

## **EHN Annual General Meeting October 2011**

### Attendees:

Bo Helander - EEF, European Equestrian Federation  
Roly Owers -World Horse Welfare  
Florence Gras – EPMA, European Pari Mutuel Association  
Philippe Casier - EMHF, European and Mediterranean Racing Federation  
Pit Schlechter – FECTU, European Draught Horse Federation  
Stefan Johanson – HNS, Swedish Horse Council Foundation  
Harald Muller - FEI, International Equestrian Federation  
Inge Vandael - Confédération Belge du Cheval  
Bernard Maurel – ESSA, European State Studs Association

### Excused:

Klaus Miesner, WBFSh – Sport horses Breeders  
Torbjorn Froysnes, UET – European Trotting Union  
Cathy McGlynn, EFTBA – European Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association  
Frederic Chauvel, Pole de compétitivité Filière Equine  
Marko Mazeland, FEIF – Icelandic Horses  
Marek Grzybowski, Hipika Polska

### Invited :

Pierre Lekeux, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Liege

### Round Table about 2011 activities of members:

Philippe Casier explained the creation of **EMHF** inside the IFHA structure with the goals to exchange information, share best practices, assist small racing countries and lobby at EU level. The last goal as well as the promotion of racing is not implemented yet. EHN can bring support to the weak part of the Federation particularly on EU issues. Regarding the possibility to promote racing, Philippe hopes to renovate and put back in activity the Boisfort racecourse in Brussels.

Florence Gras explained **EPMA** position regarding the promotion of racing. In 2011, EPMA worked on the Green Paper on online gambling adopted in March (consultation process and workshop attendance).

Bernard Maurel relates the past and future activities of **ESSA**, Public Studs Association. ESSA represents 16 EU countries and 31 members. The Association is growing and after the first EU promotion event last year, has managed to set up an event 2 weeks ago in Slovenia on cultural heritage issues. Discussions with UNESCO Committee and International experts showed that horses are living heritage. ESSA will apply for a European heritage label. Philippe Casier offers the advice and guidance of his Belgium contact in Falconry (obtained the living heritage label).

ESSA also interested in Morocco, breed and studs. Florence will send the contact names in SOREC. In 2012, ESSA should work on ethic guidance and will hold its General Assembly in Bucarest in May. Harald Muller will send FEI’s ethic guidance documents regarding horse keeping.

Pit Schlechter recalled **FECTU’s** UK Symposium last year and meetings with MEPs regarding Horse Power recognition on the European list of energies.

He participated to FAO meeting last June on welfare of working animals.

Inge Vandael explained the registration of horses, one of the main activities of the **Belgium Horse Confederation**. The structure has started a project on Horse Rescue. Roly Owers will send a similar project done in UK.

Events on stud books are organized in Belgium beginning of December (Inge will send details).

Audi Masters Jumping event is organized in Brussels in November 2012 (22 to 25/11) – Inge will look at opportunities to invite EU officials.

Bo Helander recalled **EEF** General Assembly gathering 40 members organized in London last month joint to a sport conference.

Harald Muller insisted on the importance of regional and more efficient structures of **FEI, such as EEF**.

He participated to EU Sport Forum where were described the first EU transnational sport projects. FEI met the Commissioner in charge of sport. FEI is studying the feasibility of a Solidarity Fund for national Federations' projects (equestrian values promotion should be one of the criteria to select projects).

Clean Sport Campaign has been efficient because of high level sanctions.

A category of Associated members was created for linked structures such as WHW and riders. Members of this category obtain all FEI information and can make proposals during meetings (no voting rights).

**World Horse Welfare** continued to concentrate on transport and diseases issues and increased efforts on education by publishing information pack on good health (asking for funding at EU level for translation purposes of the booklet). A new dossier of evidence/key recommendations will be submitted to the EU Commission today in the perspective of the review of the Animal Transport Regulation to end the long-distance transportation of horses to slaughter in Europe. WHW will also focus on the responsible use of horses in sport in preview of London Olympic Games. WHW is an associated member of FEI to coordinate the efforts on this issue.

