



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF ARAB HORSE ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting

On 7th February 2010, at Hotel SEMIRAMIS, Cairo/Egypt, at 9.00 h

Those present:

Willy Luder, President of ECAHO
Marek Trela, Treasurer of ECAHO
Dr. Francesco Santoro, Chairman of EAHSC
Toto Moddermann, Chairmann of EAHSpC
Winand Bijnens, Chairman of EAHRIC

Essam Abdulla, Vice-President of ECAHO
Sylvie Eberhardt, Member of EC
Christine Jamar-Demeersseman, Member of EC
Ann Norden, Member of EC
Anna Stojanowska, Member of EC

Voting Delegates:

Austria (VVÖ)
Belgium (BAPS)
Belgium (BAPS)
Egypt (EAO)
Egypt (EAO)
France (Les Haras Nationaux)
France (ACA)
Germany (VZAP)
Germany (VZAP)
Great Britain (AHS)
Great Britain (AHS)
Israel (IAHS)
Israel (IAHS)
Italy (ANICA)
Italy (ANICA)
Netherlands (AVS)
Norway (NAHF)
Poland (Agricultural Property Agency)
Poland (Agricultural Property Agency)
Qatar (REC)
Russia (Rozplemkonzavod/NOAL)
Saudi Arabia (KAAHC)
Spain (AECCA)
Spain (AECCA)
Sweden (SAHF)
Sweden (SAHF)
Switzerland (SZAP)
United Arab Emirates (EAHS)

Anne Heiloo (2 votes)
Winand Bijnens
Christine Jamar
Ahmed Hamza
Dr. Nasr Marei
Daniel Souppat
Daniel Souppat
Claudia Darius
Melitta Burger
Annette Dixon
Sally Etchells
Ofer Meiri
Muhanad Darawsha
Gianpaolo Teobadelli
Pierluigi Rota
Marianne Dijkmann (2 votes)
Tommy Husebye (2 votes)
Anna Stojanowska
Jerzy Bialobok
Abdulaziz Al Subeie (2 votes)
Irina Stigler (2 votes)
Ahmed Oteibi (1 vote)
Carmela Zaragoza
SAR Teresa de Borbon
Anne Nordén (left early)
Veronica Mann-Wernstein
Willy Luder (2 votes)
Essam Abdulla (2 votes)
35 votes present / simple majority: 18

Observer:

Mohammed Mahmoum (Morocco)
Ali Al Anaizi (Lybia)
Mustafa Almabruk Ghita (Lybia)
Lutfi Abderazak Zorgani (Lybia)

Bilal Akrim (Syria)
Imad Al Chaar (Syria)
Basil Jadaan (Syria)
Sinan Odok (lawyer of ECAHO)

Ex officio:

Gudrun Waiditschka, Exec. Sec. (minutes)

Viola Speier, Exec. Sec.

The meeting was opened by the President at 9.00 h who thanked Mr. Ahmed Hamza of the EAO, our host for all his efforts he and his team put into organising this event.

