

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



MEP HORSE GROUP 29 January 2015

Julie Girling, MEP, Jean Arthuis, MEP, Vicky Ford, MEP, Stefano Soro and Ariane Van der Stappen, EU Commission, DG Health and Food Safety and 28 attendees



February 2015

- EHN Board Meeting
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Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

Once again, I learned a lot attending the MEP Horse Group lunch on 29/01 in Brussels. Members of the European Parliament, assistant of rapporteurs, veterinarians, and EU Commission representatives talked openly about improving the Veterinary Medicinal Products regulation to meet the specificities of the horse sector (availabilities of drugs, antibiotics resistance, life-long exclusion from food chain). It was a vibrant discussion and practitioners considered it as an efficient lobbying move. FEEVA, our member representing the equine vets, will for sure

bring forward amendments and convince ministries at national level.

EHN Board members meeting the same day have suggested new topics for the next MEP Horse Group: Growth and Environment, Economy and finance of the horse sector. We will announce the dates after discussing with Julie Girling.

Board members also worked on EHN future events in Warsaw (Research workshop - Aug) and Brussels (EHN seminar - Oct) for the interest of all members.

I really hope to bring added value to your work with EHN documents and events in 2015.

Stefan Johanson Chairman



EHN leaflets are available

Horses in Europe, Horses and CAP, Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health, Education and Training, Veterinary products

www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

Focus on Members

ESSA European State Studs

ESSA has submitted for European Funding within the EU programme CREATIVE EUROPE, Culture Sub-programme ESSA is partner with ALTER REAL National Stud (Portugal), MARBACH State Stud (Germany) and YPÄJÄ Equine College (Finland). The duration of the project is 24 months from May 2015 until April 2017. Central to the project is a six months live-event in form of a tour/ride YPÄJÄ to MARBACH. Along this ride the different aspects of the horse usage over time will be emphasized. The ride will be documented in a real-time internet blog and discussions with "followers" will be conducted to exchange on the role of horses over time – it targets specific interest in European cultural heritage, respectively the heritage of horse-usage.

The decision whether the project will receive European funding is expected in March. EHN wish all the best to this project.



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EHN Board meeting – 29 January 2015 in Brussels

2 sets of Guideline documents coordinated by WHW, Fit for transport and Watering, should be finalised in a few days and posted on WHW and EHN websites.

The next MEP Horse group meeting: Horses for Growth and Environment. A draft leaflet is already circulating and the meeting could be scheduled at the end of May.

A focus on How to finance the Horse sector could also be scheduled for a future meeting; Jean Arthuis (French MEP) is ready to animate such a meeting in the Parliament.

MEP Horse Group – Veterinary Medicinal Products 29 January 2015 in Brussels

Julie Girling introduced the first MEP Horse Group Lunch of this legislature by reminding the aim of the group. Through the *Horse Group*, we are looking to mobilise as large a number as possible of MEPs around questions relating to the treatment of horses and create understanding that the equine sector involves a great number of sectors such as agriculture, animal health, hippotherapy and so on. These are at once economic sector, but also social and societal ones which are important to preserve.

In the Parliament, the Horse Group must coordinate with relevant Intergroups validated last month and look for cross-cutting issues and organise joint meetings

- Animal Welfare headed by Janusz Wojciechowski
- Sport Intergroup to be headed by Marc Tarabella and Santiago Fisas Aixela
- Biodiversity, countryside headed by Karl Heinz-Florenz

The Regulation proposal on veterinary medicinal products was adopted on 10 September 2014 and the **Assistants of Mrs Grossetete and Mrs Paulsen, Remy Pétit and Christian Juliusson** looked at the main items to improve the document. **Jean Arthuis (EPP, FR)** and **Vicky Ford (ECR, UK)** also attended as well as the advisers of Philippe De Backer (liberal, BE) and Eric Andrieu (Socialist, FR).

The Federation of Equine Veterinarians of Europe expressed their support for the document in general however they had a few concerns at the same time - **Claire Scicluna and Mark Bowen** stressed the European added value for opening the market and facilitating market authorization **to increase the availability of medicines** for minor species – as horses in this legislature are considered a minor species compared to other farm animals. They also highlighted that one single market will be a strong defence against both fraud and abuses of use of antibiotics, whilst also improving horses health and welfare. Mark Bowen asked for half a year of withdrawal period for most medicines if the horse has to be slaughtered.

Stefano Soro and **Ariane Van der Stappen** from European Commission DG Health and Food Safety informed the meeting that the aim of the reform was precisely to improve the access to medicine, whilst noting that veterinarian products only represent 3% of the total turnover of medicine products (human). They also stressed that mutual recognition of market authorization is a difficult process to implement and adoption will be "painful" for a lot of the member states.

Mrs Françoise Grossetete will discuss the topic in the Parliament on 18 March and have a report ready on 16

April. Mrs Marit Paulsen for the AGRI Committee will discuss the proposal on 24/02 and suggest improvements in her report on 24 March. She will make sure the text is in adequacy with the Animal Health Regulation, currently in discussion at the Parliament as well.



Context and legal environment

Without animals of good health status there is no horse industry in Europe, whether it concerns sport, pleasure or breeding. Good health status however requires the availability of a sufficient number of veterinary medicinal products. Transparent and non-biased veterinary medicinal legislation is vital for horse owners and professionals working with horses.

Over the years, this regulatory framework has been amended in response to scientific advances and the needs of the veterinary sector. However, the current legislation is no longer fit for purpose and stakeholders have reported an overall lack of authorized veterinary medicines for minor species, for rare or emerging diseases and for some diseases in major species. This lack of veterinary medicines poses significant animal health and welfare problems, increased risks for human health, and economic and competitive disadvantages for EU farming.

The EU legal environment on the manufacture, authorization, marketing, distribution and use of veterinary medicines was adopted in 2001.

EHN Leaflet on Veterinary Medicinal Products



European issues

Equine Report -WHW & Eurogroup For Animals

The document should be finalised in March. It gives a snapshot of the equine sector in Europe in 2014, uncovers welfare problems, analyses the legislation currently in place and recommends how legislation can better protect these unique animals. The document compiles data from sport, racing, leisure and working animals. It has taken into account all recent stats made by EHN members in the sport and racing sector as well as the national horse structures. The global figure on the number of horses is however difficult to approach accurately – around 7 millions. The **report should be published in April.**

Next Events

EAAP/EHN Joint Meeting in Warsaw – 31 August 2015 –

EHN and EAAP Commission on Horses have validated the programme for innovation and research for developing the horse sector - 2 sessions + Round Table

Developing Equine practice into Science

- Equine Practice into science – what does this mean? - Nicoletta Miraglia + Ana Sofia Santos
- Where is the horse sector developing? - Françoise Clement
- Innovation and research in Equine Science and practice

Research in Horse – Human interaction - where are we?

- Horse role in Human life in the 21st century – Rhys Evans
- How to be sure that high level competition is compatible with health and welfare in horses? - Michela Minero
- Equitation Science – Horse perspective – Carissa Wickens

Round Table – funding horse research

EHN hopes to invite EU Commission in charge of R&D and experts specialized in setting up research projects.

EHN will inform members on the fee to participate to this specific workshop.

Read more about the event:

<http://eaap2015.syskonf.pl/programme>