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## FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES GENTLEMEN AMATEURS ET CAVALIÈRES DU TROT

EUROPÄISCHER VERBAND DER AMATEURFAHRER UND -FAHRERINNEN DES TRABERSPORTS  
EUROPEAN TROTting AMATEUR - DRIVERS FEDERATION



Sekretariat F.E.G.A.T.  
c/o Fredy Moder  
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# THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The period from May 2007 to March 2008

**The board** has during the passed financial year consisted of president Claës-L. Ljung (Sweden), vice president Berit Tveter Alm (Norway), vice president Dieter Beck (Germany) together with vice president and secretary-general Fredy Moder (Switzerland). Mrs Sabine Klettenhofer, Austria has been a most reliable treasurer for our organization.

**The labour** in our committee has been productive and friendly. For me myself it has been a source of inspiration and an opportunity to meet with interesting people. During the past fiscal year I have experienced good help from the whole committee and I also know that my colleagues in the board has been in contact with many of our members! This, I can assure you, is also the case for our secretary general and myself.

**The 54th general assembly of the FEGAT** was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May in connection with the European Championship for Lady drivers.

- Fredy Moder from Switzerland was re-elected as vice president for the coming 3 years.
- Fredy Moder from Switzerland was re-elected secretary general for 1 year.
- Sabine Klettenhofer was re-elected treasurer outside the board for 1 year.

**Board meetings** have been held on the following occasions during the past fiscal year:

- in Copenhagen, Denmark in connection with the European Championship for Lady Drivers
- In Salzburg, Austria in September
- in Prague, Czech Republic in November

There has also been numerous telephone calls between the committee members. Between the secretary general and myself there has been contacts several times every week. The SKYPE program on Internet has been most helpful and also vice president Dieter Beck has been reachable through SKYPE.



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There has been more technical contact between non FEGAT countries concerning the world championships. Three out of four non European countries have accepted to pay an amount of EUR 500 a year for the work performed by the FEGAT in connection with the world championships.

### The championships and FEGAT Europe Cup

The ladies version of the EC was held in Denmark, unfortunately with only 2 possibilities for each driver to compete. European Champion was Morgane Le Vexier, France, followed by ruling champion JuliaKashkowskaya, Russia and Andrea Nagyvari, Hungary – all well known profiles in their home countries. The championship took place in Odense 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and Copenhagen 24<sup>th</sup> of May. The championship ended with 3 participants on the same number of points and a summing of the times in the races had to be used to find a winner. This was not a good system in this case as the races were driven over different distances. From the sport side seen this arrangement held a very low quality, I'm sorry to say.

The EC for men was held in Salzburg, Austria on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Champion became Christian Mayr from Austria followed by Iver Jessen from Denmark and Rune Skogen from Norway. We crowned a very popular winner, Christian Mayr is not only a very good driver, he had also been most active in the procedure to organize!

FEGAT EUROPE CUP was held this year in the Czech Republic. The FEGAT board had a lot of extra job because of very late knowledge about if Czech Republic could organize at all and also the dates for the event was given us far too late. In the end we had a very nice EUROPE CUP that saw Franck Marty as worthy winner. France really has made a "burnout" by winning two of our events the second year they are members! I also want to express our gratitude to Belgium who promised to organize if the burden for Czech Republic should have been too heavy!

In May this year the World Championships will be held in the US. FEGAT will be represented by Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic and Spain. I am happy to see that our returned member Spain will represent us although both our other newcomers France and Italy still have to wait.

Exchange between member countries are numerous. Many of these matches are brought up as ideas on FEGAT meetings when members have been talking off record – so is the birth of THE NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS as well as a yearly meeting between Russia and Sweden.



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**Now 16 members!** We are very happy to say welcome back to Italy and Spain who from our general assembly last year in Denmark are members again. There has been some knocking at the door from Serbia and Malta. Serbia does as for today not fulfil the criteria's for a membership and Malta has not given in an application for membership. However, everything has to take some time and right now I feel that it is hard enough to arrange championships with 16 members.

