

## GA EEN - Saumur

date	9-10 June 2011
of	Sophie LEMAIRE de BEAUREGARD
<b>Object</b>	General Assembly of the EEN - Saumur

### General Assembly of the EEN in Saumur

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June this year, representatives of the European riding schools hold a meeting at the National Riding School in Saumur, France.

Created in 1999, the Equestrian Educational Network's main purpose is to gather the European riding schools, so that they can promote and improve their educational programmes and educational system by regular exchanges.

Five out of the eleven schools of the network, involved in the European project Leonardo - SPEED-, met to hold the final meeting of this project: Warendorf (Germany), Flyinge and Strömsholm (Sweden), Starum (Norway) and Saumur (France). Even though they were not part of the project, the Dutch, Finnish and Portuguese schools were also present in this seminar.

The main objective of the SPEED's project (School Project for Equestrian Education Development) was to promote the exchanges on educational programmes between the European schools affiliated to the project and to facilitate the comparison between teaching qualifications.

Workshops were organized by the different members, allowing them to exchange and compare the contents of their educational programmes on the following themes:

- The Eventing during the examination of the BEES 2 (level 3) in Saumur - June, 2010
- The breaking-in and the work of young horses in Starum - October, 2010
- The work in Dressage in Warendorf - January, 2011
- The work in Show-jumping in Strömsholm - March, 2011.

## **The meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2011**

At the beginning of June, Saumur organized the final meeting. On the occasion of "Le Printemps des Ecuyers", a show presented by the famous Cadre Noir of Saumur, about twenty foreign guests were present to finalize this project and make propositions for the continuation of our actions. During the discussions, we talked the following subjects :

- the organization of the following years concerning the EEN network,
- the final report of the SPEED's project
- the first General Assembly of the EEN network.

In the prospect of future partnerships, we suggest the organization of a competition between the trainees and students of the different schools : it would not be a "classical competition" of dressage, show jumping and/or eventing ; it would also stand as a "test" of teaching, the idea being to also judge our pupils on their teacher's role.

Finally, we were also very pleased to introduce M. Bernard Maurel, president of the ESSA (European State Studs Association), who presented the role and the missions of ESSA.

Sophie LEMAIRE, France