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Minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of January 19th, 2013 Avignon (France)

Present:

Hervé Delambre (France) – President (2011 – 2015)
Gerlinde Hoffmann (Germany) – Vice President – (2010 - 2014)
Frédéric Pierrestiger (Canada) – Secretary General (2011 – 2015)
Bernard Pavie (France) – Treasurer - (2010 – 2014)
Coryne Corminboeuf (Switzerland) – Deputy Secretary General - (2011 – 2015)
Ingrid Helmes (Holland) – member – 2012 - 2016
Sarah Philipps (Great Britain) – member (2012 - 2016)
Olivier Teirlinck (Belgium) – member - 2011 – 2015
Wolfgang Scheifinger (Austria) – member – 2010 – 2014)

Absent excused:

Antonio Camacho Soares (Portugal) – member (2010 – 2014)
Joaquim Fernandez-Duro (Spain) – member (2012 - 2016)

Absent:

Alberto Spinelli (Italy) – member – (2011 – 2015)
Maurizio Tramis (Italy) – member – 2012 – 2016)

Permanent guest:

Thierry Maurouard (France) Technical Delegate of FITE

The meeting took place on the premises of the “Cheval Passion” show in Avignon, France. Frédéric Pierrestiger interpreted for the meeting, in English and French.

At 10:15 AM, Hervé Delambre, President of FITE, greeted those attending, members of the bureau and guests, and wished them a good meeting.

I – Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of September 10th, 2012 in Mafra (Portugal)

Minutes approved unanimously.

Hervé Delambre proposed a modification to the agenda to welcome the representatives of TransHumance – the 2nd item on the agenda – who came to present the operation being held from May 17th to June 9th as part of “Marseille-Provence 2013”, of which FITE is a partner.

II – TransHumance – Marseille-Provence 2013

The TransHumance team (Rozenh Collet, Laura Croonenberg and Manolo Beze (from Théâtre du Centaure, which is playing a key role in the organisation)), an offshoot of Marseille-Provence 2013, European capital of Culture, presented and described the event and its importance. The main theme is the horse, which will be at the heart of the project. It is intended as an unprecedented venture for riders from Europe and the Mediterranean area, to show their strong presence in numerous events, with a rare opportunity to be present at sites in Provence that are normally closed to the general public.

The guides for this great adventure will be riders and their horses, covering 600 kilometres over the different routes proposed, with different starting points to the East, the North and the West. A major assembly point will bring participants together before the grand march to Marseille on June 9th, 2013. The riders and their horses will be joined by breeders (sheep, horses, cattle) for this larger-than-life convergence. Every evening, camps will be set up, offering happy gathering places for a taste of local populations and their customs and particularities, including Italian butteris and Moroccan fantasias. The meeting point which precedes the final convergence will be l'Etang des Aulnes.

FITE and CNTE are partners of the operation. All information concerning participation can be obtained from www.mp2013.fr/transhumance and from www.fite-net.org

Hervé Delambre warmly thanked the representatives of TransHumance, and assured them of FITE's support, for whom it will be one of the key equestrian tourism promotion themes for 2013, and stating that it would do all it can to promote the presence of riders from the international riding movement.

III – Statutes – Examination of the reform project

As already previously indicated, Frédéric Pierrestiger, in his capacity as project rapporteur, in liaison with Joaquim Fernandez-Duro, remarked that this is not a fundamental reform or a revolution, but a simple update, with a much-needed rejuvenation of a text that dates back to the creation of FITE in 1975. A working document has been put together by him, with a number of appropriate proposals, and which for the moment are just in French. Joaquim Fernandez-Duro also made known his observations, and enclosed them with the Bureau file. Frédéric Pierrestiger suggests that these proposals should be quickly translated into an English version, so that they can be sent off with Fernandez-Duro's observations to the people concerned. A shuttle will be organised to get opinions and suggestions, and so that a complete project can be presented once the majority of people have given their input, for submission to the General Assembly next September.

IV – Working Equitation

Hervé Delambre briefly reminded members of the genesis of Working Equitation within FITE and of his clear desire to see working equitation follow the same successful route as TREC. He reiterated the comments contained in the 2012 policy report, which from his point of view, gives a pretty clear picture of the context.

“The pastoral nature of this traditional form of equestrianism and its eminently rural origins are clearly not outside our remit, as some people would like to suggest; quite the contrary. After interest shown by Italy, the FITE took an interest in working equitation at the very beginning of the 1990s.

At the request of NETOs seeking to moralise certain practices which seemed remote from the sporting spirit and to bring the support and rigour of an international body that went beyond the specific interests of the discipline, over the past 8 years, FITE has organised and regulated working equitation, which now shows great potential for development. FITE’s universalist approach, i.e., one set of rules with identical events for all traditions, respecting their differences in terms of equipment, tack and costumes, seemed a good way of achieving harmonious development going beyond local rivalries and horse breeds. In order to do this, it is crucial that our members and our bureau in the front line should be convinced of the need to adhere to this unifying vision, and that they stand squarely behind us, promoting the contacts that we need in each NETO in order to help working equitation find the support and contacts it needs.”

