



**Network Annual Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 - Brussels**

Attendees:

Bo Helander - EEF, European Equestrian Federation  
Jessica Stark – WHW, World Horse Welfare  
Florence Gras – EPMA, European Pari Mutuel Association  
Harald Dorum – Rikstoto/European Pari Mutuel Association  
Philippe Casier - EMHF, European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation  
Pit Schlechter – FECTU, European Draught Horse Federation  
Stefan Johanson – HNS, Swedish Horse Council Foundation  
Harald Muller - FEI, International Equestrian Federation  
Anne-Laure Lejeune - Confédération Belge du Cheval  
Françoise Clément – IFCE, representing ESSA, European State Studs Association  
Klaus Miesner – WBFSH, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses  
Marko Mazeland - FEIF, Icelandic Horses  
Jesper Moller - FEEVA, Equine Vets  
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Foundation  
Constance Popineau – EEF, European Equestrian Federation

Excused:

Sanna Mäki-Tuuri - Hippolis  
Torbjorn Froysnes – UET, European Trotting Union  
Frederique Guesdon – Hipoolia, French Horse Cluster  
Cathy McGlynn – EFTBA, European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations

Invited :

Kent Johansson, Member of the European Parliament  
Anne-Sophie Lequarré, Liege University, previously DG Research  
Steven Janssens, Division of Gene Technology, Leuven  
Anna Lena Holgersson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala  
Pascal Bioulac, FFE, COPA Horse Group  
Daniel Azevedo, COPA  
Markus Scharmann, Science coordinator and responsible for professional education at the German Equestrian Federation - EEN

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming new faces, Markus Scharmann (application of EEN), Harald Dorum, CEO of Rikstoto, member of EPMA and Françoise Clément of IFCE (French Horse Institute), representing ESSA, European State Studs Association.

Round Table about 2013 activities of members and future projects:

**CBC** – The Belgium Horse structure worked on the impact of the equine registration system and signed an agreement with China last April to export live horses.

**EPMA** – The Horse betting Tote operators have followed the adoption of the EU Parliament's report on online gambling and obtained the recognition of the financing of the horse sector in Europe. On this issue, the French levy as well as the German financing system for horse



racing have been approved in June and July: It is a State Aid but compatible with EU principles. These decisions will help other countries to legalise the return to racing and the horse sector. EPMA is now working on money laundering measures and match-fixing proposals and will do so in 2014.

**ESSA** – From March 16 to 24, ESSA participated at the world's leading equestrian fair Equitana at Essen (Germany). A quadrille of mounted and carriage tandems celebrated its premiere, demonstrating traditional horse training and the diversity of breeds maintained in the European state studs. In Marbach in May ESSA elected two new board members during its General Assembly at the Hungarian National Stud Bábolna.

The first issue of the publication “European Stud Culture” with the contributions of the Lipica symposium was printed. ESSA press releases were published in English, French and German. They appeared in leading horse magazines.

ESSA welcomed a new partner institution: Písek State Stud, Czech Republic

In 2014, ESSA will be present at Eurocheval, a unique platform for horse owners, riders and horse-lovers in Offenburg. It is the combination of an indoor and open-air horse fair 24 July: <http://www.eurocheval.de/en/eurocheval>. ESSA is also working on an educational project with Equidia and preparing a tourism seminar.

**EEF** – The structure held its GA in Stockholm yesterday. Among many other interesting topics, Brotherhood Programme, EEF Strategic Planning, and preparation for the FEI GA were the hot issues on the table.

The EEF Strategic Planning was presented by the chair of “EEF Strategic Planning and Marketing Working Group”, Sönke Lauterbach (GER), covering an extensive period up to 2020. Based on the main pillars of “Lead, Promote and Develop” the report focuses on future aspects of equestrianism and ways to improve and develop the sports.

EEF now has a full time General Secretary and will collect equestrian European figures soon. The EU Committee looked at Endurance discipline.

