

**LIF General Assembly 2008 - Szilvásvárad, Hungary - October 11, 2008**  
**Minutes - Protokoll**

**1. Opening - *Öffnung* (09:15)**

Mr. Andor Dallos, General Manager of the Szilvásvárad State Stud and host of the meeting made the opening remarks. He introduces Prof.Dr. Peter Szendrő, president of the Hungarian Lipizzaner Breeders Association, with the proposal to let him preside over the meeting in Mr. Reiter's absence (due to personal circumstances) and with the presumption that LIF did not have a General Secretary (GS) due to Mr. Hop's resignation. However, Mr Szendrő is not speaking English nor German.

Mr. Hop was then asked by the assembly to open and lead the meeting for the remainder of the day. He started by welcoming all the participating organizations. Representatives for Austria, Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, USA as well as all the state stud farms, except Monterotondo, were in attendance, which made the assembly valid. To facilitate the agenda, all nineteen points, it was proposed that the proceedings would be in English and the highlights translated to German. It was hoped, that each group would have a member fluent in English who could translate during the proceedings.

There are several versions of the agenda for this assembly. Not only the provisional agenda, sent with the official invitation to the GA in September, but also a later version of Mr.Reiter. Decided was to use the agenda of Mr. Reiter.

Until half an hour ago, Mr. Hop was not aware that he would lead the proceedings in he begs the indulgence of the if he at times does not appear well prepared.

*Herr Andor Dallos, Gestütsdirektor und Gastgeber öffnete die Sitzung. Er stellt Herrn Prof.Dr.Peter Szendrő, Präsident des Ungarischen Lipizzanerzuchtverband vor. Er wurde von ihm als Sitzungspräsident vorgeschlagen, wegen Abwesenheit von LIF-Präsident Reiter, und die Voraussetzung die LIF hätte kein Generalsekretär mehr. Herr Szendrő spricht aber kein Englisch oder Deutsch.*

*Danach wurde Herrn Hop von der Generalversammlung gebeten um als Tagungspräsident aufzutreten. Festgestellt wurde, dass genügend Vertreter der Mitgliedsorganisationen anwesend sind, so dass die GV gültig ist. Vorschlag um Englisch als Gemeinsprache, mit Übersetzungen der Hauptpunkte in Deutsch wurde akzeptiert.*

**2. Minutes General Assembly 2007 – *Protokoll Generalversammlung 2007***

The meeting notes from the Kelebija-meeting were distributed in spring, however it appears that not everybody seem to have received them. The server used (Telfort) appears to only send ten e-mails internationally at one time and ignores the rest, without notification. Therefore, last week, they were re-sent successfully using Yahoo.

Mr. Verbic of Slovenia wanted a detail about Vucijak corrected in the minutes, #7a, - that the Slovenian Government provided money and food for the stud farm. This will be added. The meeting notes were approved with that one completion.

*Das Protokoll der Sitzung in Kelebija wurde im Frühling via Internet verteilt. Angeblich hat Internetprovider Telfort diese Sendungen ohne Meldung nur teilweise verschickt. Deswegen sind die Protokolle letzte Woche noch einmal über Yahoo verteilt.*

*Herr Verbic (SLO) möchte als Ergänzung die Bemerkung protokolliert haben, dass die slovenische Behörde Geld und Futter an Gestüt Vucijak verschenkt hat. Hiermit wurde das Protokoll akzeptiert.*

**3. Report of the Secretary General - *Bericht des Generalsekretärs***

The General Secretary Mr Atjan Hop had a quite full Agenda during 2007 and the beginning of 2008. He reported on his activities in support of the Lipizzan horse as General Secretary as well as an International Jury and therefore invited to participate in several ways. The year 2007 was a quite busy:

February 2007	Visit Vienna for the inspection of the stallions.
March	Visit Topolcianky to discuss LIF, international cooperation, breeding at the studfarm and training of the horses there.
April	Preparing all the material for the Judging course
May	Visit Piber, regarding same issues as Topolcianky Conducting the first LIF judging course in Bad Tatsmannsdorf. He would like to thank Dr. Kirsch, Mr. Schröder and Mr. Kapaun for their contributions to the judging course as well as Mr. Reiter for hosting it.

June 2007	Attending the General Assembly in Kelebija during which the most important issue was the matter of the Lipik horses. Visit to the Hungarian stud farm Mezöhegyes and meeting with the stud manager, Mr. Istvan Pap. This stud farm was the origin of the Hungarian Lipizzaners, although none or there now. It can however be seen as a cultural heritage of worldwide importance.
July	Invited to judge at the national selection in Denmark Visiting Lipica to discuss the International Lipizzan Registry (IRL) and the status of Lipizzan state studs. At the time the Secretary of Arts & Culture was there with a representative from ICOMOS to discuss the possibility of the Lipizzan horse, Lipica and the other state studfarms to become International cultural heritage with Unesco. This was arranged by Mr. Pust.
September	Attended the annual stud selection at Piber
October	Conducted the second LIF judge's course was held at Piber – thanks Dr. Dobretsberger and his staff in Piber for their great assistance, and Dr. Marc for his contribution
November	Visiting the performance of the 4 Classical Riding Schools in Paris privately, but as Ingun Littorin was there from California, a small informal LIF Board meeting was arranged. Mr. Reiter was also in Paris, but could not join this meeting.
December	Spent 3 days with the Spanish Riding School during their performance in Rotterdam.

2007 was a very important year as the Lipik matter was solved in the end. After so long time and with the cooperation of Serbia and Croatia, and all others involved, LIF, Germany and many other countries applying pressure it is quite an achievement that the matter was resolved.

Mr Hop also prepared another auxiliary web-site for news and topics but there was a lack of participation so nothing became of it. The IRL will be discussed later on, however we received a number of web addresses for the site.

In 2007 there were 38 requests for pedigree verification from all over the world sent to Mr Hop. It takes at least 1-2 hours per pedigree to research, and it surprising there is still such a large number after 24 years of doing this.

In 2008 the activities were reduced, due to the heavy schedule in 2007. He had planned on going to Tempel Farm in the USA in 2008 but in the last minute was cancelled. The LIF-members in Europe need to remember that there is a very large population in the USA, over 1000 horses, and we should involve them as well.

February 2008	Invited to Piber in order to discuss breeding issues.
May	Attended the meeting in Vienna for the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, a large European project in which a cooperating plan between all state studs is foreseen.
June	Invited as main judge and LIF-representative during the large International Championship in Topolcianky, a combined show for Lipizzaners, Shagya arabian and Husul horses.
September	Traveling to Lipica and Piber for their yearly selections.