Each member of the Bureau spoke individually to share a better understanding of the place given to the activity in each NETO:

- Olivier Teirjlinck (Belgium): The activity is on a lesser scale for us, and practised by associations,
- Sarah Philipps (Great Britain): same assessment, limited number of participants,
- Ingrid Helmes (Holland): Limited number of participants. We’re very interested to work with FITE,
- Gerlinde Hoffmann (Germany): The activity is developing through horse breeds. It is not very structured or represented by the associations.
- Frédéric Pierrestiger (Canada): In Canada, the system works like in the US, in a highly professional environment. The circuit is vast and very rich. They would certainly be interested, but are probably unaware of the existence of FITE. This very impressive movement could be approached, but this would have to be officially. A difficult but not impossible task.
- Wolfgang Scheifinger (Austria): It does exist, but not as part of the Austrian federation.
- Coryne Corminboeuf (Switzerland): In Switzerland it’s important, but little or no information is available (to follow up)
- Bernard Pavie (France): In France, the activity has been around for a long time, and is developing. A meeting was held before the “Cheval Passion” show. Representatives of several traditional families of working equitation were present (Camargue, Doma Vaquera, Lusitanian Equitation). Western Equitation was absent, because they were busy with the cattle-sorting events organised during Cheval Passion.

International sorting events are also being organised on the site of the show, under the auspices of FITE, and people are recommended to attend. Blocked by the snow, Italian competitors have had to withdraw.

Hervé Delambre once again emphasised the persistence of a contrary movement, supported by Portuguese horse breeders associated with the Italian FISE for the creation of Wawe, which was set up as soon as FITE had decided to get involved in the discipline! This sterile confrontation has severely harmed the development of the

activity. Contrary to the hopes of the Wawe leaders, the FEI did not follow up their request for recognition of Working Equitation as one of the emerging disciplines. It is suggested that a little more time be given to decide on a political position within the framework of FITE.

V – Proposals of the sports committee

Thierry Maurouard, FITE Technical Delegate, presented the different points debated during the meeting of January 18th on the premises of the Cheval Passion show. The agenda was largely to do with problems encountered during the recent world championships in Mafra.

As a preamble, Hervé Delambre said there would be no question of going back over and judging this event and its organisers, who met participants' expectations overall, but he suggested we should draw conclusions from some of the shortcomings reported by judges and stewards on which the credibility of these events is based. It therefore seemed necessary first of all to develop judges' training courses to take into account all the specificities of the role and the impact it can have on results. Simple, precise measures also need to be taken to improve communication between the different actors responsible for applying the international regulations, to ensure irrefragable organisation from every point of view.

All the measures concern the international regulations, event specifications, and ceremony protocols (opening ceremony, prize-giving, closing ceremony). Training and nomination of judges will be covered in a particular document, with heightened involvement and controls by FITE.

Item 1: “Organisers” specification:

- New items were discussed and accepted, along with the new format.
- The chefs d'équipe meeting will take place on the Thursday at the end of the afternoon.
- The judges meeting will take place on the Friday at the beginning of the afternoon. The PTV obstacles will be attributed to the judges at that time, and a “reminder” of the knowledge required given during the meeting.
- The organisers must be in possession of the telephone numbers of the chefs d'équipe, so that they can be contacted when the results are available.
- The President of the jury must have a means of transport available to him to be able to get to each phase easily.
- The first 10 individual competitors and first 10 teams will be rewarded during the prize-giving (protocol)
- A competitor ranked in the first three in one of the phases will be rewarded, even if he/she is eliminated from the general rankings (protocol)

Item 2: Training of judges in the NETOs.

- The Technical Delegate's proposal outlines the pyramid organisation of training.
- The document enclosed in appendix was accepted.

Item 3: Training of judges by FITE.

- The training project proposed by the Technical Delegate for training judges was approved.

Item 4: Regulations.

- If the POR results cannot be communicated to the chefs d'équipe before 8PM, they will be handed over on a piece of paper the next morning and then posted.
- The procedure for requests for technical information remains unchanged.
- In case of a fall, a judge can momentarily stop a competitor or a horse (and stop the clock) if he feels the competitor cannot continue the course, and until the President of the jury has given his/her opinion.
- All PTV competitors must wear number bibs.

Point 5: Miscellaneous questions. (*)

- Marc Renard and Gerlinde Hoffman proposed that a workgroup should get together during the year to think about simplifying the PTV technical forms.
- The judges are attached to the NETO in which they have their licence, whatever their nationality.
- The other proposals from the different NETOs were not retained.

Ground jury at Vielsalm (European Open Young Riders Championship)

President: Jean Bernard Dreyfus (France)

Members: Frédéric Pierrestiger (Canada), Denis Teirlinck (Belgium).

A discussion was held on the idea of preparing for the future and training the technicians so as to be able to change the president of the Jury each year. The nomination of Jean-Bernard Dreyfus was, however, maintained for Vielsalm, because of his language skills plus his solid knowledge as a technician and equitation teacher. This will be taken into account for the future.

