

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK LEGAL UPDATE

N°2 - December 2016

Dear readers,

Welcome to the second issue of EHN Legal Newsletter. A regular update on regulations is essential for our business.

The aim of EHN is to coordinate messages from different segments of the industry, draft position (see next page), meet the relevant decision makers and inform the largest community as possible.

2017 will see many discussions around Animal Health Regulations that will impact the horse industry (consult the agenda on next page). To facilitate and increase the coordination, EHN

wishes to gather all "Regulation specialists" from members' structures for a meeting in 2017 for regular exchange of views and information and efficient lobbying at national and European level. Please contact EHN to give the name of your expert. More News after EHN Board meeting scheduled on 28 February to prepare 2017

Enjoy the winter season and Best wishes for 2017!

Mark Wentein
EHN Chairman

HORSES IN US – New Economic Impact Study in 2017

In 2017, the American Horse Council Foundation will be updating its National and State Economic Impact Studies.

The costs are evaluated at roughly \$500,000 for the national study and \$20,000 for individual state studies.

On 26 October, Innovation Group has been selected to conduct the study. Data collection should start in March 2017, with a completion date in October 2017.

The previous 2005 National Economic Study established that the horse industry in all its segments, including racing, showing, and recreation, had a \$102 billion effect on the US economy, involved 9.2 million horses, and supported 1.4 million full-time jobs. The study has been extremely helpful to the industry's efforts in Congress and state legislation and in documenting its size and diversity to the public, press and media.

The previous study was used by EHN as a reference.

AHC information: <http://bit.ly/2grNWVB>

HORSES IN EUROPE – EUROSTAT has not published updates since 1997

Since 1960, Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, has published year data on equine inside the chapter on Agriculture in the «livestock and meat» section but it is stopped in 1997. <http://bit.ly/2h9iXRN>

In 2008, Regulations were updated to organise a regular publication of livestock (twice a year for bovine and pigs, once/year for sheeps, goats) and meat statistics for animal farms. Slaughtering figures as well as forecast.

Regulation 504/2008 was supposed to organise the data collection of equidae. However, such legislation was not implemented correctly by Member States and equidae data were not updated. EHN will meet Eurostat representatives beginning 2017 in order to understand how a proper survey and data collection could be available again.



December 2016

- Surveys, studies
- Update on ongoing EU Regulation
- Also on the EU agenda
- Opinion Column

RESPONSIBLE EQUINE OWNERSHIP
A leaflet by the European Horse Network
March 2016

Why is responsible ownership and horse welfare important to Europe?

Europe's equine sector generates more than €100 billion each year and supports almost a million jobs, making it the 2nd largest rural employer in some EU countries. Horses, being uniquely sensitive, can trace biological effects back throughout their lives from often subtle to strong stimuli. It's thought or feared animals to a source of food.

The welfare of many of Europe's horses is at an excellent level and for others EU is in need of improvement! The most commonly perceived problems are with the environments and spaces in which equines are kept.

The problems exist across all Member States. The keeping of equines in unsuitable environments, generation of manure and concerns about equines have been cited across Europe regarding equines in many number of roles (sport, hobby, work, meat). Problems include:

- Environments with a lack of space
- Long periods of confinement without access to turnout, and environments which do not provide a social structure
- A lack of knowledge of proper equine care among equine owners
- Inadequate feeding to meet basic needs, such as the need for food and water
- Poor transportation conditions particularly with horses for meat
- Difficult work of life conditions

Research conducted by World Horse Welfare and compiled for Equine in the report Farming the Planet: The Health and Welfare of European Equines in 2015, areas that despite the breadth of the sector, the welfare problems facing Europe's 7 million equines are remarkably similar.