- 1-(10,1) Apologies for absence** – were received from Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Jordan and Morocco (ARMECPSA).
The President explained that no motions from members were received and therefore the Agenda was compiled by the Executive Committee. He further commented on item 20 a) and c) of the Agenda and explained that the proposal for a new membership scheme should be regarded as what it is, a proposal as basis for discussion. After discussing the item with some members he came to the conclusion that the proposal is not yet ready to take a final vote on it. The Executive Committee therefore recommends that this item will not be brought forward for decision, but only for taking an advisory vote. This was unanimously agreed.
- 2-(10,1) Minutes of the previous Meetings** – The Minutes were accepted as they are as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Anne Heiloo, AT, seconded by Dr. Nasr Marei, EGY.
- 3-(10,1) Matters arising from these Minutes -**
Ref. 9-(09,1) – Presidents Report c) Judging system at big shows and d) parameters of judging. Query by Nasr Marei, if anything has been done in this respect?
The President explained that the issue was discussed in the Executive Committee. He had further hoped that the Judges Workshop would bring up some suggestions, but did not reach any result. He has therefore scheduled a “Think Tank Meeting” for the Executive Committee where he will bring forward the item again. He and the whole EC are aware of the problem and hope that after the brainstorming session there will be some results.
- 4-(10,1) Confirmation of Full and Associate Members -**
The following countries/Arab horse organisations were confirmed as **Full Members of ECAHO**:
Austria/Verband der Vollblutaraber-Züchter Österreich (VVÖ)
Belgium/Belgisch Arabisch Paardenstamboek (BAPS)
Czech Republic/Asociace chovatelů plnokrevných arabských koní (ACHPAK)
Denmark/Dansk Selskab For Arabisk Hesteavl (DSAH)
Egypt/Egyptian Agricultural Organisation (EAO)
Finland/Suomen Arabihevosyhdistys (SAH)
France/Les Haras Nationaux, Direction de la Filière
France/Association Nationale Française du Cheval Arabe (ACA)
Germany/Verband der Züchter des Arabischen Pferdes (VZAP)
Great Britain/Arab Horse Society (AHS)
Hungary/ Magyarországi Arablótenyésztők Egyesülete (MALE)
Israel/Israel Arab Horse Society (IAHS)
Italy/Associazione Nazionale Italiana Cavallo Arabo (ANICA)
Jordan/Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEF)
Morocco/Royal Moroccan Arabian Horse Breeders Association (ARMECPSA)
Norway/Norsk Araberhestforening (NAHF)
Poland/Agricultural State Property Agency (AWRSP)
Qatar/Racing & Equestrian Club (REC)
Russia/Private Breeders Organisation (NOAL)
Saudi Arabia/King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Center (KAAHC)
Spain/Asociación Española de Criadores de Caballos Arabes (AECCA)
Sweden/Svenska Arabhästföreningen (SAHF)
Switzerland/Schweizer Zuchtgenossenschaft für Arabische Pferde (SZAP)
The Netherlands/Arabische Volbloedpaarden Stamboek in Nederland (AVS)
United Arab Emirates/Emirates Arabian Horse Society (EAHS)
(24 Countries; 25 Member Organisations)

The following countries/Arab horse organisations were confirmed as Associate Members of ECAHO:

Bahrain/Royal Arabian Stud of Bahrain

Bulgaria/Bulgarian Arabian Horse Association (BGAHA)

Egypt/Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association (EAHBA)

Iran/ Equestrian Federation of Iran (EFI)

Kuwait/The Hunting & Equestrian Club, Arabian Horse Registry (HEC)

Libya/Libyan Arab Horse Breeders Association (LAHBS)

Morocco/Ministère de l'Agriculture - Division des Haras (MADH)

Oman/Oman Equestrian and Camel Federation (OECF)

Poland/Polish Arab Horse Society (PZHKA)

Syria/Syrian Arab Horse Association (SAHA)

Tunisia/Fondation National d'Amélioration de la Race Chevaline (FNARC)

- 5-(10,1) Confirmation of Quorum** - The list of Voting Delegates was confirmed as above. Sami Al Nohait was nominated as Voting Delegate for Saudi Arabia, but not present. Therefore, a total of 35 votes were present; the quorum to be 18 votes.
- 6-(10,1) Appointment of Vote Counters** – the President proposed to appoint Viola Speier, Executive Secretary, and Janet Court, member of DCIC as vote counters. He further took the opportunity to introduce Viola Speier as ECAHO's new Executive Secretary (show section) who replaced Barbara Pfistner since October 2009.
Viola Speier and Janet Court were unanimously accepted as vote counters.
- 7-(10,1) Changes of Membership** – Before voting the President explained the minimum requirements for new Associate Members as stipulated in our Constitution § 4.2. "Any association, institution, society or other organisation, in Europe and in other countries, composed of or representing the breeders and/or owners of Arab Horses in its own country and recognised by ECAHO as the proper representative of its country. Any such organisation wishing to become an Associate Member of ECAHO shall apply in writing to the Executive Secretary. Besides the statutes of such organisation, ECAHO may request further information. Subsequently, the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the General Meeting of ECAHO for admission or not of the new Associate Member. The admission of Associate Members shall be the decision of the General Meeting. New Associate Members acquire the respective rights and duties as from seven days after the admission."
He further explained that later on the agenda today the AGM will be asked to approve an EC proposal dealing with the requirements an Associate Member has to fulfil in the future, to be upgraded to Full Member status (see Agenda item 21b).
a) Application for Membership
i) Croation Center for Horsebreeding, Croatia – the President explained that the Executive Committee recommends accepting this organisation as Associate Member, although they had applied for Full Membership.
Croatia was unanimously accepted as Associate Member with 35 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain.
ii) Association of Breeders and Owners for Arabian Horses in Romania - the President explained that the Executive Committee recommends accepting this organisation as Associate Member, although they had applied for Full Membership.
Romania was unanimously accepted as Associate Member with 35 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain.