After this summary, Mr Hop explains the circumstances under which he was forced to take the decision to resign as Secretary General of LIF. He declared:

*“As to my resignation letter it may have come as a surprise to some of you, however but the decision had been made over several months. The plan was to state at this G.A. that I would resign in 2009 and as I stated in the letter, the LIF is a “dead” organization for 11 months and that in the last month before the G.A. everybody suddenly awakes and suddenly everything should have been done. Due to my continuing health problems and the stress of this position, forces me to this decision. The lack of cooperation during the 11 months within the LIF, the Board did not function this year, the Breeding committee is also sort of dead during 11 months and there is also a lack of communication/ responses via e-mail. There are three functions for me as the General Secretary including not only being the clerk, arranging these meetings but also the currently, the Secretary of the Breeding Committee with checking all the pedigrees. Another function is to represent LIF in solving all issues within the Lipizzan world (on local as well as Governmental level) as well as attending meetings. For the 24 years of this organization, all the duties and responsibilities have fallen on the General Secretary's shoulders. I would like to state the following: The Lipizzan horse is my life and you all know how dedicated I am to the breed and the horses. Please be assured that I will not let the LIF, the breed and my horses down. There should be a continuation within the LIF. These functions are too much – there must be a change within LIF, there is no question about it. However, I do not want to, and can not bear the LIF on my own. A triple function, as General Secretary, clerk and Secretary of the Breeding Committee is too much.”*

*Der Generalsekretär Atjan Hop berichtet über seine Aktivitäten in 2007 und 2008. Er erklärt die Umstände, welche die Ursache zu seiner Entscheidung um zurückzutreten waren. Diese Entscheidung war nicht so plötzlich wie es aussah. Der Originalplan war um während der heutigen Generalversammlung zu melden, dass er sich in 2009 zurückziehen wollte. Die heutige Umstände innerhalb des Vorstands und der Föderation haben diese Entscheidung beschleunigt. Ein Mangel an Aktivitätbereitschaft und Kommunikation innerhalb des Vorstands und des Zuchtkommissions, hat dafür gesorgt, dass die ganze LIF in der täglichen Praxis auf den Schultern der Generalsekretär rüsten. Wegen eigener Gesundheitsproblemen ist die dreifache Funktion (Generalsekretär, Büroangestellter und Sekretär der Zuchtkommission) in der Praxis für ihn nicht mehr auszuüben. Er stellt nachdrucklich dass er die Lipizzaner und die LIF nach 24 Jahr Beihilfe, sicher nicht im Stich lassen will. Die Kontinuierung der LIF sollte sichergestellt werden.*

Mr. Dallos stated that for the last 25 years the LIF has been a very effective organization for the Lipizzan horse and he would really like to thank Atjan for his contributions, particular in his work with the resolution of the Lipik horses. The personal decision to resign is respected and accepted. The situation with the General Secretary's function is something this organization needs to work out. As to electing a new General Secretary a committee and an election is needed. 3 People are suggested, Mr. Dallos, the Vice President Ms. Littorin and Mr. Emil Kovalcik from Topolcianky to serve on this committee.

*Herr Dallos dankt Herrn Hop für seinen Einsatz, und schlägt ein Wahlkomitee vor.*

Mr. Hop thanked Mr. Dallos for his contribution to this matter, however he felt that this issue, point #4 of Mr. Reiter's agenda, (voting for Mrs Hildegard Gekiere as replacing General Secretary till the elections of the G.A. of 2009) to be postponed to later in the meeting to allow for all the other, very important matters, to be addressed. On the agenda, there was a proposal for the election of a single candidate which was presented, however this cannot be done. A certain protocol must be followed and a search for additional, qualified candidates, which may be available, be made.

*Herr Hop schlägt vor um die Wahl eines Interim Generalsekretärs weiter in das Tagesprogramm zu verschieben, so dass andere, auch wichtige Sachen der Tagesordnung zuerst behandelt werden können.*

Mr Schröder (A) indicates that this should be put to be voted.

*Herr Schröder ist der Meinung, es sollte zur Abstimmung gebracht werden.*

Yvonne Peeters (B) spoke in support of taking more time in selection of the LIF Secretary as well as working on the structure of LIF. She agrees that the GS job is huge and too much for one person. As this is one of the most important points of the meeting she suggests that we take it up again after lunch and after people have had a chance to discuss it.

*Frau Dr. Yvonne Peeters schlägt vor um mehr Zeit zu nehmen um diese Entscheidung und die Aufgabe des GS überdenken und besprechen zu können.*

Mr. Strohmayer (A) disagreed and stated that this was a most important issue, he also suggested that we continue with Mr. Reiter's agenda. The questions was put forth if we should continue the agenda as Mr. Reiter proposed and select a GS or should we change the agenda. This is a decision that the members attending must decide.

*Herr Strohmayer (A) möchte diese Wahl nicht verlegen, und schlägt vor die Tagesordnung von Herrn Reiter ordnungsgemäss zu folgen. Das sollte abgestimmt werden.*

Prof. Szendrö (H) took the floor and starts the voting

*Prof. Szendrö ergreift das Wort, und fangt an zur Stimmung*

Mr. Pust (Lipica) react to this action, and questioned Mr. Szendrö's initiative. Who is in charge now, as Mr. Szendrö is no member of the Board, and not chosen to be in the chair of this meeting. He supports that the LIF-board should chairing this assembly.

*Herr Pust (Lipica) reagiert zu dieser Handlung, und stellt seine Initiative zur Diskussion. Wer führt jetzt, da Herr Szendrö kein Vorstandsmitglied ist, und nicht zur Präsiderung der Sitzung gewählt wurde. Er unterstützt, dass ein LIF-Verwaltungsratsmitglied diese GV vorsitzen sollte.*

Mr Hop indicated he had been asked this morning by the Board member to lead the meeting.

*Herr Hop meldet dass er heutemorgen von der Verwaltungsratsmitglieder gefragt wurde um diese Versammlung zu leiten.*

Ms. Littorin took the floor, stating that she had been a Board member this year, however the Board had been totally non-functioning this year.

