

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



**Equine Conference
21 October 2015**
From left to right:
Torbjorn Froysnes, Ambassador of the Council of Europe and moderator, Roly Owers, CEO of WHW, Julie Girling, MEP, Denis Simonin, EU Commission /DG Health, Christiane Kirketerp de Viron, EU Commission /DG AGRI, Hanfried Haring, President of EEF



- EHN General Assembly
- EHN Board Meeting
- Next MEP Horse Group
- New Members

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

I am very honoured to take over the Chairmanship of the EHN from this month. My involvement in the Horse industry began in Bruges (BEL) in 1975 when I started driving tourists in a horse carriage through the historical city centre as a student job. Horses became my profession and passion.

I have been several times Belgian Champion in driving and qualified as a member for the Belgian team on numerous FEI World Championships. I saddle these same carriage horses weekly for drag hunting, leisure riding or eventing.

Horses have been the noblest conquest of the human being. So we should

respect this magnificent animal with the historical, agricultural, sportive, recreational and land-based heritage. EHN should be a "go-between" all the different equine stakeholders, the EU Commission, Government, administrations and institutions.

Horses were known for their historical horsepower in war, agriculture and industry. Now they are our companions in sport and leisure. We should take care and respect their welfare. Horses have their educational and economical place in a modern European society.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for 2016!

Mark Wenten, Chairman



EHN leaflets are available

Horses in Europe, Horses and CAP, Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health, Education and Training, Veterinary products, Growth & Environment

www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu



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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONFERENCE ON EQUINE WELFARE



The conference hosted by Julie Girling along with Eurogroup for Animals and the European Horse Network, built on the conclusions of the report 'Removing the Blinks: The health and welfare of European equidae in 2015', published in June 2015. 70 Attendees, including civil servants, diplomats, politicians, representatives from NGOs and the Horse industry gathered in the European Parliament on 21 October.

It was positive to organise such a meeting in the European Parliament and the debate following the presentations was very high level. To follow up after such a report, EHN has decided to organise an MEP horse group meeting to discuss Mrs Girling's report on Responsible Ownership and to create an expert Group to collect relevant economic and social data about the Horse industry.

EHN General Assembly – 21 October 2015 in Brussels

The Chairman opened the 6th Annual meeting by welcoming the 13 organisations attending (16 participants) and new representatives from **IFCE (French Institute for equestrian sport and equines)** and **FITE (International Equestrian Tourism Federation)**.

EHN has created a **group of experts to collect and analyse economic data**, make appropriate analysis and produce the best indicators. IFCE Observatory will lead the group. A Call for experts and date of kick-off meeting should be scheduled for January 2016.

EHN Board meeting – 23 November 2015 in Brussels

The newly elected EHN Chairman

Mark Wentein, unanimously elected, is henceforth the new Chairman of EHN. Honored and wanting to continue the work of his predecessor. He named Stefan Johanson Honorary President of EHN.

During his mandate, the new Chairman wishes to improve the visibility of EHN. Moreover, he feels that activities involved with horses need to be consistent and consider responsible ownership and end of life management. Therefore, health, welfare and education should be the priority in the actions and messages of EHN. Erica Lindberg is a new member, representing the Swedish Farmers. She works with the Swedish Horse Foundation and sits in the COPA Horse commission.

Topics for 2016 - Members agreed that EHN should be Reactive and Proactive and need to focus on few topics: Health and Welfare, Education. The EHN will also support the COPA with the important topic of VAT.

In parallel, the EHN website will be improved, and a legal newsletter for EHN members and horse industry (3 times/year) launched.

Profile of Mark Wentein

After Economic studies at the St-Leocollege (gymnasium) in Bruges (BE) and applied economics at UFSIA (Antwerp), Mark Wentein is professionally engaged in the equestrian world:

- Independent Court and insurance expert
- Chair of the Belgian confederation which is since 2006 the legal holder of the Belgian Central Database for all horses and ponies. (more than 300.000 registered)
- Founder, editor chief and owner of HIPPO Revue, the Belgian magazine specialized in equestrian sport;
- Professional journalist and equestrian photographer; Member of IAEJ (Int. Alliance of Equestrian Journalists);
- Involved in FEI as judge and trainer;
- Owner of licenses for horse carriages in Bruges, transporting more than 300 000 tourists a year



Next MEP Horse Group 2016 in Brussels

Education, Tourism, Finance

- Responsible ownership on 2nd March
- Equestrian tourism (Summer 2016)
- Financial resources of the Horse industry (Date TBC)

New Members



IFCE French Institute for equestrian sport and equines

IFCE is a French public organisation linked to the agricultural and sport Ministry, representing the French equine sectors: breeding, horse racing, equine sport, research, training, leisure activities and scientific questions.

IFCE is a technical institute which gives references on identification (centralized base), zootechnical, reproduction and veterinary questions. It collects economic data, coordinate innovation and research, support the managements of French studs.

The IFCE expertise is complementary to EHN and can improve EHN's work on legal monitoring, collection of economic and social data.

<http://www.ifce.fr/>

FITE International Equestrian Tourism Federation

FITE gathers 22 National Equestrian Tourism Organizations from Germany, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA (Virginia). Its objective is to represent National Equestrian Tourism Organisations, to coordinate their action and contribute to the development of all tourism activities linked to the use of horses.

Thanks to FITE partnership, EHN will increase its knowledge of equestrian activities in relation to trail riding and equestrian tourism, which are major assets for local dynamics.

<http://en.fite-net.org/index.php>

17 December in Brussels - FITE Board meeting in Brussels

On the occasion of his election in September 2015, Frédéric BOUIX proposed to create a new EU committee within the FITE. In this view, FITE invited during its Board meeting the EHN Chairman and EU Commission representatives from Sport and Tourism Units to discuss Equestrian Tourism. It was underlined that equestrian tourism should work together to be more representative at all levels. EHN took note that certification and International Equestrian routes were essential topics to focus on. The MEP Horse Group on Equestrian Tourism is scheduled for June/July 2016 co-organised by FITE and EHN.