iii) Breeding Society for Arabian Horses in Slovenia (ZRAKS) – the President explained that the Executive Committee does not recommend accepting this organisation for the time being. Anne Heilloo queried, why they were not recommended although they have more members and more horses than the other two countries. The President explained that they lacked the proof of being registered with a higher authority and did not submit their constitution. They may apply again, once they have done their paperwork.

The Application of Slovenia was rejected with 0 ayes, 35 noes, 0 abstain.

b) Unpaid Membership Fees 2009 – The Executive Secretary (steering section) read the Members who have not paid their Membership Fees of the business year 2008/2009: Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association (EAHBA) – Associate Member, Egypt; Suomen Arabihevosyhdistys – Full Member, Finland; Equestrian Federation of Iran – Associate Member, Iran; Oman Equestrian and Camel Federation – Associate Member, Oman; Fondation National d'Amélioration de la Race Chevaline (FNARC) – Associate Member, Tunisia. She further explained that difficulties in communication may be the reason, as some have never reacted to any correspondence.

8-(10,1)

Presidents Report – The President explained that during the first six months of 2009, there was a downward trend in the show entries, especially in Europe, however, things recovered in the second half of 2009. For 2010, it generally looks positive, and there are more show affiliations than in 2009.

The main focus in 2009, however, was laid on Judges- and DC-training. Thanks to the hospitality of Janow Podlaski Stud and Marek Trela, the first Judges Course according to the new syllabus was held at the Polish State Stud. A Judges Workshop was organised with 50 participants in Brussels, which was helpful, but did not really come up with any concrete results. Points of discussion were among others the judging system and conflict of interest. The President explained that he sees a problem in the different ways, judges apply the points system. One group is evaluating a horse with points and judging against an ideal; the other group is using the points to get the ranking right; and the third group is mixing the two ways. He feels, a different approach is needed or we will have more and more problems.

The President remarked that the DC's were, for a long time, standing in the shadow of the judges. The DCIC has come up with a new and approved syllabus and done the first two workshops in Zürich and Copenhagen. DC's in the field are more and more confronted with legal problems and therefore a lawyer was in the instructors panel, next to an experienced DC instructor and a vet. He will put further efforts in the training of DC's and judges.

In autumn 2009, headlines were created by doping in horse sports and the standpoint of FEI; this will also influence ECAHO. During 2010, he will look into new ways of dope testing and procedures, because the FEI Rules have become too complicated. However, ECAHO will not be in a position to change this at short notice. Therefore a letter will go out to all show organisers explaining the procedures. Other horse sport organisations (i.e. Jockey Club) will be contacted to learn from them. The President stated that he will personally fight for the well-being of our horses.

Looking back on 2009, the President felt that steps ahead were achieved, but there is still a lot to be done. Hopefully, ECAHO's capacities will no longer be absorbed by legal and pseudo-legal issues.

He stated that the world has changed, and ECAHO with it, but maybe not exactly at the same speed. The horse scene has become more international, if not global. It has changed around ECAHO, and he sometimes fails to understand what is happening in and around ECAHO. Ten years ago, there were winners, and losers, the occasional complaint, but the solution was easy and could be done by our bodies. Today, the owners of doped horses take legal steps against ECAHO in order to find formal mistakes along the road.

