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28.08.2009

Reply to the letter from Christoph Hess and Thies Kaspereit dated 13.08.2009

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your reply of 13.8.2009, the promptness of which I welcome.

With the exception of Dr Gerd Heuschmann, no representative from the Federation has ever shown the slightest curiosity with regard to my work and I grant you it is difficult to understand something that one rejects out of hand. Will you honour us with your presence during the meeting of November 21st in Verden?

On the contrary, I have studied the official system in some depth because I have come to know all of its consequences from the lowest to the highest levels of the sporting hierarchy.

That said, I am grateful to you for your invitation, although I would like to clarify the agenda.

I am particularly concerned that we don't beat around the bush. The heart of the debate must be the correctness of principles, the effectiveness of methods and the softness of techniques in order to achieve a respectful training of the horse and produce quality teachers.



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- **Theory** must avoid all empty phrases, time-honoured mantras and other statements of intent. It must consist of clear and comprehensible principles founded on scientific justifications.
- **Practice** must truly reflect the theory.

Competitive dressage, the sport which serves as the alibi for a huge business, is neither the origin nor the *raison d'être* of equestrian culture. Rather, it should be a shining example of it. This sport interests me only insofar as it is the visible tip of the iceberg and shows the effects of a system.

Last but not least, we have to fix a date. My timetable will not allow me to envisage anything before the beginning of 2010.

With the hope to be of service to the cause of the horse and the future of equitation, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Philippe Karl



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