

World Association for Working Equitation João Ralão Duarte President

By email:

09 March 2018

Re. Your Letter of 17 November 2017

Dear President Ralão,

Thank you for your letter and for the information provided which we have read with attention.

The FEI appreciates the work that WAWE does for the promotion of equestrianism internationally, and specifically in the discipline of Working Equitation.

The development of equestrian disciplines it is a highly demanding undertaking and requires the investment of significant resources both personal and material in order to achieve the desired goals. In the particular case of our organisations, where horses are involved, we cannot not lose sight of the continuous challenges that this brings up and the welfare of the horses must be paramount in all our activities.

From your letter we believe that you would like the FEI to:

- 1) Recognise Working Equitation as an FEI discipline; and
- Formalise a Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with your organisation.

Regarding your first point, please kindly note that the reason why it has taken us some time to revert back to you is because after receiving your letter we have evaluated and analysed your request according to the FEI's decision making process. Ultimately, such request was submitted to the FEI Bureau which is the body within the FEI responsible for defining the general strategy, business and sport policy. In this sense, please be informed that the FEI Bureau decided recently that the recognition of new equestrian disciplines is, for the time being, not part of the agenda of the FEI. Consequently we are not able to accept your request for the time being.

Concerning your second request to "work on a protocol of understanding", the FEI uses MOUs to define its relationship with different stakeholders. The MOUs cover universal issues such as FEI recognition, FEI Rules and Regulations, horse welfare, code of ethics, commitment to democratic processes, consultation, FEI General Assembly, FEI Sports





Forum and meetings, governing law, dispute resolution, communication, and implementation.

In this sense the FEI signed in July 2017 a MOU with the Fédération International de Tourisme Equestre (FITE) whereby the FEI recognises FITE as the only international association responsible for the promotion of equestrian tourism, the regulation and the organisation of competitions of ridden or driven equestrian tourism, TREC (Equestrian Trail Riding Techniques) competitions both ridden or driven, the pasture or working equitation as well as other types of equine leisure activities as defined by the FITE General Assembly.

As a consequence of the above the FEI is not in a position to formalise a relationship with WAWE by means a MOU due to the fact that we already recognise FITE as the organisation responsible for working equitation.

Having said that, the FEI would be pleased to also cooperate with WAWE but given our existing relationship with FITE, their involvement would be a pre-requisite. Consequently, we invite you to contact FITE in order to investigate how such collaboration could work in practice. We look forward to see the outcome of your discussion with FITE.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your invitation to the World Championship in Munich (Germany) next 10 to 13 May which unfortunately I have to decline this time as I am not available on these days.

Hoping this letter addresses all your queries, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ingmar De Vos FEI President