All proposals were unanimously agreed by the Bureau, and will be put online as soon as possible after coming into effect on March 1st, 2013.

VI – Training courses

A new international TREC Judge and POR course designer refresher course, decided by the general assembly of FITE on September 10th, 2012, will take place in Austria on April 20th and 21st, 2013, on the Kriechbaumer family's premises in Reitpark Gstöttner, (Schönau) – online on www.fite-net.org

VII – Specification of international championships – training and refresher course for judges and stewards

Issues addressed amongst the proposals of the sports committee, above.

VIII – Starting draw for the European Open Young Riders TREC Championship 2013 in Vielsalm – Mont-le-Soie (Belgium)

1/ Austria	9/ Germany	17/ Switzerland
2/ France	10/ Sweden	18/ Spain
3/ Andorra	11/ Ireland	19/ Holland
4/ Rumania	12/ Luxembourg	
5/ USA	13/ Russia	
6/ Italy	14/ Great Britain	
7/ Algeria	15/ Canada	
8/ Belgium	16/ Portugal	

IX – International schedule to 2017

2013 – **Belgium** – European Young Riders Open Championships

2014 - **Italy ?** – European Seniors Open Championships and Young Riders World Championships

2015 - **Holland** – European Young Riders Championship

2016 –? – Seniors and Young Riders World Championships

2017 – **Ireland** – European Young Riders Open Championships

Concerning the international schedule, Joaquim Fernandez-Duro (absent excused) noted that Spain would not be able to organise the world championships in 2016. However, the Spain NETO will take part in the forthcoming European championship in Vielsalm.

The Italian NETO has a new management team. This could be consulted on its capacity to organise the European Seniors Open and World Young Riders championships in 2014.

An appeal will be put out to identify an organiser for the 2016 championships, and a reminder will be sent out for the April course in Austria.

X – Membership

Since the general assembly of September, FITE has recorded the membership of Russia, to its great satisfaction.

Discussions are still underway with Morocco (El Jadida show in October), Greece (Verona show in November), Iceland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Norway, Australia and China (Beijing show in November). South Africa, which still seems to be interested, has let it be known that the fees are too high for it.

The Bureau decided to undertake a final operation targeting the Andorran Federation concerning the payment of their contribution. If this does not work, the cancellation procedure will be undertaken and presented at the next General Assembly.

XI – Miscellaneous questions.

- Hervé Delambre informed the Bureau that the FITE's sponsorship was agreed for the organisation of a specific POR event: "**le Centaure**". This competition, dating from the 1970s, which takes place during the day and overnight, is the ancestor of TREC for the POR. It takes place over three days and a distance of 100 km in two stages. It will take place in France from March 1st to 3rd, 2013, in Sommant, in Saône-et-Loire, in the north of Burgundy. There are

already 50 or so competitors entered, with an good number of international visitors.

- The **schedule for the European Cup Open 2013** has been finalised by the Bureau. Full information concerning each stage is needed urgently to go online.
- The **official list of international TREC judges** must be completed and updated with information awaited from NETOs not yet having sent the requested modifications. Urgent.
- To the question asked about **sponsoring**, Frédéric Pierrestiger indicated that his research has not been successful. For the moment, the only possibilities envisaged are the FITE website and the international championships framework.
- Coryne Corminboeuf proposed the **organisation of a major international event** encouraging people to cross borders, with relays passing between hikers from one NETO to another. The idea seems attractive, but complex in terms of organisation, and needs to be carefully studied.
- The French NETO decided to organise **Equirando** on odd years to avoid a clash with the major sports events on even years. This is why Equirando will be organised for two years running, 2012 and 2013 (July 19th to 21st, 2013 in Lignères, in Cher county, Centre region), whilst it takes place normally every 2 years.

It should be noted that FITE is asking the same questions, and imagining the same spread for the same reasons. The issue will be put to the next General Assembly (September 2013).

The French NETO also mentioned the organisation of its **Equirando-Junior** (7-17 years) in north Burgundy, from July 23 to 28.

- Upon a proposal from Frédéric Pierrestiger, FITE will attempt to organise **more frequent meetings of the Bureau**, including by telephone (video conference). To be decided.

Discussions were closed at 12:55 PM.

The General Secretary,
Frédéric Pierrestiger

The President,
Hervé Delambre.

Appendix

Membership of the Bureau of FITE after the General Assembly Meeting 2012

Hervé Delambre (France) – President (2011 – 2015)
Frédéric Pierrestiger (Canada) – Secretary General - (2011 – 2015)
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Olivier Teirlinck (Belgium) – member – (2011 – 2015)
Maurizio Tramis (Italy) – member – (2012 – 2016)

Honorary President

Vittorio de Sanctis (Italy)

Honorary members of the Bureau

Jacques Aguétant (France)
Mary Harcourt (USA)
Gilbert Hermans (Belgium)
Heinz Rieger (Austria)
Luigi Triossi (Italy)

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