**EMHF** – European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (Galop Racing Federation). EHN is a member of EMHF EU Sub-committee and 2 meetings were organised in 2013 to adopt a coherent position on various political issues. Prof. Tim Morris also attended the MEP Horse Group lunch in June as an expert on racing welfare matters.

On 8th July in Budapest, the new Executive Council of the EMHF was ratified. Newly elected to the Executive Council is Manuel Garcia Orozco, Chairman of the Spanish Racing Authority, Sociedad de Fomento de la Cría Caballar de España.

**PECTU** – reports on important meetings with EU decision makers during 2013: with Markus Holzer, Unit: Bioenergy, biomass, forestry and climatic change in the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development - Meeting in Luxembourg with Charles Goerens, MEP - Meeting with Dominik Mayer, Unit: Climate, Finances and Deforestation in the Directorate General for Climate Action

The Annual General Meeting on March 20/21st in Stift Olsberg, Switzerland welcomed new members: IWHA Irish Working Horse Association, [www.irishworkinghorseassociation.com](http://www.irishworkinghorseassociation.com), APTRAN Portuguese Association for Animal Traction [www.aptran.pt](http://www.aptran.pt), BFWH British Festival of the Working Horse [www.britishfestivaloftheworkinghorse.co.uk](http://www.britishfestivaloftheworkinghorse.co.uk)

PECTU participated to International Public Events: August 24, 25 in Germany: PferdeStark : Participants from 14 countries, more than 200 working horses, modern horse-drawn machinery, demonstrations, competitions, show and European Horse Logging Championship with 18 competitors from 10 different countries. [www.pferdestark.de](http://www.pferdestark.de)



September 12-15 in Belgium: Route du Luxembourg Belge: 11 international teams with 20 horses each meeting in different competitions during four days [www.routelux.be](http://www.routelux.be)

On October 19, 20: FECTU will contribute to the 11th Congrès des chevaux territoriaux in Trouville-sur-mer (Normandy), the yearly conference of French cities and local governments using working horses.

2014: FECTU plans to continue the edition of the international journal "Draught Animal News".

In March 22, 23: FECTU will have its Annual Meeting and celebrate its 10th anniversary in Luxembourg where it was founded in 2003.

July 1-3rd: FECTU plans to contribute to the 7th International Colloquium on Working Equids organized in the UK by World Horse Welfare.

**FEEVA** – Survey on anti-microbial to be published before the end of the year shows that the need for common EU medicine registration is paramount.

The Infectious diseases WG is working to establish a proper surveillance

**FEI** – Success of the Olympics because of clean sport achievements and media attraction but the FEI was downgraded on the list of sports with financial return.

FEI managed to agree with important sponsorship: Saudi Equestrian Fund and Longines

FEI works on qualification process for vets by creating an online training platform.

**FEIF - Icelandic Horses** – Education seminar took place 6-8 September near Uppsala, Sweden. With 80 participants at the Agersta Icelandic Horse Centre. The focus of the seminar was on good teaching practises.

Major event during summer 2013, connected to the bi-annual World Championships for Icelandic Horses, in Berlin: A relay ride was organised from five different countries (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria), which ended on August 4, at the Brandenburger Gate, where 350 riders on Icelandic horses were welcomed by the mayor of Berlin, the German Minister of Agriculture and the President of Iceland. This way we connected leisure riding with high level sport.

October 3, 4 the bi-annual test to become a FEIF International Sport Judge took place in Germany, at Kronshof, at a dedicated event created by Kronshof in cooperation with FEIF and IPZV.

**HIPPOLIA** – the Research Foundation has received public money to improve buildings. Works will be achieved in 2016. Vetbiobank French laboratory to offer regenerative medical cell and tissue therapy to practicing horse vets has managed to obtain its first financing support.

**HNS** –Government will not finance research any longer – Out of €1,6 m, 600 000€ comes from ATG (Horse Betting operator) and the rest from Insurance companies. A common administration is organised with Rural Research Foundation.

