

# EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



Julie Girling, MEP, presenting her own initiative report in the European Parliament on the 13th March 2017

Responsible ownership and care for Equidae has been adopted by a large majority of MEPs



March 2017

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## Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

It was really challenging to meet EHN Board members on 28 February and discuss so many ongoing topics on which EHN is actively working. Moreover, I see that EHN members are invited to present the Association's activities in International Conferences, it is a sign of recognition of our work.

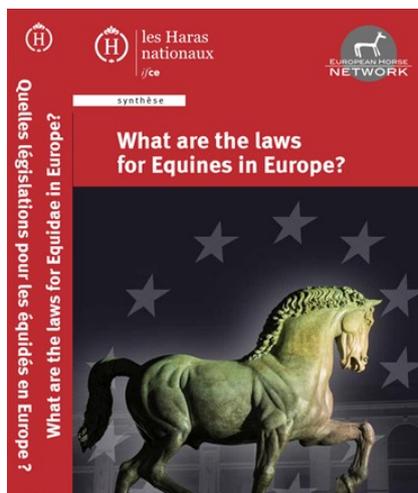
It is as well gratifying for EHN to be named in a parliamentary report adopted last week, thanks to Julie Girling, her team and WHW. All this, motivate us to pursue or even to accelerate our work on urgent topics such as Consumers sales modification, lifetime exclusion from the food chain, taxation and future CAP.

EHN has just applied with Frank Gasthuys as representative, to be part of the European Animal Welfare Platform. Frank is a very experienced veterinary practitioner and I really hope he can be confirmed in this mission. The platform will assist the EU Commission in

all future activities and legislation.

I also want to inform you about the future IFCE publication (front page below) on Equine regulations in Europe. EHN is supporting this valuable study in EN and FR to be issued mid-April. A copy will be available for each EHN member.

Good reading!  
Mark Wentein, 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, Growth & Environment, Responsible Ownership

[www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu](http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu)



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### EHN Presentation at International Events

**10<sup>th</sup> February in Hong Kong - Animal Transportation Association Conference**

Roly Owers presentation at the Equine breakout session

<http://www.animaltransportationassociation.org/page-1846496>

**23<sup>rd</sup> March in Antwerp – European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress**

<http://www.equine-congress.com/en/home/>

Mark Wentein presents EHN at the industry workshop, legislation and cooperation

**28 March in Paris – Horse industry Reference Days organized by IFCE**

Presentation of the EU Equine regulations by Astrid Engelsens (study supported by EHN)

<http://bit.ly/2n5sGL6>

## EHN Board – 28 February in Brussels

Board members agreed on:

- Continue to raise awareness on the food chain exclusion and the importance of the UELN (Universal Equine Life Number for identification)
- Consumers' sales lobbying – meet Mr Arimont, rapporteur on this proposal in Parliament and a second meeting with the EU Commission officer, Mr Zaleski
- Candidate **Frank Gasthuys** as EHN representative in the EU Animal Welfare Platform – Professor, Doctor in Veterinary medicine, Dean of the Faculty of Ghent University, member of the Belgium Council of Animal Welfare, initiator of "Horse Rescue"
- Decide to improve EHN web site by adding new pages, sport, employment, trade
- Create EHN legal group to exchange on future regulation and improve our lobbying strategy
- Meet with MEPs on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (future CAP and financing) and 13 July (Equestrian Tourism)
- Invite Presidents of the EHN members 'structures for a brainstorming session on 13 July in Brussels
- Answer to the future CAP (Agriculture policy) consultation process (deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> May)

## Update on Horse topics in EU Institutions

### Responsible Equine Ownership report voted in European Parliament, in plenary on 14 March 2017

**Julie Girling, MEP** and author of the report has worked with EHN, WHW and Eurogroup for Animals to list all the possible improvements for the condition of Horses and the development of the industry.

The report was adopted by a majority of 656 votes. The European Commission and the Member States now have a list of topics and possible actions to work on.

- A Eurostat study to analyse the economic, environmental and social impact of the equine sector
- develop European Guidelines on Good Practice for the equine sector, as well as develop educational resources to exchange best practices and updated knowledge,
- A European Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism to enable consumers and tourists to choose equine services with good welfare standards, as well as establish Labour Guidelines for working horses,
- Avoid, where possible, the transport of live equidae
- Work on a fair fiscal system to encourage further growth of the valuable equine industry in all its forms,
- Review terms of lifetime exclusion of equidae from the food chain, and promote the reintegration into the food chain, by means of a 'withdrawal period' system based on scientific research,
- Adopt an equivalent level of health and food safety requirements and conformity of imports for the European consumer irrespective of the origin of horsemeat consumed;

EHN was officially named and encouraged for its work

Next step: Julie Girling is determined to work with DG Santé, Animal Health and Welfare Unit, on the above elements

Many issues will also be addressed by the EU Animal Welfare Platform.

<http://bit.ly/2jsEiWr>

## Food chain exclusion – meeting with EU Commissioner

Reminder: EHN is against the lifetime exclusion from the food chain. Dr Pierre Naassens addressed the EU **Commissioner for Health M. Andriukaitis** as well as Directors of DG Health on 13 January 2017 in Brussels.

EU officials agreed with the problem of animal welfare but are concerned by forbidden substances to be eaten by the consumers through meat. If new specific tests on horse carcasses are implemented, the DG SANTE will have to do the same for all species. Moreover, DG SANTE has done already a lot for horses, concerning the increase in the number of essential substances (work in progress on VMP project).

Next steps: EU officials said they will address the question step by step. Discrimination between UE and Third countries is a very serious problem.

EU proposal on Veterinary Products continues to be discussed by experts from governments. Article 117 in particular regarding the food chain exclusion.

EHN will meet **Françoise Grossefête, MEP**, rapporteur on Veterinary Product before the Trilogue starts (discussion between all 3 EU Institutions) that could be scheduled after Summer 2017

EHN members should convince National Health Ministries (Agriculture Ministries are often convinced but conflict with Health priorities (Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg support the change in legislation)

EHN could also plan a meeting with **Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture**.

## Consumers' sales – meeting MEPs

EU Directive on consumers' sales (1999) is causing a lot of trouble for European horse breeders/trainers when selling a horse from business to consumer. This legislation is under fitness check to see what could be revised and simplified.

A proposal for online sales have been released by the EU Commission in 2015 and is now discussed in the Parliament.

**Pascal Arimont, MEP**, is rapporteur and suggests to enlarge the scope to all sales replacing the previous Directive from 1999. Mr Arimont listened to EHN members on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

He thinks that an exemption for horses would be impossible however a compromise amendment copying the French legislation could be possible to propose.

The situation in France, implemented since 2016: the burden of proof is totally on the consumer side when it comes to contest damage/complaints of the horse.

Next step: Prepare a draft compromise amendment

## Next Event

**3<sup>rd</sup> May – MEP Horse Group in Brussels** hosted by **Jean Arthuis, MEP** - Future CAP and sustainable financing of the European Horse sector - Agenda (under construction)

- The place of Equine in future CAP
- Benefits from Rural development, green economy and Regional Funds
- Looking for coherent EU taxation to benefit the Horse industry

- ✓ Return from betting in France and new UK Betting levy – a model to spread
- ✓ VAT – is a common level in Europe possible for our industry?