- 9-(10,1) Registration of ECAHO in “Handelsregister” (Swiss Trade Register) -**
The President explained that ECAHO is a “Verein” under Swiss Law, with St. Gallen as legal seat. Until now, there was no need to register ECAHO in the Trade Register, as our revenue did not exceed 100.000 CHF p.a. (which is the limit). Now we have reached this limit and registration becomes mandatory. Query from Anne Heiloo, AT: Does the registration mean that we have to pay tax? The President explained that ever since its creation, ECAHO has made a tax declaration every year and paid some 1000-2000 CHF of tax. Our profit now is being used to cover the losses of previous years. However, the tax remains the same, whether or not we are registered.
- 10-(10,1) Report about resolved SDC Cases**
- a) World Championships in Paris 2008 –** The President reported that an exhibitor had accused the judges of having conflicts of interest that influenced the results. He also maintained that make-up was used on a competing horse, which was proven inaccurate by the DC and three Vets. The SDC gave the plaintiff a time-limit to deposit a clear statement concerning his accusations against the judges. As the plaintiff failed to do this, the complaint was dismissed and the deposit retained by ECAHO.
- b) Qatar International Show 2009 -** The DC fined 10 horses 100 € each for infringement of the Rule RSC 31a) (clipping of tactile hair). The fines for 3 horses were paid immediately. The fines for 5 horses should have been paid in the two days after the show. The fines for two horses have been contested by the owner who made a complaint, alleging that there was no rule in the Blue Book that allowed fines to be given. This accusation was unfounded, the complaint was dismissed and the deposit retained by ECAHO.
- c) Spanish Nationals at Segovia, 2009 –** The President reported that there is a dispute about whether or not the wrong championship rule was applied. The case is still pending.
- d) Alleged Doping Case at the All Nations Cup 2009 -** The VZAP had not followed the Rules for Medication Control, i.e. the urine sample was not collected by a FEI sampling vet and it was sent to a laboratory not approved by FEI. Therefore the SDC was forced to close the proceedings without sanctions a few days ago.
- e) Alleged Doping Case at the Spanish National Championships 2009 -** The organiser, AECCA, knew that the veterinarian was not a FEI sampling vet and had sent the blood samples to a lab not approved by FEI. Here as well, the SDC was forced to close the proceedings without sanctions for lack of compliance with the applicable rules and regulations by the organiser of the event.
- 11-(10,1) Report about Judges and DC Workshops –**
- a) Judges Workshop -** The Chairman of EAHSC reported that a Judges Workshop was held in Brussels with about 50 participants. The judges agreed not to change the judging system for the time being; nevertheless the subject needs to be discussed further in the EAHSC. In 2010, there will be another Judges Workshop.
Query from Ahmed Hamza: In which sense should the judging system be changed? The Chairman explained that breeders sometime complain about the 20-point-system and ask for a new judging system. However, at the moment, no changes will be made. It is in the hands of the judges to use the system properly; if used properly, it works. One of the problems is that judges do not use the full scale in the 20-points-system.
- b) DC Workshops –** Sinan Odok explained that there were two DC Workshops in Zürich and Copenhagen during 2009, of which he was part of the instructor panel in his capacity as ECAHO’s lawyer. The courses were attended by 10-12 participants and consisted of i) legal aspects of the Blue Book from the perspective of the DC; ii) veterinary issues explained and discussed; iii) virtual show with problems to which the students had to apply our rules.

Sinan Odok recalled that both events were very good with lively discussions and he felt that the DC's were grateful to have an occasion where they could discuss their problems with each other. He regarded both courses as a great success.

Sylvie Eberhardt came back to the resolved SDC Cases under 10-(10,1) d) and interjected that the vet in Aachen was okay, only the lab was not FEI approved. This was confirmed by the President.

