



at the heart of horse sport

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## **Foreword By the FEI President**

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to a new dawn in equestrian sport.

This year, FEI Nations Cup Jumping enters its second century, and while the old traditions continue to play a vital role, it is this sport's capacity to embrace new ideas and to remain flexible that has ensured its continuing popularity.

Originally devised for military teams the first competitions were staged in 1909, and when the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) was born 13 years later, the new organisation whole-heartedly embraced the essential qualities of horsemanship, team-work and national esteem that had already emerged.

There have been many thrilling battles down the years, always fought in a spirit of comradeship, mutual respect and determination, and this year the flags will fly and the cries will ring out once more, around the prestigious arenas at La Baule, Rome, St Gallen, Rotterdam, Aachen, Falsterbo, Hickstead and Dublin as the elite nations struggle for the supreme title of best jumping nation in the world.

In 2009, Meydan, the name behind Dubai's iconic racecourse which earlier this year became the new home of the Dubai World Cup and a global hub for all that is best in the world of horseracing, put its name behind this great eight-leg series.

Meydan is an Arabic word embracing the concept of a meeting place, an environment that encourages competition, co-operation, harmony and the promotion of the ideals of commercial and sporting excellence along with fair play. So the partnership that brings you today's Meydan FEI Nations Cup™ is a perfect fit.

To the organisers, officials, volunteers, the riders and their horses, the many connections without whom this sport could never take place and to you, the spectators, I send my very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event.

HRH Princess Haya  
FEI President