



Caen, 1st September 2014

European Horse Network reports to the Horse Industry participants gathered in Normandy on 1st September 2014

More than 350 leaders of Europe's horse sector gathered together in Normandy last week to consider the enormous progress made in uniting the voice of the horse sector, through the European Horse Network, against an inspiring backdrop of the World Equestrian Games

In the first horse conference since 2009 when the Swedish Presidency supported the Equus event and its legacy, the European Horse Network (EHN) celebrated its progress.

EHN Chair Stefan Johanson built the collaborative organisation and reported proudly that:

"Today the EHN is a dynamic organisation with a small budget but important achievements and huge ambitions!" he said. "The aim from the beginning was to put the horse on the EU agenda and after 4 years, the EHN has become the platform of the Horse Industry, a tool that anybody can use to lobby the institutions, and is a strong competence centre for policy, advice and collaborative events.

Its biggest achievement was to create the Parliament Horse Group which meets three times per year. An average of six MEPs attend from all nationalities, including English, French, Swedish and Polish.

Six issues were discussed with MEPs before voting on important legislative documents such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the future R&D programme and the Animal Health Regulation.

Members of the Network are preparing an Expert Seminar on 9 October with Members of the Parliament and EU Commission representatives to discuss all issues that will be on the table of the Institutions in the current Parliamentary cycle. These include the vital issues of equine identification, the Zootechnical Regulations, Animal welfare, veterinary medicines and the significant concern of antibiotic resistance...and of course, how to preserve the economic viability of the horse sector.

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The European Horse Network is a non-profit network of stakeholders acting within the European horse sector. One of its purposes is to act as a platform for the horse industry to communicate common issues with European institutions and media at the European level. Members include : EFTBA - European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders Associations, FEI - International Equestrian Federation, EEF - European Equestrian

Federation, EPMA - European Pari Mutuel Association, ESSA – European State Studs, Hippolia – Equine Industry cluster, FEIF – Icelandic Horses, WBFSH – World federation of Sport horses Breeders, Swedish Horse Council Foundation, EMHF - European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation, UET - European Trotting Union, World Horse Welfare, FECTU – European Draught Horse Federation, European Equestrian Education Network and Confédération Belge du Cheval.