



at the heart of horse sport

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Extraordinary FEI General Assembly 15 April 2007

Speech by the FEI President

Your Royal Highness,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
and to all those around the world following the General Assembly via the internet, Good Morning.

I wish to start by thanking Her Royal Highness Infanta Dona Pilar whose guidance and statesmanship of this organization made it one that was able to respond to the challenges of a modern day sporting environment. On behalf of you all, I would like to say how pleased we are that she is here to attend the General Assembly.

The legacy of Her Royal Highness was one of modernisation, That process has brought this International Federation into the era of Sport business so that we are now in a position to compete with other IF's. Over the last nine years, the numbers of our member NF's has swelled to an impressive 140, as compared to the number of National Olympic Committee's under the IOC of, 203.

Our events, and sports have grown from 446 in 1994 to 2000 in 2006. We have begun addressing and answering the IOC's call for universality in all our disciplines, but more importantly we are now able to respond to the National Federations who wish to become more active, through the initiation of our Development Department. Our commercial department came to life in 2003, and has taken great strides along the road to making the FEI a self sufficient body in its own right.

Many changes have been made in the last year, and I am aware that some of the NFs do not feel that the changes have really affected them, or touched them personally. This has been personally frustrating for many of us. But lasting change is like planting a tree, the seed was planted by you the NF's and Dona Pilar, during the last Presidency and the roots have begun to form during this past year. This vote on the new Statutes and General Regulations is our first rain, and from them will come bloom.

The Statutes and General Regulations which you are now asked to vote on are the key to our future. You are just about to debate and vote on the most fundamental change, in the Statutes. You have driven this process yourselves since the last GA, and your thoughts and ideas, as well as your wishes, have been conveyed into words by the HQ staff who have burned the midnight oil to produce this document which I hope you will now embrace.

They are what you have asked for, and what you have helped us to write. They will allow us to serve you in the way that you wish us too but we need your blessing.