There has been a long and tricky problem in the FEGAT this winter. Italy had not quite understood that they from last general assembly on would participate in the world championships under FEGAT rules. This caused a lot of discussion where even a withdrawal of the Italian membership was up for discussion. Now things are settled and we can go on with more important issues.

As always in an organization like the FEGAT we have different engagement from different members. Some seems to sleep between our annual meetings and some have a very good contact with the board during the entire year. I think you can feel a little yourselves on which side you belong and remember that we in the FEGAT board like to have a close contact with every single member country!

**Work in the board.** Berit Tveter Alm and Dieter Beck have not yet presented the reviewed five-year plan for the work inside the FEGAT. Some of the items the board has have been successfully performed and some are still to deal with. On the board meeting in April 2006 Berit Tveter Alm and Dieter Beck were given the mission to freshen up our 11-point strategy, which as for today looks as follows with my own commentaries:

1. The board feel that the number of members in the FEGAT will remain unaltered during the coming 5-years period and it is no reason for changes in the system around championships and likewise. *This § is now irrelevant.*
2. The new rules for world championships worked out by the secretary general and the president in the FEGAT after hearing the non-FEGAT participating countries. We will use these rules in the US.
3. The entire FEGAT shall try to find an international sponsor who will follow our championships and use the good will of them for their business promotion. This is the responsibility for all members!
4. In general we shall try to reach a higher standard for our championships.



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5. In every member country shall be a race named the FEGAT Race every year. An honorary price shall be provided named "FEGAT - HONORARY PRICE".
6. The amount of races driven under FEGAT flag shall be expanded. Press releases, starting lists and results must be forwarded to our secretariat. The FEGAT name must be given more importance. Our secretariat stands willing to provide all addresses and contacts necessary to make this possible.
7. Within the frames of our economy and with possibilities we know of we will make promotion over the Internet and over our homepage. Every country is responsible for finding sponsors who will have advantage of our homepage and who are willing to pay a sum for this. Some of our members have done this, some not...
8. Economy: we must be able to keep the standards of today and hopefully raise them. One way to do this is by higher member fees (see the proposal from the board for the general assembly 2001). If all members sell some advertisement place on our website the problem will be solved!
9. We will help to act as intermediary in finding practice jobs for interested persons with the aim to give tuition to young, horse-interested people. This has been done and we must evaluate if we shall continue or not!
10. In our homepage we will give the opportunity for interested sponsors to add a link to their homepage. See other proposals concerning our website!
11. We will present an annual book again. Most likely not! We now have our *website as a tool*.

I hope that you will read the 11 points above with a little self criticism. Have you as a member fulfilled what you are expected to do? 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 are all works for us all – what have you done the last year???

Alm/Beck will hopefully present a revised version on our general assembly 2008.

**To all of you** I want to express my gratitude for the passed year. Despite big differences in the possibilities for the sport, in culture and character the FEGAT stands strong. We have been able to give and to take in a way that makes us all to feel like winners.

I feel especially happy that we now have reached a point were all members are carrying out their duties with arrangements in the scheduled way! The only cloud on



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the sky is outside Europe. We do not know yet if New Zealand will be able to organize the world championships in 2010 – if not we might come back to you for a suggestion...

I also want to use this opportunity to say thank you to the amateurs in Austria for the gentlemen's EC and Denmark for taking care of the ladies EC. Also the Czech Republic shall have a thank you for the FEGAT EUROPE CUP!

**FEGAT of today.** FEGAT is the only umbrella organization for harness amateurs throughout the world. Overseas nations search our aid and maybe we should widen the sphere and have a worldwide branch to give everyone a possibility for shelter. These are current issues for the board to work with!

## **As always:**

**FEGAT** is going ahead with good speed and a wise general assembly and a productive board successfully perform our work! Thank you!

**Always be proud to be a member of the FEGAT!**

Fegen, February 2008

Claës-L. Ljung  
President