



**EHN Annual Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 - Brussels**

Attendees:

Bo Helander - EEF, European Equestrian Federation  
Jessica Stark – WHW, World Horse Welfare  
Florence Gras – EPMA, European Pari Mutuel Association  
Paul Khan - EMHF, European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation  
Pit Schlechter – FECTU, European Draught Horse Federation  
Stefan Johanson – HNS, Swedish Horse Industry Foundation  
Nick Elsass – EFTBA, European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations  
Jean-Pierre Devos – CBC, Confédération Belge du Cheval  
Marko Mazeland - FEIF, Icelandic Horses  
Nancy de Briyne – FEEVA, European Equine Veterinary Associations  
Ben Mayes – FEEVA, European Equine Veterinary Associations  
Catherine Bonnichon – EEF, European Equestrian Federation/FITE, Equestrian Tourism  
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Foundation  
Aurore Foursin, Hippolia, French Horse Cluster  
Guy Heymans – European Trainers Federation  
Claire Cordilhac – IFCE, French Horse and Equestrian Institute

Excused:

Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck – European State Studs Association  
Klaus Miesner – WBFSS, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses  
Sanna Mäki-Tuuri - Hippolis  
Audrey Aussibal – Hippolia, French Horse Cluster  
Harald Muller - FEI, International Equestrian Federation  
Philippe Casier - EMHF  
Markus Scharmann, - EEN  
Marcello Hinxman-Allegri, FERPI (Italian Horse Regions),  
Torbjorn Froysnes – UET, European Trotting Union

Invited:

Xavier Dornier, IFCE  
Marc Paoloni, Business Bridge Europe

The Chairman opened the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting by welcoming the 13 organisations attending (16 participants) and new representatives from IFCE and FITE

Round Table about 2015 activities of members and future projects:

**EPMA** – Meetings organised with EU Commission new representatives since November 2015: meeting with legal services on horseracing levy, meetings on Digital Single market issues. EPMA is preparing response to EU consultations on digital single market.

**FEEVA** – Equine vets worked on availability of medicines, diseases surveillance and end of life. A survey on European vets was made in 2015 – available on the web site: <http://www.fve.org/news/reports.php>



**FEIF** – Icelandic horses have a unique database well managed  
Welfare issues to be looked at because of greater demand to athletic horses  
New use of horses (social and health) is an opportunity on which to work.

**EEF** – The 2015 General Assembly was held on 14 October in Warsaw. A record number of 26 National Federations as well as 4 associate members were present. EEF Board elections: 9 candidates had come forward for a total of 4 available seats. Theo Ploegmakers (NED), George Dimaras (GRE), Andrew Finding (GBR) and Nayla Stössel (SUI) have been elected for a term of 4 years.  
EEF has developed its brotherhood project (Big Federations helping smalls).

**CBC** – The Belgium Horse structure worked on the central database to improve the online application process.

**World Horse Welfare** – WHW worked on the Equine Report “removing the blinkers” and on Guidance documents with FEEVA and COPA.  
Campaign 2016 will promote the identification process “the invisible horse” and the campaign to improve the welfare of working horses in Romania will continue.

**EMHF** – 27 Horse racing gallop authorities in Europe and Mediterranean countries, of which 16 are EU members. EMHF has provided input for the Equine Welfare report by pointing out the efficient self regulation existing in the gallop sector. EMHF works closer with EEF and UET for a coherent message to decision makers. EMHF met EU policy makers in July to explain the return from betting. EMHF is part of the EU working groups on sport and attends the Sport Forum.

**ETF** – European racing Trainers are working on the harmonisation of racing rules.

**Hippolia** – 10 companies and 150 new jobs created in France around the horse industry

**EFTBA** – EFTBA has been active on EU lobbying for identification and end of life issues.

**FECTU** – The structure has achieved to re-publish the Draught Animal News as an online publication in 3 languages.

Luxembourg Presidency – EU ministers attended demonstrations of modern technologies using horses

FECTU has continued International Traineeship exchange

Announcing British Festival of the Working Horse in June 2016

<http://www.britishfestivaloftheworkinghorse.co.uk>

**HNS** –Breeding decreasing by 25% in 5 years

Common development plan promoted to all politicians and civil organisations – “The Swedish Horse Industry 2020”: Platform on 6 societal challenges (urbanisation, unemployment, stress/illness, altered landscape, need of physical meeting places, youths, gap between different groups of people). HNS also worked on:

- Breeding activities (education, breeding models, digital market sales, promoting export of swedish horses, goods and services)
- New models for horse keeping in a more urbanised society
- Development of equine entrepreneurship



- Horse meat in the food chain
- New funding to horse research

Sweden is preparing new betting regulation in 2019

### **Key figures of the horse industry – Xavier Dornier from IFCE**

EHN needs to work on economic data in a professional way and has invited Xavier Dornier from IFCE Observatory to explain his methodology and relate his expertise in order to create inside EHN a core group working on figures.

4 persons from IFCE are dedicated to equine industry research on macro economy with the objectives to:

- Measure the impact of equine activities and monitor their development
- Produce Indicators at national, regional, departmental levels
- Serve User (Institutional, policy makers, professional bodies)

The Observatory is working from existing databases and is initiating surveys: Regional economic observatory (IFCE, Horse Council), online quantitative surveys on horse prices...

Need to work on International data - Several methods have been tested:

- Collect from EAAP researcher group (2011) asking to produce some indicators that provide information on the impact of equine activities: Number of horses, jobs, turnover.
- Collect raw data (2015) Collecting data to follow equine activity: number of birth, race, rider, betting amount...