**Swedish Horse Foundation** has dialogued with many politicians in Sweden this year to promote the Pari Mutuel financing model.

360 000 horses in Sweden this year but breeding activities has dropped and less spectators during trotting events. Funding for research is under discussion as € 1,5 million was available last year (half of the amount came from the government and should not be renewed). One out of the 3 equestrian centres in Sweden close to ESSA issues should close their breeding activities.

EU Consumers' sale Act should be looked at and adapted to horse sales.

**Presentation of Hippolia by Pierre Lekeux, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Liege (presentation attached).**

The objective of Hippolia is to implement an equi-platform for innovation in order to develop R&D programmes in the equine medical sector. The strategy is to associate research with education and services and to focus on health, well-being and performance of sport horses.

A Network of scientists, researchers, information centres, pharmaceutical companies from all over the world will cooperate on 2 sites based in Normandy, Goustranville (living animals) and Saint Contest (in-vitro). New buildings are programmed for the final phase around 2014. A budget of € 10 million is available.

## **Presentation by Roly Owers on transport and diseases issues (presentation attached)**

*Reminder:* EU Regulation on the Transport of Animals (2005) Introduced significant improvements e.g. training, single stalling and movement of unbroken animals but did not update provisions on journey length or space allowances as well as inadequate provision of water before, during and after the journey.

The Commission's review on the Transport Regulation (1/2005) is due out on 10 November, but the report will not include any proposals for change to the Regulation.

In the short term, more use could be made of guidance on fitness to travel and water provision. WHW is also recommending more targeted audits by the Food and Veterinary Office of the Commission, more attention to animals rather than systems and more unannounced inspections.

Transportation review is due to be discussed at the EU Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals on 17 November.

European equine disease update: Many diseases (West Nile, Glanders, Equine infectious Anaemia, African Horse Sickness) represent important risk for European horses. For some diseases, vaccines do not exist

Increased vigilance and reporting are developing and improving (example of RESPE in France). Education of Veterinary Surgeons and Horse owning public represents a great part of prevention.

Pierre Lekeux also added that medication represents an issue regarding welfare and short medium and long term effects should be taken into account.

ELO presentation – for further cooperation?

European LandOwners Association is committed to promoting a sustainable and prosperous countryside and to increasing awareness relating to environmental and agricultural issues.

ELO develops:

- policy recommendations and programmes of action.
- interdisciplinary meetings gathering key actors from the rural sector and policy makers at the local, regional, national and European level,
- takes into account the climate change and the biodiversity loss challenges
- manages LIFE and R&D projects

What could be the benefits of cooperation?

- EHN could benefit from their experience and strong structure
- It could facilitate the promotion of the horse sector on environmental issues
- EHN could seek assistance for EU funded projects
- EHN could be invited to high level seminars and conferences to increase networking

Philippe Casier will invite his contact to participate to our next Board meeting.

## **EHN Annual Meeting**

### **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**

- The agenda, sent out, was approved by participants

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

- Stefan relates the events and activities organized in 2011 with the other Board members.
- The Network has taken several steps forward and is now visible in EU Institutions. The MEPs Horse Group was well attended last June in the Parliament and next meeting could not be organised in November but should focus on CAP Reform (to be organised in January 2012).
- All issues planned have been dealt with. The weak part of 2011 Action Plan was the impossibility to organise EQUUS conference in Poland. National elections in the country could not open the way to funding from the government. Hipika Polska is still trying to find funding and arrange the Equus-conference during the spring 2012. The deadline for planning this event is set to the year shift 2011/2012.
- A first contact with Cyprus representatives (if Poland can't manage the conference) was made by Cathy in order to discuss the opportunity to organise a conference under the Cyprus Presidency (second part of 2012).
- All members validated the activity report (attached).

### **5. Financial report for 2011**

- Report attached and approved by all.
- Income – membership fee from 15 members.
- The money not spent this year is budgeted for 2012 particularly for EQUUS conference, if it is organised.
- EPMA sponsors the meeting rooms' expenses in Brussels.