*"Mr. Reiter has been absent from the Board the whole time as far as I am concerned, I requested meeting with him in Paris, I sent numerous e-mails with no responses or it happened 6 months later. As far as I am concerned, things are happening without consulting the Board and that is not how an organization should function and I do not want this position as GS to be ramrodded without proper discussion and without having candidates. If we are going to have an interim candidate, it should be for a fixed time, while the search is going on for a final candidate. Although I was not going to bring it up at this time, I think that functions of the Board and their responsibilities must be clearly defined as well as what the GS functions are as well as the assistance needed for clerical duties and other functions. There is a lot of work to be done to do this and currently as I see it nobody on the Board has any described duties, as if it is an honorary position and they do not have to do any work. In my opinion, if you agree to be on the Board of this organization, you are committed to work for it and this has not happened in the past. I am not in favor to all of a sudden within a few minutes decide on such an important position. If we are going to support somebody on an interim level it should be for a short time until the organization has been built up and become a professional organization with duties for everybody that is elected for a position. Currently I do not think there is anything in writing stating these are the responsibilities for anybody serving on the Board of LIF and I think this needs to be developed in a very short time period. I do not have a problem with discussing it further at this time, however we have to remember that many organizations, have spent a lot of time coming to this meeting to give presentations that are important for the Lipizzan breeders. The GS position is also important but I think we need to limit the time so that other people have an opportunity to show their presentations. I stated in the Breeding Committee yesterday that there need to be more structure to the organization and if we have an Agenda, like yesterday when it finally came, it was very clear that there was 4-6 hours worth of discussion, 1.5 hours was allocated for it and not everybody was there at the appointed time.*

*We need to change that. We did not have a proper Board meeting because we were out of time and not enough people were present. This is not how an organization should function. We need to look forward, what are we going to do, how are we going to reshape this organization so that it becomes a professional organization that can properly support the Lipizzan breed. It did not mean to preach however I have a concern that if we start with an unlimited time frame nothing else will get done today and we need to be more efficient then that.*

*Frau Littorin erklärt dass der Verwaltungsrat letztes Jahr nicht funktioniert hat. Herr Reiter war die ganze Zeit nicht zur Verfügung, hat kaum oder viel zu spät auf Ihre Email-Berichte reagiert, und hat Ihre Bitte zur Tagung in Paris abgelehnt. Entscheidungen werden ohne Rücksprache im Verwaltungsrat genommen. Sie findet es unakzeptabel, dass heute über eine neue Generalsekretärin gewählt würde ohne weitere interne Diskussion oder Vereinbarung. Sie stellt nur interne Unordnung innerhalb des Verwaltungsrates, der Zuchtkommission und der ganzen Föderation fest. Das sollte unbedingt und dringend geändert werden. Sie schlägt vor um eine verbesserte Festlegung der Aufgaben und interne Verpflichtungen auszuarbeiten, und zu befolgen, um die LIF zu verbessern und zu professionalisieren. Der Einsatz von allen ist dringend erwünscht.*

**Prof. Szendrő** stated that he was a facilitator for this assembly and that he had been given an agenda and as such it is his job to organize the meeting so that you are all happy with the results. It is your choice to continue with point #4, I am waiting for the answer on this.

*Prof. Szendrő behauptet, er wurde nur zur Hilfeleistung gebeten. Die Versammlung sollte selbst entscheiden wie mit Punkt 4 umzugehen, er wartet auf Antwort.*

**Dr. Jong** (B) asked him who he is, and what role he intends to play as complete stranger to all in this meeting.

*Herr Dr. Jong fragte ihn wer er eigentlich ist, und welche Rolle er behauptet zu spielen.*

**Mr. Dallos** stated that Karl Reiter had sent out an Agenda, to which we should stick on to.

*Herr Dallos ist der Meinung, Karl Reiter hat ein Tagesordnung verteilt, und damit sollte man arbeiten*

**Mr. Hop** stated that there were 3 agendas, the preliminary (accompanying the invitation), the official version, distributed by him, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> version, distributed by Karl Reiter. This shows clearly how badly it was communicated. He originally sent out an basic agenda, in order to correspond to the demands of the statutes, and informed Karl Reiter (via e-mail) that after his holiday he would prepare the final Agenda. This is a habit within LIF, due to final contributions of members, which always occur in the very last period before the G.A. Mr Reiter ignored this information, and suddenly drew his own line by distributing his version.

*Herr Hop meldet dass es 3 Versionen der Tagesordnung gibt. Eine vorläufige (als Beilage der Einladung), die offizielle, von ihm verteilt, und eine 3. Version, von Karl Reiter selbständig verteilt. Das beweist nur wie schlecht die Kommunikation stattfindet. Die 1. Version sollte die Aufgabe der Statuten befolgen. Er hat Karl Reiter per Email berichtet, dass er nach seiner Ferien die offizielle Tagesordnung zusammenstellen und verteilen wurde. Das ist in übereinstimmung mit dem Gebrauch innerhalb der LIF, wegen die Gewohnheit der LIF-Mitglieder immer im letzten Augenblick Punkten für die Tagesordnung anzuliefern. Herr Reiter hat das ignoriert und plötzlich seine eigene Tagesordnung verteilt.*

**After this a huge discussion broke out, eclipsing the assembly.**

**Danach eine Riesendiskussion entstand, die Versammlung überschattend.**

**Mr. Hop** stated it was out of his hands and requested a break - *Herr Hop schlägt eine Unterbrechung vor.*

**Mr Pust** indicated we should have a discussion if we should continue with the professor, or Mr Hop, or a vice-president as presidency during this meeting.

*Herr Pust behauptet, man sollte sich entscheiden entweder mit dem Professor oder mit Herrn Hop, oder mit einem Vice-Präsident als Sitzungspräsident weiterzugehen.*

**After some discussion among the participants of the meeting, Prof. Szendrő and the Board recessed for a discussion. After this the G.A. was continued.**

**Nach einiger Diskussion, ziehen Prof. Szendrő und der Verwaltungsrat sich zurück zur Diskussion. Danach wurde die Generalversammlung weitergeführt.**

**Ms. Littorin** explained, that during this meeting it was clarified that although Mr. Hop had offered his resignation prior to the meeting, he was asked and agreed to continue his service to the LIF for at least an additional 6 months, to facilitate the transition to the new General Secretary and the restructuring of the Board. According to Article 5.3 of the Internal Rules of Procedure, he is obliged to carry out his duty until a new GS is chosen by the G.A.

*Frau Littorin meldet, dass Herr Hop gefragt wurde um mindestens 6 Monaten als GS weiter zu funktionieren, um die Nachfolgung zu einem neuen GS und eine Reorganisation zu begleiten. Auf Grund des Artikel 5.3 der Interne Geschäftsordnung er sei verpflichtet diese Aufgabe zu machen bis einen neuen GS von der Generalversammlung gewählt wurde.*

Ms. Littorin explained, that the Board has committed itself to within 3 months have the structure in place. It is structure for daily functionality within the LIF which fits in under the statutes. A description is desired of what are the actual functions of everybody's job including the President and Vice Presidents, what are their responsibilities within the organization. After the 3-months time period, this document will be sent to the various member organizations to give them an opportunity to look at the document and comment. With this the Board hopes that they will seriously take this opportunity to comment on the future direction of the organization.

To this effect, a Committee was established consisting of the Board of Directors and two volunteers – Mr. Matjaz Pust of Lipica and Mr. Victor de Bruijn, Holland. This Committee will have a draft in three months, which will be forwarded to the member organizations for review and comments. It is expected that the draft should be ready for approval, by the Board, in 6 months.