EHN leaflets are available

www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu



@euhorsenetwork

Ongoing European Regulation

Animal Health Law

On 31 March the Animal Health Law (now called the Regulation on transmissible animal diseases) was published. The full text is available: <http://bit.ly/1SBIRse>

It shall apply from 21 April 2021, except for a few articles, which will come into force at a later stage. The European Commission is now working hard on all **delegated and implementing acts** which were identified by the European Parliament and Council as priority acts.

[impact on the Horse industry and agenda:](#)

- **List of diseases** for which prevention and control are specific (study on 8 diseases)
Public consultation early 2017
- **Movements** of animals inside EU
Study on the movement of animals for slaughtering launched in Sept 2016 to obtain real figures – results in June 2017 – Public Consultation should follow
- **EU Monitoring and eradication instruments**
EU Commission draft should be available end 2017
Experts from States should work from there.

Zootechnical Regulation

Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 adopted on 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals <http://bit.ly/2hchfid>

Delegate acts now being discussed:

Draft on **content and format of the zootechnical certificate for equidae as well as list of reference centers**

Meetings of experts are organized by EU Commission to discuss the various acts.

[Agenda](#)

- 9 January 2017: possible expert meeting
- Beginning February 2017: Possible Vote by Standing Committee on Zootechnics.
- 1st May 2017: Deadline for the adoption of the delegate acts

Also on the EU agenda

Proposal for Regulation on veterinary medicines

The revision is to increase the availability of medicines, to reduce the administrative burden, to improve the functioning of the internal market and to tackle antimicrobial resistance. More than 1000 amendments for the first reading in EP on 10 March <http://bit.ly/2gOet2>
[Impact on the horse industry:](#)

- Ban antimicrobial treatment for better performance
- Rules on internet sales of medicines
- An opportunity to insist against the life exclusion from the food chain

[Agenda](#)

- Members States' experts inside the Council of Ministers are studying the document to agree on the various articles. Next meeting on 18 Dec
- A possible agreement in Spring 2017
- Trilogue negotiations between 3 EU Institutions could start after summer 2017.

EHN meets EU Commission in December and EP rapporteur beginning 2017.

Opinion Column

EHN position on equidae food chain exclusion

The European Horse Network (EHN) does not support the principle of lifetime exclusion of equidae from the food chain. Europe needs a more straightforward way to provide a humane end of life for equidae.

Owners have the responsibility to provide a good life for their horses, which included providing a good death – but unfortunately, this is not always the case for equidae in Europe.

EHN believes that attitudes towards equine end of life and the options available have a profound impact on equine welfare, often to its detriment. There are limited options for euthanising equidae in many Member States and the significant associated costs, also for retrieving the cadaver and the crematorium costs, that can be unaffordable for some owners, often leads to neglect, even abandon.

In terms of maintaining options for owners, EHN recognises that humane slaughter for the human food chain can play a role in supporting equine welfare through giving the animal a residual value.

EHN does not support the principle of lifetime exclusion of equidae from the food chain. Europe needs a more straightforward way to provide a humane end of life for equidae when veterinary euthanasia is unavailable or unaffordable (regardless of whether the animal is signed out of the food chain under Commission Regulation (EC) 504/2008 or Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/262).

EHN would strongly supports an end to the lifetime exclusion and a move to a model where all regulations point out those medicinal products that might carry a human health risk so that appropriate testing of carcasses can be carried out at the slaughterhouse.

The principal of lifetime exclusion is wrong as there is no evidence that any drugs require a lifetime ban.

Moreover, the same regulation must apply to horse meat imports from Third countries. The recent EC implementing decision to allow horsemeat from Third countries to be imported in the EU after a retention period of the slaughter horses of six months (Certificate has been adopted mid-September) creates an unlevel playing field between Third countries and Members States.

Aftercare systems and organisations for racing and sport horses are being created in many areas but remains insufficient.

EHN believes that carcasses testing is the option that could both support horse welfare and provide protection for human health.

EHN asks the European Commission to modify and adopt appropriate regulations to end lifetime exclusion and adopt the same rules for import of horse meat from Third countries