HNS works on education, promotion of horse meat, promotion to local communities.

**WBFSH** – 70 members from 40 countries

The Swedish Warmblood Association hosted the WBFSH World Championships of International Young Breeders in Bollerup, on July 12th and 13th 2013.

The structure is working on many regulatory issues:

- Insemination



- Horse ID
- Zootechnical legislation
- Standardisation of X-Ray
- Exotic diseases
- Horse data available, accepted and used

**World Horse Welfare** – The international charity is working with a range of stakeholders on guidance for transporters on water provision for horses, and with support from FEEVA, on fitness for transport. In addition to its work in Europe, the charity helps relieve the suffering of working horses in Africa, Central America and Asia and will host the 7<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on Working Equids in July 2014 in London: <http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/colloquium2014>

14 November 2013: World Horse Welfare's Annual Conference will focus on 'Horses in the next Generation' and it will take place at the Royal Geographical Society, London with four influential speakers: Lord Howard of Lympne QC, former Leader of the Conservative Party on the future of racing; Alex Hua Tian, China's first Olympic eventer on youth and the growth of equestrianism; Felicity Lawrence, Special Correspondent for the Guardian on the horse meat trade; and Professor Derek Knottenbelt, veterinary surgeon on the challenges facing working horses now and in the future.

### **Focus on Research**

*Presentations (attached in PDF format)*

**Horizon 2020**, a brief introduction to the next EU research programme by **Kent Johansson, Member of the European Parliament** (liberal, Sweden) and shadow-rapporteur on the proposal of the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014 - 2020)

The final adoption of the Programme has been delayed but a joint view of the 3 EU institutions on the budget should be adopted soon.

The first call for tender should be launched beginning 2014

Mr Johansson insisted on the specificity of the Horizon 2020: it does not only look for projects on research and excellence but also on innovation and market activities and should benefit SMEs (small and Medium size companies). It accounts for € 70 billion for 7 years.

Mr Johansson explained the complementary EU programmes that also concern research and innovation but are implemented through regional decision makers, Regional and Cohesion Funds. Each national Horse structure should be in close contact with their regional administration.

Erasmus programme as well as Marie Curie Action concern exchange of teachers and researchers: European research grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality or field of research and could be of interest for the Horse sector.

**Anne-Sophie Lequarré, researcher from Liege University and previously Directorate General Research at the EU Commission, Unit in charge of agricultural research and animal production**, recalled the benefits of EU research: reach a critical mass, cooperation between researchers to avoid duplication and waste of money.

In order to be efficient, the Commission launched:



- ERA-NET to exchange on national research programmes [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index\\_en.cfm?pg=erant-projects-home](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=erant-projects-home)
- Joint Technology Initiatives [http://ec.europa.eu/research/jti/index\\_en.cfm?pg=home](http://ec.europa.eu/research/jti/index_en.cfm?pg=home)
  - ETP – GAH – tools to control animals diseases - <http://www.etpgah.eu/>
  - FABRE – Animal Health - <http://www.fabretp.info/>
  - ATF – Animal Task Force for production and breeding: <http://www.animaltaskforce.eu/>
- Joint Programming Initiative FACCE on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI) <http://www.faccejpi.com/>
- Supports COST ACTION: an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes - <http://www.cost.eu/>

On Animal Health, 3 departments of the EU Commission offer EU research: DG SANCO, AGRI and TRADE (surveillance) – examples are in the presentation.

There are calls every year on specific topics and at least stakeholders from 3 different countries should reply.

In 2014, the first call will be low although others can be higher than € 10 million.

