

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



MEP Horse Group On Responsible Ownership in Brussels on 2 march 2016

Members of the European Parliament attending:
Jean Arthuis,
Julie Girling,
Marlene Mizzi,
Philippe De Backer
Roger Helmer
From EU Commission :
Alf Fussel
Alexandra Kostorz
From EU Council, Ireland:
Daryl Noble



July 2016

- New member
- MEP Horse Group on Responsible Ownership
- EHN Board
- Next events

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

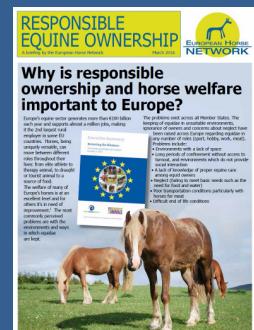
The period has been calm for EHN activities as the events prepared by the Board could not take place. The Brexit result has first shaken up the agenda of the European Parliament and will impact even more EHN when UK MEPs will step down from their office. The Horse sector will lose strong supporters, particularly Julie Girling, who has been involved in our activities since the beginning in 2009. An equestrian Sport discussion event in June and the MEP Horse Group lunch in July were postponed.

Despite the disappointment, EHN

continues to work with MEPs with great knowledge and awareness and is preparing its AGM/Conference taking place on 19 October in Brussels.

There are many topics that EHN members want to debate but we need to be practical and sharp. An important topic is today on the table of many administrations: the disposal of horses. It is linked to other issues that EHN need to tackle, registration, re-introduction in the food chain. It will therefore be on the table of our next meeting in October where I hope to see many of you.

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, Responsible Ownership

www.europeanhorsennetwork.eu



New Membership Application

<http://www.fnrs.nl/>

The FNRS is the Federation of Professional Dutch Equestrian Centres. The FNRS represents 400 professional equestrian companies and 250 equestrian clubs in the Netherlands. It gathers 80.000 riders and 40.000 horses. The FNRS is involved in lobby activities towards the Dutch government and EU.

Board members invited representatives last April and responded positively to their application. FNRS is invited to EHN General Assembly in October.



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Articles about EHN in the Press

In January, a press release together with the December Newsletter was sent to 100 journalists (specialised press) around the world.

A couple of articles followed as well as a good list of media contacts.

MEP Horse Group on 2nd March 2016 in Brussels

Responsible ownership on 2nd March

Introducing the discussions, **Julie Girling**, explained that her decision to produce an Own Initiative Report on Responsible Equine Ownership reflected how fundamental knowledgeable, responsible owners are to the health and welfare of the EU's 7 million horses.

"This report and its call for guidance and education of horse owners is in line with the Better Regulation agenda in that we aim to advise owners on how to care for their animal. We hope the report and any guidance or code which emerges from it will help to inform other debates on how we care for our horses, including transport, health and trade. "A code of practice will help lift the level of information and knowledge out there so helping to build a stronger foundation for Europe's 100 billion Euros equine sector."



Dr Alf Füssel of the European Commission, DG SANTE, supported the principle of guidance or a code of practice to help install responsible ownership and to "spread knowledge" which is "an important part of improving health and welfare." He emphasised that horse owners, the sector and governments must acknowledge that together 'We are responsible'.

Dr Füssel emphasised the importance of robust equine identification to link each horse to an owner and to identify where Europe's horses are in the event of a disease outbreak.

Dr Daryl Noble, Agricultural Attaché, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Ireland spoke in favour of a code of practice for Europe.

Leanne Masterson spoke eloquently about her personal experience of excelling at horse care and management within the UK's **horseracing industry** and the importance of their mandatory educational programmes in her success. "Responsible horse ownership is at the heart of good health and welfare, and I know more than most how well race horses are cared for and increasingly retrained for 'second lives' which too is part of being a responsible owner."



EHN Board meeting on 19 April 2016

FERPI, Tuscany's Equestrian Sector Working Group is stepping out of EHN

EHN Board welcomed a new member, **FNRS, Dutch Equestrian Centres**.

Members prepared events for July that were unfortunately postponed because of the Brexit vote and the modified agenda of the European Parliament.

FEEVA (association of equine vets) gave an update in the ongoing work to collect data for best practices for transport of cattle, horses, poultry, pigs and sheep. The document/guidelines will reach a large number of transport companies as well as owners.

16 members from 10 countries are part of the consortium including 5 partners, Eurogroup4Animals, IRU, WLR Livestock (research), COPA, and FEEVA.

The First framework should be available on 25 May for discussion. A specific discussion on Horses guidelines should be organised in October

Next Events

EHN next **Board meeting** is scheduled on 5 and 6 September in Bruges. Members will actively prepare our next AGM/Conference.

Horse Conference in Caen, Normandy on 27 September

This third edition will focus on Equine sport medicine, knowledge and prevention.

<http://www.en.assisesfiliereequine.com/programme-edition-2016/>



EHN General Assembly on 19 October in Brussels

Save the Date. The programme will be sent after the Board beginning of September.

WHD Conference on 10 November in London – The invisible horse