*Frau Littorin berichtet, dass der Verwaltungsrat in 3 Monaten einen Vorschlag zur Strukturierung der täglichen Aktivitäten ausarbeiten wird, mit Beschreibungen der Aufgaben der Verwaltungsratsmitglieder. Dieses Dokument wird dann unter ein Beratungskomitee verteilt, und innerhalb 6 Monaten wird einen definitiven Vorschlag zur Genehmigung verteilt.*

Mr Hop apologizes to Professor Szendrő for the somewhat unpleasant experience that he was asked to do this strange job, which was very confusing to everybody. Prof. Szendrő excused himself, and the Board returned to continue the meeting.

*Herr Hop entschuldigt sich bei Prof. Szendrő über diese für ihn unangenehme Situation. Prof. Szendrő verlässt die Versammlung, und die Verwaltungsrat führt weiter.*

Mr. Schröder pointed out that point 4 needed to be voted on. i.e. to keep Atjan Hop on as GS for a continuing periode, for example 6 months, or to vote for somebody else.

*Herr Schröder weist darauf, dass Punkt 4 abgestimmt werden sollte.*

Mr. Hop replied that in his opinion it is not appropriate to vote in this way, as the only candidate is Mrs Gekiere. There were quite negative opinions among several LIF-members about Mrs. Gekiere returning as GS. Because he just agreed in fulfilling his obligation as Secretary General, he therefore proposes to move on with the agenda

*Herr Hop behauptet, es wäre nicht passend um jetzt zu stimmen, da die einzige Ersatzkandidatin Frau Gekiere sei. Es gibt ziemlich viel negative Standpunkte bei verschiedene LIF-Mitglieder über die Rückkehr von ihr als GS. Da er gerade zugestimmt hat um seine Aufgabe als GS zu erfüllen, schlägt er vor um mit der Tagesordnung weiter zu gehen.*

Mr. Cacic (Croatia) made a call for Mr. Karl Reiner to resign due to lack of commitment to the LIF.

*Herr Cacic fordert Mr.Reiter auf zur Ausscheidung, wegen einem Mangel an Beziehenheit bei der LIF.*

Dr Noordkamp (B) agreed with continuing Mr Hop's continuation as GS and the continuing the Agenda. His vote proposal to this was carried out by the General Assembly. With 5 assumptions out of 34 valid votes, the G.A. agreed upon the continuation of Mr.Hop as Secretary General.

*Dr.Noordkamp stimmt zu mit der Fortsetzung vom Herrn Hop als GS, aber schlägt vor das abzustimmen. Mit 5 Stimmenhaltungen aus 34 gültige Stimmen, ist die GV mit dieser Fortsetzung einverstanden.*

## 5. Financial Report-*Finanzbericht*

Wim Doove, Treasurer, gave the report. He indicated that the investments for LIF had done well despite the current financial situation. EUR 6,000 are receivable in membership fees. A short term of EUR 15,000 loan is outstanding for which EUR 1,000 in interest was received.

*Schatzmeister Herr Doove berichtet. Die Sachlage ist im Prinzip nicht schlecht.*

The expenses were operational and traveling costs for the secretary, and additional costs for web domains, medals and promotional goods. Mr Doove praised the Secretary General for his thrifty way of making expenses.

*Die Spenden sind meistens tägliche und Reisekosten der GS. Er lobt den GS für seine sparsame Verwaltung*

There is still quite a lot of money left in the Copernicus project to be spent for the printing and distribution of the final publication. LIF has a total of EUR 41,000 on hand. In the help funds, there is a total of EUR 7,689 in the Croatian fund and 11,451 and remaining in the Vucijak fund is 1,184 after 10,266 has been paid out.

*Budget für das Kopernikus-Projekt, für Vucijak und Kroatien ist noch immer zur Verfügung*

The budget for 2009 shows that nine studfarms will pay EUR 450 each, 14 private breeders EUR 300 each and 4 observers at Eur 150 each for a total of 8,850. Only half of the members had paid their fee at the time of the meeting, but expects all to be paid up by the end of the year.

Dr. Kirsch asked if it was possible, as decided in Kelebija, to distribute the financial report before the meeting.

*Herr Dr.Kirsch fragt ob es möglich wäre um den Finanzbericht im Voraus der Versammlung zu verteilen.*

Mr. de Bruijn (NL) was surprised about the outstanding amount of unpaid fees. He asked if the invoices had gone out for 2009 yet. This was not done yet.

*Die Rechnungen für 2009 sind noch nicht weggeschickt*

Mr. Franz Schröder as president of the financial reviewing committee, stated that the bookkeeping was reviewed and found everything in good order. He asked the Assembly to discharge the treasurer. This was done unanimously. *Herr Schröder und seine Kommission hat die Buchhaltung wieder überprüft und genehmigt. Er betet die GV zur Entlastung des Schatzmeisters.*

#### 6. Breeding Committee-Zuchtkommission

The Breeding Committee had been held the previous day. Due to Prof. Dr. Soelkners illness, Dr. Max Dobretsberger had presided over what was a very long meeting with many important issues on the agenda was asked to preside over the meeting. Dr. Dobretsberger stated that they had an interesting discussion regarding *Wegen Krankheit des Prof. Soelkner hat Dr. Dobretsberger die Sitzung präsidiert*

- *The basic structure of Federation and the basic purebredness* which is not a genealogical but an organizational issue. The background of this discussion is the acceptance of horses registered of horses in non-LIF studbooks. All agreed that this structure should be maintained although there were some practical issue with this rule to be solved, with examples from Austria and Australia.

*Allen sind einverstanden, dass an der Grundeinrichtung der LIF, mit dem Prinzip der Reinrassigkeit, nichts geändert werden sollte.*

- An international project, the so called South East European Transnational Cooperation, which is an EU project specifically to help develop southeastern Europe through state organizations. The stud-farms have submitted a proposal to this project, particular in view of the Lipizzaners being considered a cultural heritage, particularly in that region, and need to be supported. There are 800 proposal and only 60 can be approved, however it is assumed they will have a good chance. *Ein neues Kooperationsprojekt wird vorbereitet*

- *INCO-Copernicus Project*: the final version is residing with Dr. Brehm in Vienna for the final blessing, it will take about 4-5 weeks to print and then it can be distributed. *Die Schlussveröffentlichung ist noch vorgesehen*

- The issuance of new versions of studbooks: the Hungarian studbook was distributed this morning, the Croatian private breeders studbook will be discussed later and the expected studbook from Holland will not be available until next year.