EHN could create a group of experts to collect and analyse economic data, make appropriate analysis and produce the best indicators

A Call for experts and date of kick-off meeting will be sent to all soon

### **Working Session on EHN strenghts/opportunities**

In 6 years, EHN has followed the following objectives:

- Promote the development of the horse sector in Europe.
- To help members coordinate their activities in order to increase the visibility and impact of the horse sector.
- Act as a platform for the horse industry to communicate common issues with European institutions and media at the European level.
- Exchange views on political developments affecting the horse sector in Europe.
- Discuss, define and lobby on areas of common interests on the European political agenda.
- Discuss and define issues of common interest to develop the horse sector in Europe.

Are they still valid today? How to modernise the approach?

- Create a Vision/Mission statement
- Add the Economic value of the sector and its new customers (health, hippotherapy, coaching...)

Participants are divided into 4 groups to work on Swot analysis and suggest activities for next year.



### EHN strength and weaknesses

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
EHN unites the horse sector for the first time Unique structure EHN is growing (22 members – could add more from equine professionals) Good recognition by EU Institutions Members are professionals, robust and committed organisations	Difficult definition of priorities Lack of identity Lack of visibility Lack of resources (money, people)

### Horse Sector Opportunities/threats

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Growing interest in the horse sector Connected to societal changes (environment, health, rural jobs...) Willingness to work together New use of horses, new jobs Land use possibilities Better welfare rules	Low interest from EU Institutions Economic crisis/decrease in breeding/less owners Urbanisation Diversity of the sector/invisibility Obtain proper data/Need overall view Risk of exaggerated welfare rules

### EHN Proposals for 2016 activities:

- **Quantify the horse sector and increase its visibility**
  - **Think globally, Act locally**
- Promote a real strategic plan (where to go, how, timetable, monitoring) – Vision/Mission (to update/modernise EHN objectives)
- Coordinate collection of data and manage studies
- Avoid duplication of efforts/efficient collaboration
- More members: Possible greater involvement from Eastern Europe, all national “umbrella” organisations such as BHS (British Horse Society), Ireland? More equine jobs representations (farriers)
- Encourage interchange of activities and ideas between members
- Explore practical policy applications (role of horses in new towns)

### Communication:

- Further seminar/conferences in EP – EHN Members should directly contact their “national” MEPs for a greater presence in meetings



→ Newsletters (every 4 months) – more legal content, more languages, further distribution

→ Web site – Deliver statistics on visits and downloaded documents

The next Board meeting will work on these results and present an Action Plan for 2016

### **EHN General Assembly Meeting** **Opens at 11.55**

#### **1. Election of a chairman for the Annual meeting**

Stefan Johanson is chosen to chair the meeting

#### **2. Election of a secretary**

Florence Gras is writing the minutes

#### **3. Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved by all without modification or addition

#### **4. Report from the chairman**

Since 2009, the network has grown from 6 to 22 member organisations – great legacy of the Swedish Presidency. EHN is now gathering all structures of the horse sector and uses internal expertise to inform, and promote a coherent message to the decision makers.

It is a dynamic structure with little money but important achievements.

All members validated the activity report (attached).

#### **5. Financial report for 2015**

Report approved by all.

Income – membership fee from members

Expenses – MEP Horse Group lunches, web site, EAAP workshop, leaflets, banners

We have the possibility to finance a new event in 2016

#### **6. Applications of new member organisations**

##### **IFCE (French Institute for equestrian sport and equines)**

IFCE results from a merger between public institutions (20 national studs + 2 equestrian schools) linked to the Agricultural Ministerial Department as well as the Ministry of sports. The IFCE represents all the French equine activities: breeding, racing, sport, research, training, leisure, scientific questions. It is considered as the French platform to relate all sectors.

It is a technical institute which gives references, notes, advices on identification (centralized roster), zootechnical, reproduction and veterinary questions, innovations, research, sport, training...

The IFCE competences and aptitudes are complementary to EHN:

- producing regular and technical notes about European legal proposals
- sharing information and stats from the economic and social Observatory for EHN benchmark;
- Work on common positions on questions raised by a legal proposal: welfare



### **FITE (International Equestrian Tourism Federation)**

FITE was created in 1975 on the initiative of France, supported by BE and IT to unite national equestrian tourism worldwide (22 today including Canada and US). They work on infrastructures and trails projects and train instructors as well as look at the quality of equestrian tourism products.

FITE has created 2 internal WGs, sport and EU committee that will work closely with EHN.

Both structures are welcomed inside EHN

### **7. Exclusion of member organizations**

No reasons to exclude organizations.

### **8. Election of members to the Executive Board**

Candidates for 2016 mandate: Florence Gras (EPMA), Bo Helander (EEF), Roly Owers (WHW), Klaus Miesner (WBSFH), Pierre Lekeux from Hippolia Fondation, Nancy de Briyne (FEEVA), Nick Elsass, (EFTBA), Erica Lindberg, (SHIF), Mark Wentein (CBC)

All are elected at the Board of EHN for 2016.

Stefan Johanson is stepping off from Board and Chairman

Next Board meeting will elect the new EHN Chairman

Next Board is organised on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 in Brussels.

### **9. Setting the annual membership fee for 2016**

Membership fee stays at the same level: €500/per year

**End at 12.45.**

#### **Next steps:**

- **Update web site with new members information – Roly**
- **Membership invoices for 2016**
- **Call for experts to participate to the Economic Data WG - Florence**
- **Contact Julie Girling for next MEP Horse Group meeting dates – Florence**

**Next EHN Board meeting in Brussels (EPMA office): 23 November 2015 - 10.30 am**