



**Board Meeting
29th April 2015 – 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
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Foundation

Excused

Klaus Miesner, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses
Jesper Moller Nielsen, FEEVA, Equine Veterinarians

Invited

Claire Cordilhac, IFCE
Daniel Azevedo, COPA

1. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was validated

BETA representative cannot attend the Board but will attend the next meeting.

2. Validation of minutes of previous Board meeting – 29 January 2015

Minutes are approved without modifications.

American Horse Council sent its Newsletter and EHN will do the same

3. New member application

IFCE application (French Institute for equestrian sport and equines)

IFCE results from a merger between public institutions (20 national studs + 2 equestrian schools) linked to the Agricultural Ministerial Department as well as the Ministry of sports. The IFCE represents all the French equine activities: breeding, racing, sport, research, training, leisure, scientific questions. It is considered as the French platform to relate all sectors.

It is a technical institute which gives references, notes, advices on identification (centralized roster), zootechnical, reproduction and veterinary questions, innovations, research, sport, training...

Budget 2014: Million € 60 with a Staff of 890

The IFCE competences and aptitudes would be complementary to EHN:

- producing regular and technical notes about European legal proposals
- sharing information and stats from the economic and social Observatory of horse in France for EHN benchmark;
- Discussing experiences in the following areas: identification, zootechnical questions, veterinary sciences, employment in the equine sector.

The Board recommends IFCE membership. IFCE is invited to participate to the next General Meeting in October.



4. Horse Conference in Caen in September 2015

First draft programme was distributed and discussed.

Topics are of interest for EHN but the location is difficult to attract more Horse industry players from outside France.

For EHN, the best place to organise a Conference remains Brussels and EHN intends to focus on its Annual conference and meeting scheduled in October 2015.

Florence will keep the contact with Ouest France to suggest speakers (next meeting on 28/05 in Paris).

5. EAAP/EHN Workshop on Research in Warsaw

The date of the workshop has moved to 2nd September. The programme is good.

Can EHN invite (pay registration fee) EU Commission representatives from DG AGRI, Health and Research? Could EHN budget be used to invite other EHN members? Chairman proposal is to offer the possibility for EHN to pay EUR 150 (50 % of the registration fee)

6. Cooperation with COPA Working Party on Horses

Daniel Azevedo related the latest discussions and documents validated by COPA.

COPA Resolution on VAT rates in the equine sector asks for a possibility to apply a reduced VAT rate at breeding and equestrian sport activities. The document shows the lack of clarity in the application of different rates and why.

On the agenda of the Horse Working Party meeting on 30 April (Chairman election): Rural development, animal welfare.

7. EU documents

Guidance document on the watering of equine animals transported by road are now completed and available on the World Horse Welfare web site (<http://bit.ly/1SnntXb>). Guidance on fitness for transport should be complete by July and will be available through the FVE website. Both are strong and useful documents. A communication plan for the fitness for transport guidance is under discussion as well as translation perspectives (promotion from mid-July).

Equine Welfare report final draft is available although it has yet to be presented to the European Commission. It is being launched at the Animal Welfare Intergroup meeting on 11 June in Strasbourg – and the final report (150 pages) is currently in design (should be 500 printed copies).

WHW and Eurogroup for Animals are looking for funding to have the document translated into French and German. For the moment, only the executive summary (5 pages) will be available in multiple languages.

Although such a document could be the foundation for equine integration in the Animal Welfare Framework Law, this is unlikely to proceed as it is not considered as a priority by the new Commission's work programme and Marit Paulsen, who has been a great supporter and rapporteur on animal health and welfare issues is resigning from the European Parliament. If so the report will still be used to as a basis to lobby on equine policy during the course of the current Parliament.

8. Next MEP Horse Group

3rd June in Brussels – Focus on: Growth, jobs, environment, new areas of activities, societal role played by Horses.

EHN will contact speakers in the area of new jobs, such as assistance to management, and look for a therapist (Belgium). EEF figures could be presented.

9. Key figures about European Horse sector

Set up a story to explain how the collection of figures is made and the update from 2010 survey.

Florence will draft a document and discuss it with Roly.



10. EHN – Update Action plan 2015

The next AGM in Brussels is a 2 days event – 21, 22 October 2015
Welfare and Responsible Care could be the main topics
Roly will ask the EU Commission about the feasibility of a Joint event.

11, New Board members

Prepare next Board election: EMHF (gallop), EFTBA (thoroughbred breeders) are already candidate for the Board. The next step is also to ask members to suggest names for the position of Chairman (Stefan is not candidate). The chairmanship should be taken by a neutral/global association like the Swedish Horse Foundation.

Next steps:

- **MEP Horse Group meeting – set up the agenda + finalise and print leaflet + send invitations (Florence, Pit, Roly, Claire)**
- **Calling for Board candidates (Stefan)**
- **EHN Newsletter (28 May)**
- **Ask EU Commission about the feasibility of a Joint event in October on welfare and responsible care (Roly)**

Next Board meetings in Brussels (change because of EAAP Workshop)

4th September – 11.00 am – 15.00 pm

AGM 2015 and HORSE CONFERENCE

21st and 22nd October in Brussels