- 12-(10,1) Status in the dispute with Mr. Omar Sakr, Egypt** – The President informed that the EC had imposed a sanction on Mr. Sakr in context with the Egyptian National Championship 2008. Mr. Sakr appealed against this decision at the ECAHO Appeals Committee and in parallel sued ECAHO and the EC members Christine Jamar, Francesco Santoro and Willy Luder for 1 Million CHF in a civil law suit in Switzerland. A hearing was called that took place in St. Gallen last Tuesday, 2nd February, and the matter was settled in as much as the sanction was lifted with immediate effect and we apologized for the circumstances which led to the sanctions. After fulfilment of the conditions in the settlement agreement the parties will be entirely settled. The President stated that all attendees felt that the case was solved in the best possible way for ECAHO. Dr. Nasr Marei queried, if both parties signed the agreement. The President confirmed and explained that the agreement is legally binding. Ahmed Hamza queried whether the basis of the sanction had any grounds, or whether it was a mistake. Sinan Odok explained that this is not to be discussed and the settlement did not go to the bottom of the underlying problem.
- 13-(10,1) Election of EC Member** – The President explained that only Essam Abdullah had the required minimum of two nominations from two different countries. Voting papers were distributed before the meeting to all Voting Delegates. **Essam Abdullah was re-elected for another term of four years with 28 ayes, 5 noes, 2 abstains (35 votes in total).**
- 14-(10,1) Election of SDC Members** – The President explained that
- a) Dr. Thomas Stohler resigned** because of lack of time due to his profession as veterinarian. The President thanked him for all the services and time spent over the past years. He further explained that Izabella Zawadzka has severe health problems. However, the EC felt that she should stay in the panel, but released her from her duties for 2010 and hopes that she will be back in 2011. The President wished her in the name of all present a speedy recovery. The Executive Committee proposed the following names to replace them:
- i) Dr. med.vet. Nils Ismer** – he was introduced as a member of the well-known Ismer family in Germany, he is a vet at their studfarm and zoo.
- ii) Ali Shaarawi** – was present and introduced himself as breeder since 1987; he became a national judge in Egypt and later an international judge with ECAHO. He hoped to be a valuable addition and thanked the EC for their trust. Dr. Nasr Marei queried, how the Executive Committee had chosen those two names. The President explained that several more people were asked but not all were available. It was queried whether this is the function of the EC? This was confirmed by the President.
- Voting papers were distributed to all Voting Delegates. The result of the vote was **20 ayes, 9 noes, 6 abstains (total 35 votes) for Dr. Nils Ismer; 32 ayes, 0 noes, 3 abstains (total 35 votes) for Ali Shaarawi.**
- Both candidate reached the necessary majority and were therefore accepted as SDC Members.
- b) The existing SDC Members** were confirmed as follows: HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein Al Saleh, Ursula Rahm, Dr. Abdelwahag Amira, Izabella Zawadzka. Ursula Rahm had explained that she wishes to resign in one year from now; Izabella Zawadzka should be released for one year. In an open vote the above names were confirmed unanimously.

15-(10,1) Election of EAC Members

a) The President explained that **Peter Upton had resigned**, therefore the Executive Committee recommended Carl van Roesbroek to replace him. Christine Jamar introduced him as father of four children, a lawyer and DC, who helped to organise shows and knows all the rules. He is not emotional, not to be influenced, independent with a strong character and objective.

Voting papers were distributed to all Voting Delegates. The result of the vote was **31 ayes, 0 noes, 4 abstains (total 35 votes) for Carl van Roesbroek.**

b) The existing EAC Members Bianca ter Laan, Xavier Guibert, Teresa de Bórbon and Jaroslav Lacina were confirmed unanimously in an open vote.

