



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK  
BOARD MEETING - 28 February 2017**

Attendees:

Nancy de Briyne	FEEVA - Vets
Florence Gras	EPMA – Horse Betting
Roly Owers	WHW - Welfare
Mark Wentein	CBC, Chairman
Nick Elsass	EFTBA – Thoroughbred Breeders
Erica Lindberg	LRF/HNS Horse Foundation Sweden
Nadine Brandtner	WBSFH Sport Horses Breeders
Pierre Lekeux	Hippolia Foundation - Research
Camille Vercken	Hippolia
Tim Richardson	EFTBA Thoroughbred Breeders
Constance Popineau	EFTBA Thoroughbred Breeders

Excused: Bo Helander, EEF – Klaus Miesner, WBSFH

**1. Opening**

Welcome by Mark Wentein in the new location of the Belgium Horse Confederation.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

Agenda adopted

**3. Update on EU activities:**

- Food Chain life exclusion and the 6 months' rule (update document distributed to participants)

EHN must continue to raise awareness

FEEVA didn't reach an agreement with its members

This issue was put aside during the Member States' discussion

- Consumers' sales (update document distributed to participants)

Meet Mr Zaleski on 6 March at EU DG Justice

Suggest amendments to EP rapporteur

- UELN and horse identification

Must be kept

Convince representatives at national level

- Girling's Responsible Equine Ownership report (vote in AGRI on 25/01)

Vote in plenary on 14 March

Next step is to bring the report to the EU Animal Welfare Platform

**Figures** – EUROSTAT was contacted – They have stopped collecting Equine figures in 1996 because of lack of resources and not a priority at EU level - Were told that Julie Girling has asked for a EUROSTAT study on Equines in her Own Initiative Report (to be voted in plenary on 13 March)– will see if the EU Commission considers such demand as a priority.

### **New topics because of EU Consultations and calls:**

#### **VAT reform – Consultation opened on 20 Dec and closing on 20 March**

COPA and EEF will reply - Difficult for EHN to reply because of strong discrepancies in VAT level in the horse industry – However, some suggestions in order to avoid competition between Member States could be useful to discuss (document attached).

**Future European Agricultural Policy – Consultation** opened on 2 February and will close on 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Could be relevant for EHN to reply – need Agriculture expert to help answer the 34 questions

#### **Call for experts for the Animal Welfare Platform**

"Platform on Animal Welfare" was launched by EU Commission on 24 January 2017 (Decision C(2017)280) – Group of experts to assist the EU Commission.

The Platform's tasks are:

- to assist the Commission with the development and exchange of coordinated actions contributing to the implementation and application of European Union legislation related to animal welfare
- to facilitate the development and the use of voluntary commitments on animal welfare improvement by businesses;
- to contribute to the promotion of Union standards on animal welfare
- to encourage dialogue between competent authorities, businesses, civil society, academia, scientists, and international intergovernmental organisations on Union relevant topics related to animal welfare;
- to promote exchange of experiences and good practices, scientific knowledge and innovations on related to animal welfare relevant for the Union;
- to share information on policy development in the fields and on activities mentioned above. The Commission is calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the group other than Member States' authorities and other public entities.

The Platform has 75 members, 35 are Member States representatives as well as intergovernmental Associations and NGOs and 40 from EU organisations and companies.

In principle, the Platform shall meet at least twice a year

EHN supports the application of Professor Frank Gasthuys from Ghent University. He will apply before 6<sup>th</sup> March.

First meeting of the Platform is planned in June.

#### **4. EHN Working Groups to organise: Regulation/Legal, Communications**

Board members agree to create the group, useful to:

- Be mutually informed on topics (legislative proposal, action plan, event) with an impact on the horse industry
- Work upstream/Early Identification of problems
- Draft recommendations and joint position (the most difficult part but necessary to demonstrate EHN strength and good governance).

Claire Cordilhac will coordinate the group  
First meeting in June 2017

**5. Communication – EHN Web site**

Roly suggests to add new pages on sport, employment, trade to increase interest and awareness  
Need to update figures with infographic pages  
Give the tweeter account code to all

**6. Prepare MEP Horse Group – 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> July**

3<sup>rd</sup> May - MEP Horse Group with Jean Arthuis

Look at the reform of the CAP After 2020. Invite Chair of COPA Horse Group, James Murphy

13<sup>th</sup> July – EHN President meeting

Brainstorming meeting in the morning (what topics?) and MEP Horse Group in EP for lunch on  
Equestrian Tourism

**7. Other issues**

FEEVA Guidelines Fitness for Transport will be released in various languages in a few weeks