

STILL WAITING FOR TRANSPARENCY.....

(english translation of the open letter written on August 12, 2014)

As rumors and speculations continue to spread on the cause of death of the mare Elmerita di Gallura at Compiegne CEI *** ride, the FEI published its conclusions : “ results from the anti-doping test are negative and the post-mortem examination did not explain the cause of death”. Hence, it would seem that the case is closed.

As well informed as we are, we cannot accept a 2 line summary by the FEI veterinary department, stating that the autopsy and the anti-doping results contain no significant elements that permit to establish cause of death. We cannot accept either that the FEI, whose self-professed mission is to lead an enquiry into the death of a competing horse, produces such a statement.

In order to show a real transparency (the key factor in “clean sport”) in ethics and sports, the complete scientific results of these tests, which are known to the FEI since June, should to be published.

It would appear that the anti-doping tests for this horse are negative. But we are still waiting for the FEI to publish the results of other samples sent by us to the french medication control laboratory LCH.

In the current situation, we cannot help but draw a parallel with the circumstances of the death of SADEK at the 2012 edition of the FLORAC CEI 3*. According to the experienced team of treating veterinarians who were in charge of veterinary care during this ride, this horse died in very strange clinical circumstances. The horse was sampled post-mortem at the venue. No less than 21 controlled substances were identified by the french MCP (medication control program) laboratory LCH. We are still waiting for the results of these samples sent to the FEI

Another mare of the same stables to which L'ELMERITA DI GALLURA belonged was also ridden in the CEI 2* at Compiegne. It received invasive treatment after the ride because it was metabolically compromised. The mare was then referred to a french equine veterinary clinic for further treatment, and was shipped to England a few days later. We were very surprised to find out that

she was entered to race at a CEI 2* Italy 17 days later, without being blocked by the FEI, which defies official mandatory rest periods and common sense.

These clear examples highlight the necessity for proper action to be taken, beyond mere information and declarations of intent.

It is urgent and of utmost necessity that the FEI provides professionals in charge of veterinary care as well as members of the jury the means to bring light to these events by seeking and publishing clear and thorough results.

Only then will conditions of a real “transparency” be fulfilled.

Although the intention expressed by the FEI to fight doping has never seemed stronger, we still have the feeling that actions are not yet sufficient to attain the declared objectives.

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