

Foreword

By the FEI President

It is my privilege to welcome you to Exloo, The Netherlands for the FEI Dressage European Championships for U25 2018, where we will watch a new wave of Dressage stars take centre stage on the international scene.

It is vital for the rejuvenation and longevity of any sport, to have new, burgeoning talent coming to the fore, pushing it forward and taking it to new heights. We are incredibly lucky to have an abundance of exciting protégés within FEI Dressage and the broader FEI community.

It is with great anticipation that we look towards the future as we see the next generation of riders, hungry and passionate, to not only excel personally but to promote the very best of the FEI Dressage; the unique bond, communication, trust and respect between horse and rider. With this new wave, we see new ideas, new techniques and training philosophies, helping the sport to adapt and grow. It is a fundamental reason why we continue to capture an expanding worldwide audience, captivated by the harmony, control and grace of the sport.

As our young stars look to assert themselves on the international stage, we will witness top class competition in which they strive for precision, accuracy and elegance to take home one of the highly coveted individual and team medals on offer. While we will see the competitive nature of championship competition, we will also witness values at the very core of the FEI; camaraderie, team spirit and mutual respect. Each competitor understands the lifelong dedication and commitment it takes to get to this level, and I congratulate all selected riders and their teams on their successes - in Exloo we come together in celebration of this.

It is with impending excitement that over the next few days we will be treated to FEI Dressage which not only draws from history and tradition but brings its own fresh, contemporary edge. I want to take this opportunity to wish the riders every success for the competition ahead and thank organisers, sponsors, officials, volunteers and the media for their promotion of this event.

As momentum builds towards the FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Tryon, North Carolina, it will be gripping to see which competitors and partnerships from this event will go on to grace the FEI World Equestrian Games™ stage in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingmar".

Ingmar De Vos
FEI President