16-(10,1) Reports of the Commissions

a) Show Commission – The Chairman of EAHSC, Dr. Francesco Santoro, reported in brief, that workshops and courses were organised in 2009, the Blue Book 2010 was approved and some problems solved with the help of our lawyer, the handler permits were issued to ca. 180 handlers and the relationship between show organisers, DC's etc. need to be improved, especially results and DC reports to be received in a more timely manner.

b) Registration and Identification Commission – The Chairman of EAHRIC, Winand Bijmens, explained that he tried to save EAHRIC and feels that it is on a good way. They had a good meeting the previous day, with 20 countries present, where they tried to put the objectives of EAHRIC into a wider perspective also by looking at its history. All countries presented themselves and the big diversity of the internal structure with regards to size, income and experience of the individual registries became apparent. The problem EAHRIC vs WAHO was discussed and it was felt that European countries are closer together than other areas due to a similar structure, same EU government etc.

The Chairman explained that in 2008, EAHRIC was under the pressure to be abolished. He had send letters by the EC to all registries proposing three options, a) to abolish EAHRIC; b) to be purely informative; c) to work as a pressure group, mainly with regards to Brussels. The meetings should be attended only by the registrars, to keep it more technical. They made a list of potential subjects to be discussed; two or three should be tackled by next year's meeting.

Finally, Gideon Reisel gave an informative presentation about the Dutch way of breeding evaluation of horses by their offspring, individual results, etc.

He concluded that EAHRIC can be a valuable instrument – too valuable to let it down.

The President thanked Winand Bijmens for bringing a new spirit into this commission and he is sure that this commission will come up with new results in the future. He reported that he had informal talks with WAHO president Hans Nagel and they favour a closer relationship of the two organisations.

c) Sport Commission – The Chairman of EAHSpC, Toto Moddermann, explained that regrettably she couldn't attend any sport events during 2009, however, she is happy to see an increased interest and organisers should take the effort to make reports of these events for the media.

During the year a survey was conducted, unfortunately only four countries replied to it, so that the data is incomplete. This indicates a lack of communication between organisers, EAHSpC delegates, Member Organisations and the FN's. She emphasised that it is not possible for her to monitor all sport events herself, therefore the delegates are needed.

Too few countries have delegates who are really interested in sports, however, some are; endurance and racing are also sport disciplines but do not need ECAHO's help.

The Chairman encouraged all countries to co-operate with their FN's (National Equestrian Federations). Otherwise problems will arise for licensed riders as soon as the sport competitions become international.

The Chairman stated to be pleased that some countries are organising National Championships in Sport, which is an important step; these are Poland (Western

& Classic), Germany, Sweden does it for many years; Austria, also here a tradition for many years; Spain the same; Netherland, too. These are important steps towards qualifying at National Championships for the European Championship in the future. An international event is organised each year in Aachen and the ANC Tournament has reached a very good level.

For the first time the European Championships will be held in Sweden, at Bökeberg Gard on 9-11 July 2010.

The Chairman thanked the President for his support and feels that small steps were made forward. She reminded everybody that although ECAHO's main object are the show, most horses finally will be used as riding horses, not in shows. That's why promoting the Arabian horse as a sport horse serves the breeders in your country.

17-(10,1) **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Marek Trela gave a **report of the financial activities** for the business year 2008 – 2009, which ended on 30.9.2009.

The accounting was managed by Mrs. Mengia Riedi and the book keeping for this period was assessed by the auditors to be of the highest quality. Mrs. Riedi also prepared a balance sheet, income statement and budget for 2009-2010 which have been distributed with the Agenda for this meeting.

The Treasurer explained some figures; i.e. the balance sheet of assets and liabilities of the reported period amounted to 247 186,36 CHF (143 000,80 CHF in the previous year). The income statement shows an increase amounting to a total of 356 448,35 CHF (200 313,69 CHF in 2008), which he sees as a positive achievement. However, he remembered everybody, that this was possible mostly due to the income from prize money of some Middle Eastern Shows; this income amounted to 197 831,34 CHF (67 537,26 CHF in 2008 and 4 514,54 CHF in 2007). Expenses of the reported year reached 241 089,97 CHF which is almost identical to the 2009 Budget.

The Treasurer addressed some components of the expenses. The main costs were those of the office in general. He explained that these costs are very difficult to reduce without decreasing the efficiency of the day-to-day activities of ECAHO. As a positive achievement there is very moderate increase of personnel costs in comparison to the Budget 2008 – 2009.

