

PRESS RELEASE

European State Studs Association e.V. (ESSA)

Festival of European Stud Culture: the European State Studs congratulated Marbach to the stud's 500th jubilee

Marbach (11. July 2014, AL). From July 2nd to 5th the representatives of the leading European national studs met at the Festival of European Stud Culture, which took place in connection with the 500th jubilee of the German State Stud Marbach. It was a superb equestrian event with horses, riders and drivers from hosting Marbach State Stud, the Brandenburg State Stud Neustadt-Dosse, the Mecklenburg-Pomeranian State Stud Redefin, the Polish State Stud Sierákow, the National Stud Kladruby nad Labem and Písek State Stud (both Czech Republic), the Slovakian National Stud Topol'čianky, the Slovene National Stud Lipica, the Suisse National Stud Avenches, the French National Studs Uzès and Rosières-aux-Salines, and the Spanish Riding School of Vienna.



European Quadrille at the Marbach Classics Open Air Shows

Photo: Cathrin Schütt

More images at www.marbach-classics.de

Marbach Classics Open Air: A journey through the European horse world

The art of classical riding and driving was celebrated in the large stud arena at two glamorous gala evenings with live music of the Wuerttemberg Symphonic Orchestra. Within the *Marbach Classics* shows the studs presented the diversity of their breeds, from heavy draft horses to rare special breeds and modern sport horses. The visitors experienced a musical journey through 500 years of history, in which the hoof beat of the horse gave rhythm in war and peace, for travel, agriculture and at social events.

Symposium about European Stud Culture

The gala evenings were added during the day by a well-received symposium with presentations about European stud culture and visits of the Marbach stud premises. The representatives of the present studs introduced their institutions and exchanged their views on the equestrian heritage of Europe and the role of the national studs in the past, the present and the future. Their contributions were added by presentations of renowned experts as Prof. Dr. Peter Burman, former conservation director of the National Trust for Scotland and head of the conservation study course at the University of York, Martin Haller of the Documentation Center of Old-Austrian horse breeds and the Chief Riding Master of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, João Pedro Rodrigues.



Participants of the ESSA conference at Marbach

Photo: Marion Junger



New ESSA board

During the festival the annual conference of the European State Studs Association (ESSA) took place. Currently 32 studs in 15 countries have joined the network which aims to preserve and promote European stud culture. ESSA founding president Bernard Maurel, heritage delegate of the French stud administration IFCE, retired from his position and was appointed as honorary member. Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, director of Marbach State Stud and so far ESSA treasurer succeeded him. The conference participants elected Dr. Maximilian Dobretsberger, director of the Austrian State Stud Piber as vice-president. New treasurer is Dr. Stefan Rieder, who is responsible for the Suisse National Stud. Thierry Delsalle, delegate of international affairs at the French stud administration IFCE, was appointed as new board member. Janez Rus, stud manager of the Slovene National Stud Lipica was confirmed as board member. Alexandra Lotz will continue in her position as head of the ESSA office.