



BOARD MEETING - BRUSSELS

19th April 2016

Minutes

Attendees:

Roly Owers, WHW - World Horse Welfare
Florence Gras, EPMA - European Pari Mutuel Association
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Foundation
Erica Lindberg, HNS, Swedish Farmers
Mark Wentein, CBC, Confédération Belge du Cheval
Astrid Engelsen, EFTBA, European Thoroughbred Breeders
Nancy de Briyne, FEEVA, Equine Veterinarians
Bo Helander, EEF - European Equestrian Federation

Excused

Klaus Miesner, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses

Invited: Haike Blaauw, Director of FNRS, Ruud Puijsten-Timmermans – Board member of FNRS

Mark Wentein opens the meeting by emphasising EHN growth (new member application discussed today) and positive presence in Brussels.

He wishes to enquire about Klaus Miesner's participation in the Board – Too many responsibilities at the same time are impacting his attendance – a specific message will be sent to have answers.

1. Approval of the agenda

Participants approve the agenda

2. Next MEP Horse Group (date and topics)

Topics and possible dates:

Equestrian Tourism – 12th July 2016

The date suggested to Julie Girling was refused because of another close event on Equestrian Sport on 30/06 under the Sport Intergroup (date also postponed because of Brexit vote).

Availability of medicines, economy and finance of the horse industry and Agricultural policy in 2020 are also relevant topics for future MEP Horse Group discussion.

Organise a meeting with COPA representative, Pascal Bioulac in May of June (the meeting was postponed because of transport strike).

3. Data Group Follow-up

After the first meeting and the validation of a matrix, too few participants have sent their numbers and contacts in various countries. Therefore the collection of figures was stopped.

Xavier from IFCE will suggest ideas to go forward.

4. Membership issues

FERPI, Italy is stepping out of EHN

New member application – FNRS

FNRS is the Dutch Federation of Professional Equestrian Centres founded in 1930.

THE FNRS REPRESENTS 400 PROFESSIONAL EQUESTRIAN COMPANIES AND 250 EQUESTRIAN CLUBS. IT GATHERS 80.000 RIDERS AND APPR. 40.000 HORSES. THE FNRS IS INVOLVED IN LOBBY ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT AND EUROPE.



The Federation is part of the National structure together with Sport KNHS and Breeders. It promotes a star rating system for riding schools creating a positive and quality climate. Members of the Board are in favour of the membership. FNRS will be invited at EHN General Assembly.

5. Communication and web site

Roly is planning referencing improvement of the web site. A message will be sent to Board members asking for a list of keywords, as well as input on rewriting some pages.

Regarding EHN information to members: The new EU legal Newsletter (3X a year – first edition sent in March) should serve the coordination of lobbying. A questionnaire on lobbying (which topics, what approach, which partnership) will be added to the next News (July or September).

6. Feedbacks from EU meetings (Roly – WHW)

WHW met EU Commission DG Santé representatives on 23/02

Dr Füssel is now the Head of Unit
 Animal Welfare strategy will not be updated
 Animal Welfare Platform discussed by States on the initiative of SW and DE did not produce any real action up to now.

7. Update on guidelines for horse transport (Nancy- FEEVA)

Fitness for Transport Guidelines led by WHW and FEEVA was released in February 2016. Consortium is now working on translations.

Another project linked will see the adoption of a more global document for best practices for transport of cattle, horses, poultry, pigs and sheep. It will reach a larger number of transport companies as well as owners.

16 members from 10 countries are part of the consortium including 5 partners, Eurogroup4Animals, IRU, WLR Livestock(research), COPA, FEEVA

First Task is achieved: collecting all existing data

Task 2 and 3 are ongoing: develop practical guidelines

The First framework should be available on 25 May for discussion.

A specific discussion on Horses guidelines should be available in October

There is no contradiction with the recent campaign of Eurogroup4Animals although it was not a good approach – www.stophetruck.eu

8. European Parliament Own Initiative Report on Responsible Ownership

Tentative Agenda of Julie Girling Own Initiative Report in the EP Agriculture Committee (Comagri)

08 September	Exchange of views (without documents) in Comagri
20 September	Deadline to send the draft to the translation
12/13 October	Exam of the draft report in Comagri
19 October	Deadline for Amendments
17 November	Amendments translated



Negotiation of compromise amendments	
Beginning 2017	Vote Comagri

9. Position on unregistered horses and the 6 months rule

Dr Pierre Naessens, CVO (retired), has made a detailed report for CHEVIDECO (horse meat) about the possibility of horses going back in the food chain after 6 months without medications.

<http://www.chevideco.com/en/chevideco/>

FEEVA and WHW support the principle but want to organise solutions.

The 6 months rule is based on scientific data – documents from BE and FR sent to all.

The issue should be on the agenda of next EHN AGM – statement + suggest alternatives (create a Fund). Next Board meeting in September will prepare the content of AGM and Conference in October.

10. Other

Action Plan Update (attached)

Vaccine shortage – issue will not be solved in 2016 for many countries as there is no approval from EU. However Merial in France found a solution with a temporary approval.

Next steps:

- **Update Action Plan for 2016 – Florence (completed by all)**
- ***MEP horse group Equestrian Tourism - Postponed***
- **Draft by-laws (based on EHN principles of organisation) for next Board meeting - Florence, Mark**
- **Web site and twitter account improvements – referencing, pictures, access/log in – Roly, and all**
- **Newsletter June/July 2016 – Florence**
- **EU Legal Newsletter with questionnaire on lobbying in September – IFCE/Florence**
- ***Meet COPA Horse Group – Date TBC***

Next MEP Horse Group in EP Brussels – (TBC)

Board meeting in Brugges – 5, 6 September 2016

Next General Assembly in Brussels – 19 October 2016