



Dear Sirs,

Due to its unique characteristics as an equestrian discipline, the Working Equitation has lately registered a growth worldwide and it has also been evident the interest in the USA.

About a year ago, I have travelled to Texas, USA, where I met each responsible of the seven groups that were promoting the Working Equitation in different regions of the USA. This meeting aimed at trying to define a shared strategy for the creation of an entity that supervises the discipline in this country.

As a result of that meeting it was decided to prepare the Bylaws of the American entity for official registration and definition of the composition of the statutory bodies for subsequent signing of an agreement with the World Association for Working Equitation - WAVE.

By the end of 2012 we felt the evolution of this project and we were prepared for the signature of the protocol in Paris during the WAVE General Assembly. Unexpectedly, during the General Assembly, we noticed a division among the six groups who were prepared to join the Association, which led to the failure to achieve this objective, that was then postponed to March in Texas, depending on the clarification of doubts that led to the apparent division among American groups involved .

On the 12th February the WAVE Board of Directors, sent to Mr. Steven Henry , the person named as the head of the American Association for the transition phase until the signing of the protocol , a letter , signed by the President and Vice President , stating that someone responsible for WAVE could travel to the USA to sign the protocol , depending only on the clarification of two issues : which entities involved in the association and who would be responsible for the future relationship with the WAVE . This letter, which apparently never came to the knowledge of the others involved, was never answered, resulting that no representative of WAVE travelled to the USA to sign the Protocol in March.

Afterwards, we were contacted by the Haras dos Cavaleiros proposing the signing of the Protocol by the occasion of the European Championship, held in Italy, which did not happen because there was no consensus of all parties involved.



On the 9th August we received a new Protocol request signed by six organizations, in which was only involved one of the six associations that formed the initial group and also a representative of the Working Equitation in Oregon (the former representative of IALHA).

The WAVE is very interested in signing an agreement with an entity that represents the Working Equitation in the U.S. but, after a first phase in which were involved several groups, we could not sign a protocol leaving some groups out without a reason.

Due to a trip scheduled to the U.S.A. by the end of August last, we decided to contact all groups that were not included in the Association that requested last August for the signature of the protocol in order to set a future strategy .

I was informed that all entities that were involved in the creation of the first Association (October 2012) want to remain connected to the future association that will manage the WE in the U.S.A. and they are only waiting for an agreement with WAVE with all stakeholders.

We consider that it is urgent to take concrete measures.

We must define the parameters that WAVE aims to be accomplishing to the signature of the protocol:

- To establish an International Association of WE in the U.S.A, including all entities (or at least 75 %) who were involved in its creation from the beginning (unless they state that do not wish to be part of). The participation in this entity is reserved for entities and not for individuals;
- The Protocol shall be signed within the year of 2013 and will enter into force on January 1st, 2014. As it is provisional will be valid until 31st December 2015, after which it will be examined whether the objectives set out have been accomplished;
- In the protocol must be defined as objectives the number of tests to perform (national and regional), Training Courses (for riders, trainers and judges), the definition of American national costume and the commitment that will be followed procedures defined by the WAVE. It should be created a National Regulation, including guidance and rules for the youth teams, always bearing in mind that the WAVE International Regulation.



As I am the judge appointed to the Lusitano Horse Championship to be held in Forth Worth 15-17 October, I propose a meeting during that period (at the showground) with all interested parts to discuss this topic and give a definitive conclusion to this matter.

All WAVE concerns are to sign a solid protocol allowing a sustained development of Working Equitation in the U.S.A, and we count on the positive mind of all involved leaving aside the need for leadership and individualism for the well-being of the discipline that we all wish to grow.

The WAVE President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "João Ralão Duarte".

João Ralão Duarte