- *The horses from Stud Lipik* returned home. Dr. Dobretsberger visited the stud-farm, which was in very good shape and the horses in very good condition. The issue was the progeny of the Lipik horses which are currently with the private breeders in Serbia and throughout Europe. It was recognized that those horses were registered by a Serbian state organized stud book in Novi Sad. Assuming that this organization is taking care of a modern studbookkeeping, including DNA-checking, those horses can be added to the accepted breeding pool, if the owners are member of the Serbian Lipizzaner Breeding Association

*Die Nachkommen der Lipik-Pferden, falls registriert von der offiziellen Zuchtbehörde in Novi Sad, werden akzeptiert.*

- *Events*: The cooperation between the stud-farms have created several marketing opportunities and specifically on December 5, 6 and 7 there will be a large driving event in Budapest, expecting 30-40,000 people from all over the world. The Lipizzaner stud farms will fill in a large show program.

For 2009 there are several exhibitions and competitions not only in driving but also dressage. Szilvasvarad had a very large international event this year. In 2009 there will be an international driving competition for pairs in Topolciany and it is expected that 60-70% will be Lipizzaners. In 2010 the combined international Lipizzaner and Shagya-arabian championship and show will take place in Piber.

- *Activity of the Breeding Committee*: This point was sort of a criticism towards the breeding committee and it could also be stated that the breeding committee, like the Board, was not as active as it should have been. This has to be improved in the coming year. *Die Aktivität der Zuchtkommission sollte sich verbessern.*

#### 7. Marketing of the Lipizzaner Breed (Dr. Kirsch/Germany)

Dr. Karl-Heinz Kirsch (Germany) presented a overview of a marketing research project, initiated by his association through their website. He showed interesting statistics about desires in the market field, according to the results of the inquiry. Among the statements within the presentation was his comment that State Studs like Lipica and Piber have made "sell-offs" and therefore depress the market with cheap horses.

*Dr. Kirsch präsentiert interessante Ergebnisse einer Umfrage auf der deutschen Website. Er stellt auf Grund dieses einige Schwerpunkt für die Vermarktung der Lipizzaner fest. Dabei kritisiert er Piber und Lipica über ihre Verkaufsstrategie in der Vergangenheit.*

Dr. Peeters (B) thanked him for this very interesting presentation and efforts. Together with Mr. de Bruijn (NL) they asked if this presentation would be available for the members to use in their marketing efforts. The result will be distributed soon. *Frau Dr. Peeters dankt Herrn Kirsch und ersucht um eine Kopie der Ergebnisse*

Mr. Pust (Lipica) also commented positively on the presentation and would also like a copy of it. He however stated, that at Lipica, there were no sell-offs and that they sell horses regularly throughout the years, against common prices, related to the quality of the horses.

*Herr Pust widerlegt die Kritik*

Mr. Rus (SLO), as former studmanager of Lipica, also disagreed with the offend of Dr.Kirsch, and did not appreciate his commentary to this subject. In his time neither Lipica, nor Piber under Dr. Pohl or Dr.Dobretsberger dumped their horses on the market, influencing the pricing. He stated that Dr. Kirsch apparently was not fully aware about the stud-farm direction and breeding programs.

*Herr Rus wiederlegt die Kritik auf Lipica und Piber auch*

Mr. Gollar (H) stated that a good horse sells himself. He also states that he did not share and appreciate the criticism of Dr. Kirsch about the policy of state stud-farms.

*Herr Gollar meint, ein gutes Pferd verkauft sichselbst*

Mr.Pust (Lipica) stated that marketing is a very important issue in Lipica, which should be commonly pushed. Lipica pushes marketing at fairs, at social events or at occasions as the Budapest show. The stud was already f.e. in the International Horse Show in Avignon with their Riding School. These professional presentations make people think differently about Lipizzaners when they can see them in competition and other ventures. He calls all representatives to come, join and watch all these different activities, both in person and with horses. If people are closed up in their own surrounding, nobody meets the Lipizzaner or would desire our horses.

*Herr Pust ruft alle auf zur gemeinsamen Aktivitäten um die Lipizzaner in der Öffentlichkeit zu bringen*

Mr. de Bruijn (NL) stated that it is very important that we use the web-site for marketing.

#### 8. Revision of LIF regulations & adaption of EU law

Nobody knows who put this item on the agenda– nobody present appeared to have done so. Therefore this item was not discussed. *Keiner der Anwesenden weiss wer dieses Thema zur Tagesordnung vorgeschlagen hat – deswegen wird es nicht besprochen*

#### 9. Update of the Home page [www.lif.eu.com](http://www.lif.eu.com) - [www.lipizzaninternationalafederation.eu.com](http://www.lipizzaninternationalafederation.eu.com)

Mr. Hop stated, that he agreed with Mr. De Bruijn that the website is a very important part of the marketing of the Lipizzaner. It is also a good instrument for internal information, and to present topics. But at the other hand, it is hardly part of the duty of a Secretary General to maintain a website. Nevertheless he had started a separate news web-site in 2007, to be an addendum for the main web-site, to feature events, happenings etc. However, as he had not received sufficient support and input from the membership to continue it, this website is already not current anymore.

Ms. Littorin stated that the website is very important point of communication and a major marketing tool. She agrees with Mr Hop, that this is one of many things that should not be under the General Secretary's daily duties. Also the composition and distribution of a newsletter is indispensable for an association. The website can be used for this. Also topics from the professional level of the Breeding Committee can be shown. She proposes to find volunteers out of the member organizations, who could be the editor of the newsletter or website. In common it will demand more contribution from the members towards LIF, in order to maintain a topic website. *Festgestellt wird dass das Unterhalten der Website keine Aufgabe der GS sei.*

#### <Lunch Brake – Visiting of brood mares – Film about Lipizzaners in Szilvásvárad> <Mittagspause – Besuch an die Zuchtstutenherde – Film über die Lipizzaner in Szilvásvárad>

After this break, all delegates except those from Germany returned. This did not effect the validity of the General Assembly.

*Nach dem Mittagspause kehrten alle Delegierten ausser die deutschen zurück.  
Das beeinflusste die Gültigkeit der Generalversammlung nicht.*

#### Continuation of (9.) The LIF Website

Mr Hop explains that the current web-site is hosted by the British National Lipizzaner Studbook Association They re-built their website into the LIF-website however it is based on their structure. The layout may be modernized, but the in 2004 the basic text was changed and updated by Mr Hop, in good cooperation with Mrs Lynn Moran, the secretary of the British Lipizzaner Association. In exchange for hosting the website, the association does not pay their LIF-fee. They have always been very cooperative in changing the site. There probably are a lot items that could get changed, modernized or updated. Now the question raised regarding the cost of the web-site and the possibility of having it professionally designed. If we get sponsorship, this should be possible. But beware, that at the moment the total cost is the 300 euros/year *Die Website wird vom Englischen Zuchtverband unterhalten. Damit braucht man den Jahresbeitrag nicht zu zahlen*

Mr Gollar(H) stated that the website should be professionalized,

Dr. Jong (B) proposes to take it out of the hands of one single member. It should contain information about the breed, the events and topics, have a link to the International Lipizzaner Register (ILR)

Mr Verbic (SLO) proposes to the links to the member organization better available.

