equestrian community working around the horse welfare topic. FEI reported about the work of their Equine Ethics & Wellbeing Commission. The two main objectives of the Commission are to explain to society the natural bond between horses and humans and to help in formulating an Equine Ethics Strategy. The FEI is studying the Final Report of the Commission to formulate an Action Plan to be discussed at the FEI Sports Forum 2024.

FEI has reported about a joint letter signed by the Scandinavian National Federations where these Federations raised concerns about the Young Horse Championships and their commercial aspects. It was agreed to analyse the sport careers of the finalists in all three FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses. A former study in the discipline Dressage has shown quite good that many of these horses continued competing in the following years up to top sport internationally.

WBFSH provided an update on the WBFSH Welfare Statement and highlighted the importance of good breeding practices.

Both parties agreed that guidelines and schedules of the World Breeding Championships for young horses are working in principle. The FEI Directors will remind the relevant Organisers to apply the Prize giving Protocol at the Championships in all three disciplines.

The FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses has been organised in the last 25 years. This year, the Stichting WK Jonge Dressuurpaarden organised these championships for the moment for the last time in Ermelo (The Netherlands) in great atmosphere. The event took place from 4 to 8 September 2024. This year 46 five-year-old, 44 six-year-old and 44 seven-year-old horses had participated in the World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses. The medal table showed the following picture: DWB (1x gold, 1x silver), HANN



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(1x gold, 1x silver), KWPN (1x gold, 2x bronze), SWB (1x bronze) and WESTF (1x silver). The result lists are available under:

<https://www.longinestiming.com/equestrian/2024/longines-fei-wbfsch-world-breeding-dressage-championship-for-young-horses-ermelo>

For the 29th time the FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Jumping Horses will be hosted at Lanaken (Belgium). The championships will be organised by Stoeterij Zangersheide from 18 to 22 September 2024. The starting and result lists will be available under:

<https://www.longinestiming.com/equestrian/2024/fei-wbfsch-jumping-world-breeding-championship-for-young-horses-lanaken-zangersheide>

In Lion d'Angers (France) this year the 25th edition of the FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horse will take place from 17 to 20 October 2024. Again, the organiser Le Lion Equestre Mondial du Lion expects six- and seven-year-old horses from all over the world. More information will be available under:

<https://www.mondialdulion.com/en/>.

Cooperation with EEF – Working Group on EU-legislation

In the first quarter of the year, the EEF-EU Committee intensively discussed the developments surrounding the EU proposal to regulate the transport of animals and drew up a position paper. The paper addresses several issues that are of particular concern to the equine sector, including the classification system for journeys, veterinary monitoring requirements, vehicle tracking obligations, temperature rules and space requirements. The position paper of the EEF-EU Committee was submitted to the EU Commission at the beginning of April.

Since April the Working Group has not met due to the maternity leave of the chair of the group.

Cooperation with European Horse Network (EHN)

Due to the proximity of the General Manager's office to Brussels, Nadine Brandtner has been the primary representative of WBFSH's interests on the EHN Board for some time. The External Cooperation Department provides targeted support at EHN events and meetings dealing with political and legal developments.

The Board of the European Horse Network has worked intensively in the first quarter of the year on a statement on the Commission proposal on the transport of animals.

End of February the EHN held a webinar on how to improve and coordinate the communication on the equine industry. In March the MEP Horse Group met at the European Parliament in Brussels for the last time in the election period. And in May the EHN took part in the French promotion event for the Olympics in Versailles.

The election to the 10th European Parliament took place on 9 June 2024. After the European elections, one of the first tasks of the newly elected Parliament is to elect the new President of the European Commission. Ursula von der Leyen was the lead candidate for the European Conservatives in the 2024 European elections. This time too, she was able to win a majority in Parliament and can now begin her second term as President of the European Commission. As a horsewoman, she will hopefully continue to have an open ear for the interests and concerns of the equine sector in her second term of office.



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More information about the European Horse Network is available under:

<http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu/>

Possible Cooperation with International Stud-Book Committee of Thoroughbred Studbooks

Since the last General Assembly, representatives of the WBFSH and the International Studbook Committee have continued to work on a draft Memorandum of Understanding for future co-operation and have further elaborated on common topics and activities for closer co-operation and possible lobbying activities. These include the areas of: Horse welfare, horse health, horse transport, genetics (i.e. parentage testing such as SNP parentage testing, research into genetic defects, gene doping), animal breeding, EU legislation, anti-doping and medicines, social license to operate, etc. The date to sign the finalised Memorandum of Understanding on future cooperation is yet to be set.

Cooperation with International Young Breeders Association

The WBFSH World Championships for Young Breeders took place on July 4 to 6 at Stutteri Ask in Denmark. It was a fantastic Championship with 20 different studbook teams. More information about the Championship and other News can be found under <https://www.wbfs.com/iyb>

Warendorf, 12 September 2024