The Horse sector could be included inside the 3 selected challenges, 1, 2 and 6:

- Health, demographic change, wellbeing
- Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine research, and the bio-economy
- Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials

### **EAAP - European Federation of Animal Science**

**Anna Lena Holgersson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, gave an overview of the EAAP.

Mission: discuss, debate, disseminate on animal science

33 members' countries

Annual meeting: around 800 to 1400 delegates

**Next is in Copenhagen in August 2014**

Scientific Journal: "Animal"

**Steven Janssens**, Division of Gene Technology, Leuven presented the aims and activities of **EAAP - Horse Commission**

Aims:

- A scene for presentation and exchange of scientific ideas
- A place for networking
- An area where young scientists can be introduced
- Bridge the knowledge gap = Dissemination and transfer of knowledge and technology

Topics discussed in Nantes last August 2013:



- New advances in biotechnology of equine reproduction - Dickson Varner (USA) and Michele Magistrini (F)
- The new equine economy: growth in a new sector and activities in the 21<sup>o</sup> Century - Celine Vial (F) and Rhys Evans (N)
- Behavioural evaluation of the working horse - Martine Hausberger(F) and Uta Von Borstel (D)

Proposals for future research in the Horse sector:

- socio-economic research in horses:
  - integration of horse in society
  - markets and uses of horses
  - horse welfare
  - land management ....
- genetics and genomics revolution of breeding
- emerging diseases
- climate change ...

A closer cooperation is agreed between EAAP and EHN

### **COPA COGECA**

Pascal Bioulac, Chair of the Horse Group and Daniel Azevedo from COPA administration explained the organization and work programme of the Group. The Horse Group has 2 vice chairs from Ireland and Netherlands, 16 experts/members and specific working groups. The Group has listed many issues: VAT, transport, welfare, Horse meat. EHN and COPA have many topics in common and should meet regularly.

### **EHN Annual Meeting – 3.05 pm**

#### **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**

All members validated the activity report (attached).

#### **5. Financial report for 2013**

Report attached and approved by all.

Income – membership fee from 16 members.

Expenses – MEP Horse Group lunch, web site and leaflets.

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

EEN and FERPI are accepted as new members



#### **7. Exclusion of member organizations**

No reasons to exclude organizations.  
Hippika Polska has left the network.

#### **8. Election of members to the Executive Board**

Candidates for 2013 mandate: Stefan Johanson (HNS), Cathy McGlynn (EFTBA), Florence Gras (EPMA), Bo Helander (EEF), Roly Owers (WHW), Klaus Miesner (WBSFH), Jesper Moller (FEEVA).

It was agreed to welcome a new member (EHN amounts 8 members as an exception to the EHN principles cause a great workload in 2014): Pierre Lekeux from Hippolia Fondation  
All are elected at the Board of EHN.

Next Board meeting is organised on 28 January 2014 in Brussels.

#### **9. Adopt the Action plan for 2014**

A proposal is described to members and completed (attached).

Special discussion on Statistics: EHN must update its figures (2010)

EEF is at the moment collecting sport figures, COPA has the farmers/breeders stats and EAAP economic researchers could provide help and support on EHN collection. A university and interested students could also help us set up a questionnaire. The German Equestrian Federation did it in 2001 with a questionnaire around 400 questions – it could be a good basis to develop an online questionnaire at EU level.

The US economic impact of the horse sector done in 2005 has not been updated.

The 2 next MEP Horse Group meetings could be on Education and Social uses of Horses (therapy, mediation, working horses).

A proposal to a budget for 2014 was shown by the Chairman. It is linked to the activities in the Action Plan 2014 and it was validated by the members.

#### **10. Setting the annual membership fee for 2014**

Membership fee stays at the same level: €500/per year

Stefan will send the invoices after the meeting.

End at 3.40 pm

#### **Next steps:**

- **Contact COPA to ask for a joint Board meeting in Brussels (Klaus)**
- **Amend EHN principles (number of Board members + add observers) (Stefan)**
- **Organise figures 2013 collection (next Board meeting)**

**Next EHN Board meeting in Brussels (EPMA office): 28 January 2014 - From 11.00 am**