The Treasurer explained that there was an increase of costs for legal services, created not only because of legal actions, but also as a result of consultancy fees necessary for the Blue Book and legal training of our DC's during the workshops. The costs for courses, workshops, etc., were almost twice as high as planned in the Budget. These costs are showing a correct constitutional activity of ECAHO, i.e. serving our members with professional knowledge.

The Treasurer pointed out that one of the reasons for the reasonable level of our expenses is that we do not have a liability insurance yet. Such costs seem to be necessary and the EC is working in this matter to protect our officials (EC Members, judges, DC's, show organizers).

The reported year concluded (for the first time) with the profit of CHF 115 358,38. The net loss in 2007 – 2008 was -4 654,66 CHF and in the year 2006 – 2007 it was -37 525,95 CHF.

With regards to the **Budget 2009 – 2010**, a higher income as the result of prize money from the Middle Eastern Shows, will give ECAHO the possibility to correct our expectations from previous years. Especially the expected income from the Website Advertising Banner was not possible to achieve and had to be decreased to 15 000,00 CHF. The total income planned for the year 2009 – 2010 is 341 050,00 CHF. Our expenses in the coming year will be 296 500,00 CHF and the net profit will amount to 44 550,00 CHF.

The costs of constitutional activities, such as judges & DC courses and seminars are almost 35 000 CHF higher compared to the year 2007 – 2008, which is a positive symptom. Unfortunately, for legal actions 30 000 CHF are provided in the budget, but it is not easy to reduce these, as we may face court cases.

Query from Marianne Dijkmann: When will ECAHO get the insurance against legal claims? The President explained that first the registration in the Trade Register needs to be completed, as it is a pre-condition for such insurance. He confirmed that such insurance is needed, although quite expensive.

18-(10,1) Approval of Accounts

The President explained, that the accounting records and financial statements have been audited by Weber Treuhand AG, the statutory auditors, with conclusion that the accounting records and financial statements complied with the Swiss law and the articles of the association. He offered that everybody interested in the details may consult the written report of Weber Treuhand, which is available at his table. He explained further, the auditors recommended that the financial statements be submitted for approval.

The Accounts 2008-2009 and Budget 2009-2010 were approved with 32 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain (E. Abdullah, A. Hamza, C. Zaragoza were missing).

19-(10,1) Appointment of Auditors

The President explained that the Executive Committee recommends to appoint Weber Treuhand AG again for the business year 2009-2010. **This proposal was approved with 32 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain** (Essam Abdullah, Ahmed Hamza, Carmelo Zaragoza were missing).

20-(10,1) Proposal for a new scheme for Membership Fees -

a) foal registration as basis for new membership scheme - The President explained that the aim of the proposal was to create a more transparent, fair and just membership scheme, because it appeared that in the past the amounts were not always decided according to the same criteria. The criteria of foal registration fulfilled for the majority of Executive Committee members these criteria; however, as explained in the beginning of the meeting any other opinions are welcome to create a new membership scheme for 2011.

The President asked for comments. Anne Heiloo explained that in VVÖ, all breeders, big or small, pay the same membership fee, therefore the proposal looks strange to her. She further explained that Austria was a foundation member of ECAHO and according to the new scheme they would be degraded to a "second class member". If more money is needed, ECAHO should consider raising the fees, but the amount should be the same for all. Teresa de Borbon explained that in Spain, different membership fee apply to the members of AECCA depending on the number of broodmares; the same applies to Germany. After some discussion the following positions became evident: a) the present situation is not just; b) some countries support that the same membership fee should apply for all or c) that membership fee should be calculated according to a neutral criterion. Further it was felt that raising the total amount of membership fees might be justified, as ECAHO is facing more expenditure.