Mr.de Bruijn (NL) proposes to improve the visualization and layout design in common. The issue is not the information, which generally is there, but how to find it. This demands a renewed design.

Mr Hop warns, that a new design will cost a lot of money. And competence to fill and maintain it.

Dr. Noordkamp (B) thought it would possible to get input from the other members about the possibility and also maybe look for sponsors

Mr. Hop indicated that we should form a small committee from the members, starting try to find 3 volunteers.

Dr. Alex Jong (B), Mr.Victor de Bruijn (NL) and Mr.Alex Gollar (H) agreed to this. They will work out a proposal, including a financial issue, and report this to the Board within the coming months.

*Eine Kommission wurde zusammengestellt, mit der Aufgabe um innerhalb den nächsten Monaten auszusuchen wie eine neue Website ausgearbeitet werden kann, und kosten würde. Man berichtet an den Verwaltungsrat.*

#### 10. Formation and Consultative Committee

This should be carried into the restructuring of the LIF.

*Dieses Thema sollte in der Reorganisation mitgenommen werden*

#### 11 Homogenous Rating scheme for registration and champion events and observance of the rules of country of origin (Ursprungslandregelung)

Nobody knows who put this item on the agenda– nobody present appeared to have done so. Therefore this item was not discussed.

*Keiner der Anwesenden weiss wer diese Thema zur Tagesordnung vorgeschlagen hat – deswegen wird es nicht besprochen*

Dr. Rus suggested that issues should not be put on the agenda without representation, so that there are no surprises. It would be more practical to receive proposals in advance of the meeting, in order to think it over properly.

*Dr.Rus schlägt vor dass Tagesordnungspunkte nur aufgenommen werden falls Unterlagen zur Vorbereitung mitgeschickt werden*

Mr. Hop stated that with the restructuring of the LIF it should not happen again in the future. In the future, if issues will be brought up on the agenda a presentation of this will be provided prior to the meeting so that people can think about it and prepared to discuss the issue.

#### 12. International Lipizzaner Register

Dr. Marko Marc gave a presentation. There are approximately 9,500 horses entered, the site has been upgraded so that pictures can be added with the pedigrees. The next step will be to develop the module for **calculating inbreeding** coefficient and this is now in its final stage of testing. There will be names associated with these calculations to show where the horses are connected. The program should now be ready for all member organizations to enter their own horses going forward.

Dr. Marc would like for each organization to name the person (or Registrar) who will be responsible for entering this data and to invite them to a **training seminar** at Lipica. There they will get a password for the data base that will allow them to enter data in specific fields.

The next step which should look at is the **promotion** of the IRL. Yesterday a lot of time was spent on how we can market the horses and Dr Marc thinks we can offer the IRL as a tool where a potential buyer can **verify** that they are buying a Lipizzan and not just a white horse. Dr. Marc feels that the Registry includes 90% of the breeding stock. The individual organizations are going to have to work directly with Dr. Marc regarding there entering of the data into IRL, to date all that work has been done by Lipica. As only horses can be registered, whose parents are already in the IRL, this should not be a difficult task., they cannot “create’ pedigrees in the data base.

If you see something that is **not correct** in the data base, you need to contact Dr. Marc directly and work with him to resolve it and/or correct it. As any data that is entered, there may be mistakes, please verify the information and notify Dr. Marc of inconsistencies.

*Dr Marko Marc präsentierte die Sachlage mit dem ILR. Bis jetzt wurde um 9.500 Pferden eingetragen. Nächste Aktivitäten wird ein Übungsseminar für Stutbuch-Sekretäre sein, so dass Einträgen der Fohlen selbständig von der Stutbuchorganisationen ausgeführt werden können.*

#### 13a Studfarm Lipik- Croatia

Mr. Mato Cacic from Croatia gave a presentation on the current status of the horses at Lipik, which appeared to be good. He provided a history of the previous situation of the horses and their conditions and how this had come to a resolution, which was effected in October 2007. He thanks all people of all countries, who played their role in the final solution of this problem.

He also invited the LIF to hold the G.A. at Lipik next year – this issue will be postponed to # 11

Secondly Mr. Cacic made a request that the stud farm of Lipik to become a member of LIF.

Mr. Hop replies that this will be prepared for next year. Proof will need to be sent to LIF that they are a national organization and the studbook keeping need to be checked.

Mr. Rus asked, as they presented proof of National ownership, now maybe the process could be expedited, according to LIF rules.

Mr. Hop indicated if this was so, they could vote on giving Lipik observer status while they waited for the remaining documents. This was voted on and approved unanimously. The Croatian Stud Lipik has now an official observer status within the LIF.

*Das Staatgestüt Lipik wurde als Beobachter in der LIF akzeptiert.*

### 13b Studfarm Vucijak – Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mr. Hop comments, that again there has been some negative comments received by LIF in regards to the condition of the horses in the Stud farm Vucijak. It seems to be an everlasting story – the situation seems to be the lack of coordination between authorities on national, regional and local level within the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we have to deal with this. The people in Sarajevo, the local people and the people at the Studfarm have to work out their organizational problems. It is very difficult to make contact with people inside the country.

*Herr Hop berichtet dass der LIF wieder schlimme Berichten über Vucijak erreichen.*

Mr Marko Verbic (SLO) reports about the present situation in the stud farm Vucijak. He visited the stud farm some days before, and could only conclude that everything was worse than last last year. He had tried to meet with officials in B-H but it is extremely difficult. In 2004 the Bosnian Government decided to take out the private owners of the Studfarm and make it a public institution – nothing has happened. The management is the same, they have not paid regular salaries to the workers so they went to court, the debt of the Studfarm is now close to 1 million euros, and with that bankruptcy will follow.

He is asking LIF to once again call on the Government of the Republik of Srbska and particularly the Council of Prnjavor that this is almost a criminal case and very bad reputation for the country with the condition and situation of the horses at the Studfarm.

Last year there were 88 horses at the stud and now there are 80., Nobody knows what happened to the 8. The horses are not in good condition in spite of money provided to them for feed including Lipica and Piber sending hay and oats. As the Studfarm is not yet a public institution there is no money budgeted for it, so the moneys received are from private institutions, bartering etc., there is no regular income nor is it expected in the near future.

