

Julie Girling launches European Parliament Horse Group

A new group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) interested in horses has been launched by Julie Girling MEP during an inaugural meeting together with members of the European Horse Network.

Julie Girling said, " Issues relating to horses cover a surprising number of European Parliament Committees and policy areas, from agriculture and competition law, to equine welfare and gambling, to name just a few. This new group is a way to help ensure that those here in the European Parliament interested in horse issues are kept informed, and are able to come together to discuss developments with stakeholders such as the European Horse Network.

"Representing the predominantly rural area of South West England means I am acutely aware of the importance of supporting rural businesses – many of which in my own constituency are related, directly or indirectly, to horses. I am also a keen horse rider and owner so am naturally interested in legal developments linked to the sector.

European Horse Network Chairman, Stefan Johanson, added, "It is really important that we from the growing horse sector are proactive in making sure that Parliamentarians and other decision makers in Brussels understand what horses mean throughout Europe, and put forward vital information to debates".

A new date is set to meet again in November.

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Editors Notes:

Julie Girling was elected as MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar in June 2009. She has a keen interest in all environmental matters as well as agriculture and is a member of the Environment Committee within the European Parliament. She is a strong supporter of rural communities and country pursuits.