



## **BOARD MEETING - BRUSSELS**

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

Minutes

### Attendees:

Roly Owers, WHW - World Horse Welfare  
Florence Gras, EPMA - European Pari Mutuel Association  
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Cluster  
Erica Lindberg, HNS, Swedish Farmers  
Mark Wentein, CBC, Confédération Belge du Cheval  
Tim Richardson, EFTBA, European Thoroughbred Breeders  
Nancy de Briyne, FEEVA, Equine Veterinarians (on the phone)  
Camille Dossmann, EPMA

### Excused

Klaus Miesner, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses  
Bo Helander, EEF - European Equestrian Federation

## **1. Opening**

EHN Board members newly elected present their activities and involvement in EHN

EFTBA, Tim Richardson – Syndicat des Eleveurs, the French thoroughbred breeders are heading the EFTBA until 2017 and it was important to be part of EHN Board. European Galop Federations will share the seat in the Board starting by EFTBA and followed by EMHF and ETF.

Swedish Farmers, Erica Lindberg works with the Swedish Horse Foundation and seats in the COPA Horse commission. She insists on the cooperation between EHN and COPA.

Belgian Horse Confederation: Mark Wentein has been chairing the Belgian Confederation for 6 years and is also involved in FEI as judge and trainer. He is the owner of licenses for horse carriages in Bruges transporting more than 300 000 tourists/year. The Confederation has built an efficient database identifying equidae in BE with easy digital access. However, 40% of equidae on the territory still have no ID documents.

Pierre Lekeux, Roly Owers, Nancy de Briyne and Florence Gras served on the previous Board.

## **2. Approval of the agenda**

Participants approve the agenda

## **3. Election of Chairman**

Mark Wentein is elected Chairman at unanimity. He is honoured and wishes to improve the visibility of EHN during his mandate. He feels that activities involved with horses need to be consistent and consider responsible ownership and end of life management. Therefore, health, welfare and education should be the priority in the actions and messages of EHN.

He suggests that Stefan Johansson becomes honorary Chairman and adviser of EHN. The Board counts on his experience and support.

## **4. Analyse inputs from the General Assembly**

The objectives of EHN (2009) still fit purposes but we should prioritise.

The participants of the GA meeting have listed the strengths and weaknesses of the Network in order to work on improvements.



Members agree that EHN should be Reactive and Proactive and need to focus on few topics: Health and Welfare, Education

VAT is at the moment an important topic in the hand of COPA and will be supported by EHN

EHN could work on the following topics, following EU Institutions agenda and needs of the horse industry.

Topics	PROACTIVE	Date	REACTIVE	Date
Health			Vaccine - Liaise with OIE to push strong requirements - Follow the adoption of the Grossetete Report on Veterinary Products	Jan 16  Feb/May
			EU Animal Health Law (adoption in March) Look at secondary legislation	2 <sup>nd</sup> part of 2016
Welfare	Euthanasia Guidance document to draft?	February		
	Back in the food chain EHN arguments/document	?		
	Slaughter Houses Collect information (mapping) Maintain locally	?		
Education/ Promotion	Data collection Create EHN Expert Data Group	Meet End January		
	Responsible Ownership Julie Girling Initiative report		Identity/registration Promote a Central Database	Jan 16
	EHN input on the report	Dec 15		
	MEP Horse Group Lunch	27/28 Jan 16 (TBC)		
	New jobs/role of horses in cities, rural environment  Learn from the research done by SW in order to achieve a promotion document "The Place of Horses in 2050"	?		

Communication activities:

Obtain a list of relevant and specialised **journalists** to contact regularly (PR, Newsletter). Mark will contact the International Alliance of Equestrian Journalists (IAEJ) <http://equijournalists.com/>



#### **Web site improvement**

A need to improve the visuals and referencing

- Implement a search engine optimisation process
- Mark will provide pictures
- Include full titles in PDF documents (to encourage visitors to download)
- See if we can provide a few lines to describe events/minutes
- Log in to update should be available for several persons

**Twitter** account – look on how to log several administrators

**Newsletter** – for EHN members, journalists, MEPs and horse industry (4 times/year) – November issue being prepared

**Legal Newsletter (New)** – for EHN members and horse industry (3 times/year) – with the help of Claire Cordilhac from IFCE who is monitoring all EU regulations

#### **5. Next MEP Horse Group (date and topics)**

Topics and possible dates:

Responsible Ownership – 27 or 28 January 2016

Equestrian Tourism – Spring 2016 – Mark is invited to the EU meeting of FITE (International Equestrian Tourism Fed) on 15<sup>th</sup> December and will ask if they support the idea.

Financial resources of the Horse industry – July 2016 – Jean Arthuis, French MEP, could be interested in the topic and support a related event.

#### **6. Key figures about European Horse sector (expert group)**

Forecast a kick-off meeting on 27 or 28 January 2016 in Brussels

Call for experts (5 or 6 participants) in December. Florence will send an e-mail to EHN members but experts already confirmed from IFCE, HNS, CBC

#### **7. Equine Welfare Report and Conference in EP – How to work on the Recommendations?**

Although the report was for EU to determine future framework, it seems today that priorities have changed. However, the report asks for several improvements that EHN could support and push forward:

- Data collection
- Responsible Care
- Equine ID
- Euthanasia
- Slaughter

All these topics are included in Health, Welfare and Education and activities are suggested in the table on point 4.

#### **8. Other issues**

##### EAAP/EHN

Following a joint meeting in Warsaw during EAAP Seminar, scientists asked to collaborate with EHN in order to discuss between industry representatives, practitioners and scientists.

It will be difficult to organise a specific meeting in 2016 because of EHN priorities. A message should be prepared to answer their request.

##### ISES seminar

The International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to facilitate research into the training of horses to enhance horse welfare and improve the horse-rider relationship.



ISES runs international conferences that serve as platforms where latest research findings and their application in practice can be communicated and discussed. ISES organises its 2016 conference in France jointly with IFCE. Organisers are asking EHN to support and invite Julie Girling as speaker. A message will be sent to Julie accordingly.

Transform EHN into a legal structure, International Association registered in BE

Draft by-laws (based on EHN principles of organisation) could be discussed at next Board meeting.

**Next steps:**

- **Update Action Plan for 2016 – Florence (completed by all)**
- **Next MEP horse group – Work with Eurogroup4Animals to confirm date and topic with J. Girling**
- **Web site and twitter account improvements – referencing, pictures, access/log in – Roly, Florence**
- **Press list – Equestrian and Racing journalists to be contacted – Mark (completed by all)**
- **Follow-up on Regulation on Veterinary products - Nancy**
- **EAAP and ISES – prepare answers to their request – Florence**
- **Newsletter November 2015 – Florence (with input from all)**

**Next Board meetings in Brussels – 19 April 2016 in Brussels**

**Next MEP Horse Group in EP Brussels – 27 or 28 January 2016 (TBC)**