



**Board Meeting
20th May 2014 – Brussels
Minutes**

Attendees:

Roly Owers, WHW - World Horse Welfare
Florence Gras, EPMA - European Pari Mutuel Association
Stefan Johanson, HNS - Swedish Horse Council Foundation
Bo Helander, EEF - European Equestrian Federation
Jesper Moller Nielsen – FEEVA, Equine Veterinarians
Cathy McGlynn, EFTBA – European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations

Excused

Klaus Miesner, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Foundation

Invited

Rodolphe de Loynes and François Hallopé, Ouest-France (organiser of the Horse Conference on 1st September).

1. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was completed and validated.

An item was deleted, R&D future calls. An item was added, EU Equine Expert Meeting

2. Validation of minutes of previous Board meeting – 28 January 2014

Minutes are approved without modifications.

3. Horse conference 2014-09-01 in Caen

Rodolphe de Loynes from Ouest France and François Hallopé, journalist, expert in Horseracing, gave an overview of the programme.

They insisted on the various constraints to organise it because of the WEG and gave their assurance that such event is to be renewed every year on a 2 days format.

The Horse Conference in Caen favours the Normandy region (2 sessions) and sets the scene with figures and ongoing and future issues relevant to the horse sector but it has not included all issues such as welfare.

Sessions are organised in Round Tables with questions from moderators: Figures and financial flows of the horse industry in the morning and benefits and constraints in the afternoon.

2 speakers were added in the 3rd Round Table: Stefan Johanson to review the activities and achievements of EHN and Roly Owers to details issues on horse welfare.

Ouest France is expecting an attendance of 400 – registration fee is €70 (lunch included).

Sponsors: Fond Eperon, Equidia, PMU

Rooms have been pre-booked for speakers

EHN will follow the European elections in order to invite elected MEPs.



4. Key figures about European Horse sector

Questionnaire was sent on 15 April to all EHN members with a deadline on 30 June.

The questionnaire was coordinated with EEF

Figures could be published in July – should be posted on the web site and send to MEPs + Contacts at EU Commission.

Figures will be presented at the Horse Conference on 1st September in Caen.

5. Summary - MEP Horse Group meeting 2014-03-19 (Jesper, Florence)

Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at the Swedish national horse centre for trotting, and Keith Rowe, Director of the Racing Academy in Ireland, both asked for more harmonisation and recognition at EU level. They insisted on a greater mobility, for the benefits of students, trainers, professionals but also for the benefit of countries less developed in this sector.

Markus Scharmann representing the Equine Education Network showed how mobility and sharing experiences are relevant in Life-long learning projects (Leonardo Da Vinci programme). However, Europe has not yet defined common standards in vocational training (Pierre Lekeux from Hippolia Foundation recalled the latest EU regulation regarding Veterinarian schools. Veterinarians are a regulated profession at EU level and schools are evaluated and approved with specific common criterias. 60 Veterinarian schools have been approved out of 100 in EU. However, there are no consequences if a school is not approved and vets from the school can still practice in another country.

Emma McClarkin, MEP, Hannu Takkula, MEP, Finland, and Julie Girling were attending and showed interest asking EHN to set up a database listing all schools and universities offering education and vocational training on horses (and where to find jobs in a second step).

Jacob Kornbeck, representing EU Commission, DG Education and Culture, described the new opportunities in Erasmus + and future Sport projects.

Markus Scharmann will be contacted to coordinate the database project.

Florence will contact the European Association of Racing Schools (EARS) and Stefan will ask Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at the Swedish national horse centre for trotting in order to have a complete list of training courses.

Pierre can complete with the approved EU veterinarian Schools.

6. Transparency Register (Cathy)

Cathy has registered EHN on the EU Transparency register. It will enable EHN to participate to expert groups, common projects and also annual access to the Parliament.

However, regarding the consultation group for DG AGRi, Cathy considered the groups too restrictive.

7. Report on COPA Working Party on Horses (Stefan and Nicolas, adviser of COPA Horse Group Chairman)

Stefan had visited the COPA Horse Group at their meeting 16th April. He presented EHN and had informed about the possibilities of collaboration between the two organizations. COPA decided to cooperate with EHN and shall participate at our board meetings. COPA Horse Group could meet twice a year. COPA is preparing a Resolution on VAT (derogation for breeding stocks?) and will meet MEPs in Brussels in September.



8. Report on web site renovation – europeanhorsenetwork.eu (Roly)

The proposal for a new web site was commented by Board members and Roly will make the relevant changes to have the site online in the end of May.

Roly will see if the twitter account can also be updated by other Board members..

9. EU Equine Expert Meeting – 7/05 (Roly, Cathy)

This meeting was the first step for the Commission to consider Horse Welfare in the future. It was a good meeting to discuss all activities ongoing around Horse welfare: 60 participants and 1800 connections on webstream.

The second step is the report that WHW and Eurogroup for Animals are starting (to be finished for end of October). The document will give an overview of the Horse sector in Europe (facts, figures, legal landscape and best practices) and make recommendations to DG SANCO on future actions to be taken to improve Horse Welfare in Europe. It is also considered that the document will determine the future Horse Status in Europe. 2 full time persons are working on the content (in WHW and a legal adviser in Eurogroup).

The Third step could be a High level conference on the topic considering the new Commissioner in charge will agree.

10. EHN - Action plan 2014 (All)

Updated Action Plan is attached

11. Programme AGM

Board members agreed to organise an EHN Conference in October 2014 in Brussels.

Date are still to be confirmed -Thursday 9 October could be a good date (Committees' week for the Parliament in Brussels) or 15 October.

Stefan will contact Daniel at COPA to see if a joint event could be organised. Constance will also be contacted by Florence to convince Pascal Bioulac about the idea.

Topics on the agenda could be Health & Welfare, VAT and Consumers Sales Directive.

12. Other issues

Roly updates on EU Documents:

- Horse Transport Guidelines: the document on good practices is progressing well and should be adopted next month
- Horses' Passport – the vote is planned in July

Next steps:

- **Web site – final modification and launch in June - Roly**
- **Approach future calls at R&D - Florence and Pierre**
- **Horse Conference in Caen: Final programme from Ouest France representatives before the end of May + Follow-up on speakers and figures – Florence, Stefan**
- **EHN Event in October in Brussels – confirm date and partners (Stefan) Find location (Cathy and Florence)**

Next Board meeting in Caen: 2 September morning (Cathy's place)

Next AGM – October 2014 in Brussels (Date and location TBD)