A consultative vote was conducted, with a) all members paying the same: agreed by 22 ayes, b) membership fees to be based on a neutral criterion (foal registration or number of shows or horses entered at shows, etc.): agreed by 10 ayes.

b) To cover imminent costs, a **supplement fee based on 15 %** of the Membership Fees should be raised for 2009-2010. The President explained that for possibly 20 years the membership fees nominally did not change, although the cost of living (probably) doubled. Also, the fees are in CHF, which has lost 25 % of its value over time. Further, ECAHO pays off the losses of the years prior to 2007. He raised the question of who tells that the present situation with 3 % of prize money from the Middle Eastern shows remains permanently. If those countries pull out, ECAHO still needs to continue to function. He emphasised that ECAHO needs to prepare for an alternative plan which we hopefully will not need! The President felt that moderately adjusting the price list for our services is more than justified.

The proposal of implementing a supplement fee of 15 % of the present Membership Fees as a temporary measure was agreed by 21 ayes, 13 noes, 1 abstain.

c) Link of foal registration with voting rights – it was agreed to leave the situation as it is for the time being and the EC to study alternatives to be submitted to the AGM 2011.

21-(10,1) Associate Members -

a) The President explained that the Executive Committee proposed to have **Associate Members participate in ECAHO's activities in the same extent as Full Members, except for the right to vote and to elect at the AGM and in the commissions.** He explained that the idea behind this proposal is a more liberal attitude to newcomers, who should be able to contribute on a commission level; then the need to become a Full Member may not be so urgent. The new rule would be that they have the right to petition on a commission level; they still won't have the right to vote and to petition in the AGM. Therefore this change would not be a constitutional change, but would go into the "Household Book" as an AGM approved law (by-law). It may have happened before that an Associate Member brought forward a motion, but this proposal would bring theory and practice in line.

A vote was taken with 20 ayes, 0 noes, 13 abstain. It was therefore agreed with majority vote that Associate Members have the right to petition on a commission level.

b) The President explained that the Executive Committee proposed to **lay down the conditions for the conversion of Associate Membership into Full Membership** as: "A founded request in writing and the precondition that the applying Associate Member had well organized and carried through National Championships under ECAHO Rules in three consecutive years. He further explained that even if the pre-conditions are fulfilled, it is not an automatic process to become Full Member; the AGM will have to decide as before after recommendation of the EC. Francesco Santoro intervened and proposed that an additional international show should be included. The President stated that this new proposal is not on the Agenda and the floor can only accept or refuse the proposal as distributed on the Agenda.

A vote was taken with 28 ayes, 4 noes, 3 abstain; it was therefore agreed by majority vote that Associate Members need to have organized three National Championship Shows under ECAHO Rules in three consecutive years before they can apply for Full Membership.

22-(10,1) Prize Money in Europe

The President explained that the Executive Committee proposes that show organizers in Europe may issue up to 5.000 € prize money (in value) at shows. He further explained that this is only to legalize present practice, as some shows traditionally have small amounts of prize money for exhibitors. The amount of prize money must be declared in the schedule and the catalogue. Prize money will not be mandatory.

A vote was taken with 31 ayes, 3 noes, 0 abstain; it was therefore agreed by majority vote that show organizers in Europe may issue up to 5.000 € prize money (in value).

23-(10,1) ECAHO Yearbook

The President explained that Alim Editrice (Tutto Arabi) has again published the ECAHO Yearbook and sponsored 7.500 € for being able to use the title. Unfortunately, it was too short time to send a sample to Cairo to show it here. The book can be ordered on our homepage or directly at Tutto Arabi.

24-(10,1) Any Other Business

a) Concern was raised, if with the new rule an Associate Member becomes Full Member after having organized National Championships in three consecutive years, **will a Full Member lose its status if it does not maintain to organize shows?** The President explained that this is not possible, as the Constitution defines under which conditions a country can be suspended (e.g. not paying membership fees), but organizing shows is not among these criteria.

b) The President asked for any proposals for **hosting the AGM in 2011**. Winand Bijmens brought forward the invitation of BAPS to host the AGM in Belgium, the venue to be decided but maybe Brugge.

The meeting was closed at 13:20 h.