### **6. Application of new member organisations to EHN**

- Members discussed 2 applications:
- German Horse Industry Consulting GmbH – GHI
- Looking at the by-laws of the structure (translated from German), business and market research for its members are the main purposes of the structure. It does not correspond to
- EHN principles. We need to attend one of their meetings to experience the real purpose of their Association. Stefan will inquire.
- Hippolis (Finland)
- Hippolis is a similar structure to the Swedish Horse Council Foundation and its aims are perfectly in line with EHN objectives. A member of Hippolis should attend next Board meeting.

Other potential members:

- Stefan is invited to present EHN at the General Assembly meeting of the European Federation of Equine Vets on 3 November in Copenhagen. EHN hopes to welcome them after that meeting.
- Cathy has sent invitations to join the Network to representatives from the transport sector.

#### 7. Election of members to the Executive Board

- Candidates for 2012 mandate: Stefan Johanson (HNS), Cathy McGlynn (EFTBA), Frederic Chauvel (Pole Equin), Florence Gras (EPMA), Bo Helander (EEF), Roly Owers (WHW), Klaus Miesner (WBSFH).
- All are elected at the Board of EHN.
- Board meeting to be organised in January (date TBC).

#### 8. Setting the annual membership fee for 2012

- Membership fee stays at the same level: 500€/per year
- Stefan will send the invoices after the meeting.

#### 9. Adopt the Action plan for 2012

- An introduction was made by Florence to define the added value of the Network for its members.
- EHN should comply with the 3 following principles:
  - Effectiveness: where EU action is the only way to get results to create missing links, avoid fragmentation,
  - Efficiency: where the EU offers better value for money, because externalities can be addressed, resources or expertise can be pooled, an action can be better coordinated.
  - Synergy: where EU action is necessary to complement, stimulate, and leverage action to reduce disparities, raise standards, and create synergies
- Advanced cooperation means:
- Economies of scale
- EHN organises Conferences and lobbying activities
- Mapping of EU organisations and building alliances (ELO, COPA...)
- Knowledge sharing
- Done through Newsletters, web site and during our Annual meeting
- Could be more efficient if members, every month could send a short report on their activities
- Knowledge development - Bring forward prospective input and figures
- Identification of success stories
- Thematic EHN documents: Sport, R&D, Environment
- Look for presentations at EQUUS showing the sector in 20 years
- In 2012, EHN needs once again to stick to EU political agenda: CAP reform, transport, sport, research.
- EHN has to organise a new conference this year, hopefully EQUUS 2012 in Poland or Cyprus.
- The visibility towards EU Institutions could be increased:
  - Institutionalise the MEP Horse Group (2/3 meetings). The list of interested MEPs will be sent to all for updates
  - Organise meetings with the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions
- Action plan was commented and amended by members (updated version attached).

- Communication Guidelines: Share information is paramount for the Network - internal and external communication plan is submitted to members for validation.
- Minutes of meetings organised by each members of the Network should be distributed, particularly General Assembly meetings minutes.
- 3/4 Newsletters are planned.

End at 3.20 pm

Next steps:

- Exchange documents between members: Contact person in Falconry, FEI ethic principles for horse keeping, contact person on studs in Morocco, Horse Rescue project in UK
- Collect data on the drop of number of horses in EU as well as all negative signs of the sector (All)
- EHN position on CAP reform (Cathy is sending it)
- Send updated list of MEPs to all to be completed (Florence)
- New date for MEP Horse Group meeting (Florence)
- EQUUS 2012 – Stefan will contact Marek and confirm the final decision in December.
- Invite Hippolis and ELO at the next Board meeting in January (Stefan and Philippe)
- Reply to GHI application (Stefan)
- Meet EU Veterinarians Federation in Copenhagen on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to present EHN and hopefully welcome them as new member (Stefan)

Next EHN Board meeting in Brussels (EPMA office): 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (TBC) From 10.30 am

Next annual Meeting scheduled on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Brussels