



## **Words of Welcome to the European Juniors Eventing Championships Bad Segeberg 2010**

I heartily welcome all German and foreign competitors and visitors to the European Juniors Eventing Championships in Schleswig-Holstein

The town of Bad Segeberg has a longtime and extraordinary tradition in hosting major equestrian events. Already in 1953, the first European Championships of "Rural Riders" were run here. Later on Bad Segeberg hosted two further European Championships of Rural Riders and two German Youth Championships (in 1980 and 2006). The annual horse shows „Landesturnier“ and „Breitensportfestival“, the first one focusing on competition sports, the second one on popular sports, have largely contributed to the reputation of Bad Segeberg as "the riders' town" of Schleswig-Holstein.

Eventing currently takes a real renaissance not only in Germany. Thanks to the alterations of the rules and renewed competition formats within the last years, this discipline has enormously gained attractiveness. We can often experience that also people who do not have an equestrian background or who are not familiar with horse riding are spontaneously excited about Eventing.

This fascination does not come as a surprise. Eventing represents almost all the characteristics we admire in the horse. Courage and trust into his rider, power and dynamics as well as aesthetics and elegance become obvious here more clearly than in any of the other equestrian discipline. Therefore Eventing is rightfully called the crown of horse riding. As versatile as the requirements for the horse are, likewise the abilities of the rider have to be which are tested in the three parts of the competition. The more remarkable are the performances shown here by these riders so young at age.

The organisation of such a big event which in addition to the European Championships also covers another international competition, the „Nord-Ostsee-Championat“, requires a large number of helping hands, sponsors and patrons. We are very grateful to all of them for their important and indispensable commitment.

I wish all competitors the success they strive for while keeping a fair attitude towards their horses and their contenders. I wish all competitors, visitors and the organisers unforgettable, exciting and entertaining days during these European Championships in Bad Segeberg.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Breido Graf zu Rantzau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Breido Graf zu Rantzau  
President of the German  
Equestrian Federation