Mr. Hop replies that LIF will make a letter to the Government once given the correct address. He asked if Mr. Verbic, from his position in the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovenia, could put some pressure on them, also in favor of those two breeding stallions from Lipica, which were offered to Vucijak.

Mr. Verbic knows the Minister of Agriculture in the Republic of Srbska personally and is going to meet with him next week and hopes to have a letter from both LIF and the Slovenian Government to put pressure on them.

LIF should very definitely write this letter and in the past LIF has been very effective when dealing on official and Government matters as could be seen in the case of the Lipik horses. It is a bad situation and we need to do what we can. There are very special bloodlines there, with a breeding stock which once beard quality, and we need to do what we can to save them. The main issue is that the horses cannot stay there for ever under these conditions. This situation must come to an end, in favor of those horses.

*Die Sachlage im Gestüt Vucijak hat sich wieder verschlechtert. Das slowenische Landwirtschaftministerium und die LIF sollte sich einsetzen und betreuen um diese schlimme Umstände für die Pferde entgültig zu lösen.*

### 14. Education and supporting of national Lipizzan judges and registrars.

Dr. Peeters (B) stated that she supports this initiative completely, but proposes that their should be a substantial change in the goal, not only inviting aspirant judges but also experience judges. Exchange of experience, common sense about judging and examination are items to elaborate .

*Frau Dr. Peeters schlägt vor um die Richterseminare auch für erfahrene Richter offen zu stellen*

Mr. Hop indicated that the with the first course at Bad Tatsmannsdorff, (May 2007) Mr Franz Schröder had provided the initial outline, and at the time it was thought to provide this type of course only for aspirant judges.

Because was noticed that ready also experienced judges are interested in joining and discussing, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Piber (September 2007) was also opened for them. Because of that the item of examination went to the background. At the Breeding Committee meeting yesterday, the item of the judge's program was not discussed due to lack of time. Therefore the LIF does not have input from the professional side.

*Herr Hop antwortet dass schon nach dem 1. Kurse entschieden wurde um die Seminare allgemeiner zu organisieren.*

Mr. Cacic (Croatia) suggested to compose a working group and find a coordinator who could lead this effort. He proposed Dr. Rus (SLO) to be this coordinator, to work on a formalized program for the education of the judges. *Herr Cacic schlägt vor um Dr.Rus als Koordinator der Richterseminare zu bitten.*

Mr Rus reacted positively. He would like to ask for volunteers in order to assist with this endeavor.

Mr. Hop stated that this is a very important issue to needs to continue and I think we can all agree. He thanks Mr. Rus, appreciating his willingness to be the coordinator and oversee this matter.

Mr. Rus indicated he would be very honored and glad to do so. *Dr.Rus akzeptiert diese Funktion.*

Mr Hop indicates that the second issue of point 14 is also very important. Over the last decade he has noticed that the education of the national registrars, mostly with the private breeder's organizations, has declined. In most cases, these people are appointed by an organization, without necessarily having a suitable background. The people that participated in the earlier training programs have disappeared, and a lot of the knowledge is not transferred to the successor. This is showing up by more issues coming into the General Secretary's office. So, in addition to the Judges' course it is needed to provide a registrar's course for those people who register horses for the National stud books. We should think about this and plan it for a future agenda as it is clear that we need to professional this function. For example some registrars still do not know how the Hungarian and Romanian horses are named and registered, which principal is already in use since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. *Herr Hop berichtet dass Unterricht an den Stutbuchsekretäre auch erwünscht sei. Er hat festgestellt dass es ein Mangel an Kenntnis der Einzelheiten der Abstammungen und Zuchtgeschichte gibt.*

Dr. Marc indicated that this could be done in conjunction with the one day course at Lipica for the registrars for IRL in the spring. *Herr Dr.Marc schlägt vor um das während der ILR-Kurse im Frühjahr zu behandeln.*

#### 11. General Assembly 2009 – *Generalversammlung 2009*

Mr. Hop indicates that there are 2 candidacies to be the host of the G.A. 2009.

Already in 2006 the private breeders of Romania had invited us, and because of the fact that in 2007 in Serbia and 2008 in Szilvasvarad had been established, there was promised that in 2009 the LIF meeting would be held in Romania

The second invitation now is from the Croatian stud-farm at Lipik. They would like to show the international community that the horses are now in their care and the circumstances are good.

It was discussed that the Romanians had been promised the meeting 2 years ago and probably made many plans, then we should stay with that and the Croatians can wait.

Mr. Cacic had nothing against this, and agreed they would do so. Romania indicated that they have already made plans between the stud farms and private breeders. All agreed that the G.A. 2009 will be held in Romania. *Es wurde übereingestimmt, dass die GV 2009 in Rumänien stattfinden wird.*

Dr. Noordkamp (B) made some suggestions about combining the G.A. with an informative part for more people than delegates, because a seminar, show or stud visit is also interesting for more people than only representatives. *Dr.Noordkamp schlägt vor um die GV auch für Nicht-abgeordneten zu erweitern, da die Präsentationen auch für andere interessant sind.*

Mr. Hop replies that it used to be that in the General Assembly time the first part was the official part of the LIF and its issues and the second part was more for anybody to bring up discussions and make presentations. This is also described in the statutes. It would be a good initiative to reopen this possibility in practice. *Herr Hop antwortet dass so etwas früher schon stattfand, und auch die Statuten es erwähnen.*

Dr. Dobretsberger indicated that for the stud farms, the autumn was a better time to organize a G.A. as they have concluded most breeding activities as well as competitions. *Dr Dobretsberger meldet dass für die Staatsgestüten der Herbst die beste Zeit für eine Tagung wäre.*

Dr. Peeters reminded the G.A. that earlier in the day there had been a proposal for electing a General Secretary in 6 months – would this require a special meeting for that. *Frau Dr.Peeters erinnert daran, dass eher berichtet wurde, der Generalsekretär wurde nur 6 Monaten weiter funktionieren.*

Ms. Littorin stated that this time of 6 months was set to assure that we went to work on this selection of a suitable candidate, and to work on the restructure. If it would be left open ended, it will not be done. Therefore the 3 months end 6 months to bring matters to conclusion were set. The statutes do not foresee in this kind of situation, beside the Internal Rules of Procedure, art 5.

Mr Hop may agree to serve until the next G.A. although this is imposing a lot on him, related to his physical problems.

