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Warsaw, 9.11.2011

European National Equestrian Federations:

RE: Development Program and European Juniors - Children Championships

Dear Friends,

In reference to the discussion opened by the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) concerning development of the equestrian sport, the Polish Equestrian Federation would like to propose a project of joint preparations for the European Juniors and Children Championships over the next several years for Central and Eastern European countries.

Our main objective in putting forward this proposal is to improve the level of the equestrian sport in this part of Europe, where for decades it has had inferior economic and organizational capabilities in comparison with Western Europe. It is also to be remembered that for a long time our sport has not enjoyed a favourable climate, and absence of funds as well as effective programs of breeding sport horses have been additional obstacles for its development.

Leaving history aside however, we would like this proposal to serve as an inspiration and to encourage us all to make an effort to change this regrettable state of affairs.

Over the next several years Poland will most likely have the privilege to host Junior European Championships in the three Olympic disciplines.

The FEI has already awarded us the EU-CH Juniors in Eventing (Strzegom, 6 – 9.09.2012), we are also applying for the Junior Europeans in Dressage in 2013 (Wrocław), and in Show Jumping in 2013 or 2014 (Sopot).

This inspired us to put forward a proposal of joint preparations for those European countries, which have not so far had the ability to play a meaningful role in competitions at this level (apart from ad hoc success).

We would like to enable representatives of all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to participate in the Junior European Championships in Poland (and subsequently in other countries), both with teams as well as individual riders.

In order to achieve this ambitious goal we all need to cooperate and devote a great deal of determination and effort, but we also need professional assistance from the National Federations of Western Europe, who would be our partners in the project.

The results of Junior European Championships in the Olympic disciplines over the past several decades reveal that the participation of teams as well as individual riders from Central and Eastern Europe was minor and incidental. In competition with their Western European peers or riders almost invariably lost, the medals and high placings in the Junior Europeans usually being won by Western European riders.

In order to change this we will first need to diagnose the reasons for the weak performance of riders from this part of Europe.

In our view one of the key issues is absence of coordination in training the young generation, and lack of access to the skills and experience of highest level professional trainers.

Following the example of the efforts made by the FEI to assist countries who are only making their first steps in the development of the equestrian sport, we should make a joint effort to popularize horse riding and improve it at competition level by devoting special attention to training of children and juniors. For the time being it is only at this level that we can hope for relatively equal rivalry.

Further on, in the age groups of young riders and seniors, a rider's career is largely determined by other factors, primarily money.

We would like to take the opportunity created by the new structure and spirit of the European Equestrian Federation, and hope for the assistance of countries which are at a much higher level of development in the sport.

Since Poland will be the host of Junior European Championships in the next few years, we would like to take on the role of coordinator of the preparation programs for national teams in all the three Olympic disciplines.

We will present the key points of this program here, in Rio de Janeiro, and discuss the details in Warsaw in January 2012, during the meeting of FN General Secretaries – Best Practice Conference.

Within the framework of this project we propose to organize clinics and training concentrations in Poland, conferences and seminars for trainers, as well as international competitions in Eventing, Dressage and Show Jumping for both the age groups, children and juniors.

We also request the National Federations of Western Europe for their assistance in the project, particularly in terms of professional training.

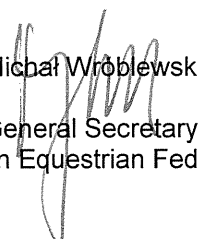
We hope to be able to finance the project with European Union funds as well as the FEI Solidarity Fund.

If you consider this project is worth looking into, please feel free to come forward with any comments or ideas for its implementation.

With best regards,


Marcin Szczypiorski
President
Polish Equestrian Federation




Michał Wróblewski
General Secretary
Polish Equestrian Federation