*Frau Littorin antwortet, dass diese 6 Monate nur erwähnt wurde, um eine Zeitspanne anzugeben, indem man zur Reorganisationsplanung kommen sollte. In der Statuten wird für diesen Fall nichts erwähnt, ausser art.5 der Geschäftsordnung. Falls Herr Hop einverstanden ist, könnte er bis an der nächsten GV aktiv bleiben.*

Ms Littorin indicates that the LIF will be as strong as the members are willing to make it. but there needs to be participation from everybody. In spite of the rough start of this meeting, three areas are found where people are willing to put in some extra effort in order to get this organization more structured and a better organization. Three voluntary committees are formed, which can be seen as a big progress, we may need more. She encourages everybody to assist as much as possible to make this a better organization, but is already grateful for what happened during this meeting.

*Frau Littorin erklärt dass sie sehr glücklich mit den heutigen Entscheidungen ist. Sogar 3 Ausschüsse zur Unterstützung der LIF-Aktivitäten sind heute gegründet.*

Mr. Hop indicated that he was asked to stay on and assured the Assembly that he would not let LIF down and could stay on for the rest of the year, for maintaining current activities. He also stated that there had to be a change, and he hopes that we will continue to work together and that there will be good cooperation. Definitely in 2009, you will have to vote for a new General Secretary.

*Herr Hop berichtet, dass er sicher die laufende Sachen weiterführen möchte, bis diese an einen Nachfolger weitergegeben werden können.*

**All agreed that the next G.A. will be October 9, 10 and 11 2009– in the surrounding of Brasov, Transsylvania, invited by the private breeders organization as well as the state stud farms.**

***Alle sind einverstanden, dass die nächste GV am 9.-11. Oktober 2009 in der Umgebung von Brasov stattfinden wird, eingeladen von den Privatzüchtern und die Staatsgestüte***

#### 16. Events, selections and shows

Mr. Manz (A) remarked that sometimes events at the studfarms, like Piber and Lipica are sometimes overlapping.

*Herr Manz merkt auf, dass manchmal Ereignisse in der Staatsgestüte gleichzeitig stattfinden.*

Dr. Marc indicated that the stud farms have agreed to coordinate as much as possible, however in the autumn there are a lot of activities and at times difficult to do so. They will however try very hard not to have this happen again.

*Dr.Marc antwortet, dass die Staatsgestüte es versuchen zu koordinieren, aber es nicht immer gelingt*

Mr. Kovalcik (Topolcianky) notified that Topolcianky will have in 2009 have an international competition for 4-in-hand and in 2010 the so called Donau-Bokal. They also plan to compete not only in driving but also ridden dressage.

*Herr Kovalcik berichtet über Aktivitäten in Topolcianky.*

Dr. Jong (B) stated that this information should be posted on the new web-site for all to see. Many activities for the coming year have already been brought up in the earlier discussions and these will all be included on the Web-site.

*Dr.Jong behauptet, all diese Information sollte auf die erneute Website erwähnt werden.*

Mr Strohmayer (A) asked how the United States, where there are so many Lipizzaners, could participate within the activities in Europe and opposite. And how can news be exchanged? And how is the current situation in the USA?

*Herr Strohmayer fragt nach der Sachlage in der USA, und die Zusammenarbeit mit Europa.*

Ms. Littorin stated that there were three large main organizations in the USA, which worked very hard for several years on combining these into a single organization. This is almost achieved by founding an federation (LFA), putting aside old issues and bad blood between some individuals, only looking into the future.

*Frau Littorin berichtet über den Fortgang der Errichtung eines amerikanischen Dachverbandes*

Once this issue of combining the organizations has been resolved, she thinks that more active interest in LIF and the activities in Europe will occur. Currently a lot of the Spanish Riding School riders giving clinics in the US and at least three were there this summer. There has always been a big interest in the US for activities in Europe from the point of view what is happening with the Lipizzaners.

Every year Mrs Littorin reports in regards to the LIF meeting which is published in both the Lipizzan newspapers and usually also give a verbal presentation at the annual meetings and there is always a big interest in that and many questions. Over the years there has been an increased interest from the members to participate more in the LIF community.

In the future, she expect that US might send horses to the International shows here, however due to the present financial situation in the world today, this is not an issue. But it was already discussed to compete with American Lipizzaners in Europe, so it might happen some day.

*Die Amerikaner sind im Allgemeinen sehr in der LIF und Europäischen Entwicklungen interessiert*

#### 17. Presentation of the Croatian stud book.

Mr. Cacic mentioned that the Croatian studbook, volume 2 from the state stud farms, can be expected this year. We are looking forward to it.

*Das 2. Teil des kroatischen Gestütsstutbuch wird bald erwartet.*

#### 18 Varia

Dr. Jong from Belgium raised some practical issues regarding renewing the website, according to budget, coordination of combined marketing and selling list, participation of the Board in this.

*Dr. Jong fragt nach den finanziellen Möglichkeiten, und Kontaktmöglichkeiten bei der Entwicklung der Website.*

Ms. Littorin responded that one of the improving subjects within LIF should be that there should be quarterly Board meetings. The Breeding Committee has already discussed having more meetings during the year. If any of the new committees come up with questions, results and finalizations that this can be addressed at the quarterly Board meetings. As to if LIF has money in the budget to expand the web site we will have to ask the Treasurer, at such time as we have an estimate of what the cost will be and then a decision will be made.

If there is some extra money in the budget we need to look carefully at that and see if we can expend the extra money on the web-site. One of the things that have become clear throughout the meeting today is that marketing is one of the biggest issues in front of LIF at the moment and it has also been made clear that the web-site is one of our best marketing tools. Therefore it is important that we address the web-site.

*Frau Littorin antwortet, dass der Verwaltungsrat im Zukunft versuchen wird öfter zu tagen. Der Schatzmeister wird sicher über die Möglichkeiten berichten können.*

Mrs. Krutzler (AUS) stated that recently the Australian Lipizzaner Registry has increased to change their working area, and therefore also changed its name into the Lipizzaner Association of Australasia (LAA), which also includes New Zealand.

*Frau Krutzler meldet eine Änderung des Arbeitsgebietes und Namengebung ihres Verbandes.*

#### 19. Closing

The meeting was closed by the Secretary General. He thanks everybody for their effort and cooperation. He thanks Mr Alex Gollar and Mr. Andor Dallos for their special hospitality, including the invitation for the Friday-night dinner.

*Die Sitzung wurde vom Generalsekretär abgeschlossen. Er bedankt jeder für den Einsatz und Zusammenarbeit. Er bedankt Herrn Alex Gollar und Herrn Andor Dallos für Ihre besondere Gastfreundschaft, ins besondere wegen der Einladung zum Diner am Freitagabend*

Protocol made up by means of the transcription of the tape recorded meeting  
Leiden (NL), January 2009

#### Present during the meeting:

Representatives of the National Private Breeders Associations of:

Austria, Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, USA.

Representatives of the National Stud Farms of

Djakovo, Lipica, Lipik, Piber, Sambata de Jos/Beclean, Szilvásvárad, Topolcianky.