



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
BOARD MEETING
22 February 2018 - Brussels
Minutes**

Mark Wentein welcomes Board members re-elected in November.

Roly Owers – WHW

Nancy de Briyne – FEEVA

Franck Spadinger – EEF

Tim Richardson – EFTBA

Constance Popineau – EFTBA

Nadine Brandtner – WBFSH

Philippe Casier – EMHF

Erica Lindberg – HNS

Florence Gras - EPMA

and invited guests:

Ingmar De Vos and Francisco Lima – FEI

Peter Bollen and David van Doorn – Equine Health & Nutrition Association

Filip Vande Cappelle – Animal Transportation Association

1. Update on financial issues

Total expenses in 2017 - € 18 955

No complaint received on the increase of the membership fee

Already 16 payments received and €25 398 on the EHN account.

2. Update on legal issues

Consumer Sales – Vote in Parliament committee today – 53 compromise amendments (exclusion of live animals is one of them).

EHN will inform members about the result of the vote.

If live animals are excluded from the scope, EHN could work on a specific proposal on how to regulate the sale of live animals.

Statistics in Agriculture after 2020 – Equine are absent from the collection of EU Agri stats
Text is discussed in trilogue and some States, FR + rapporteur from EP want to put back equine stats in the regulation

Texts to follow in 2018:

- Update from Nancy on **Veterinary products** – Trilogue has started with a second meeting on 26/02 and a possible adoption before the end of 2018.
- **Animal Health Law** – Draft of Implementing and delegate acts should be available soon.
Erica is concerned about the obligation to register all short movements of horses. Thoroughbred breeders are already doing it. FEI thinks it should be the rule.
- **Future CAP** – proposal should be available in May 2018
FAO proposal to study the green assets of the equine industry could be supported by members, such as EFTBA and FEI (if the study is worldwide)
EHN will ask FAO for an estimate for a worldwide study.
- Update from Constance on the reform of **VAT rates**. The proposal, published in January gives to Member States the possibility to adopt low rates inside a framework. A table should be sent to all EHN members to collect information on rates applicable in the equine industry.

EEF and COPA could share their report made on VAT in the past.
EHN has asked for meetings at Permanent Representations of States to inform and exchange views – France, Bulgaria, Austria, Slovenia,
EHN has also asked for meetings with MEPs, Bulgarian, Romanian, French

3. Communication issues: web site and Newsletters

Roly has updated the pages of the web site and asks members to comment and make suggestions.

A first comment is to make the web site responsive. An estimate will be asked.

4. Categorisation of membership fee – first thoughts

Membership Fee is €600 in 2018 and could be modified for 2019.

Fee could be adjusted on the annual budget of federations or be based on EHN projects (such as FAO study, MEPs at Aachen...) with members adding financial resources to implement specific projects.

A core group (Nancy, Roly and Tim/Constance) will evaluate both options and present a proposal at the next Board meeting.

5. New members applications: Equine Health & Nutrition Association + Animal Transportation Association

Presentation of new applications:

Peter Bollen and David Van Doorn – Equine Health & Nutrition Association

The structure organises a Congress every 2 year and discuss legislative proposal on this occasion (particularly on labelling too restrictive to correctly inform consumers).

Filip Vande Cappelle – Animal Transportation Association

Created in 1975, counting 300 members (20% involved in horse transport)

ATA is producing guidelines, making airport audit, advises IATA to improve shipping of live animals. ATA is launching a research project of 2 years on the factors influencing the well being of horses in long distance.

Both Associations are welcomed inside EHN and invited to participate to EHN events.

Roly will contact the European Federation of Farriers (EFFA) based in UK.

<http://www.eurofarrier.org/contact/>

6. WHW proposal for a Conference on Responsible Ownership/Unwanted Horses in October 2018

Roly comments the draft agenda distributed to all – Co-organisers (FEEVA, EHN, WHW, UECEBV, COPA) will meet on 19th March in Brussels to continue the preparation and suggest speakers.

The Conference could be organised in EU Parliament building in Brussels. Julie Girling has been contacted.

7. EHN/EAAP cooperation

Reminder – EAAP is the European Federation for Animal Science with the objective to improve and disseminate knowledge on farming animals.

EHN cooperated in 2015 with a joint symposium – The proposal this time is to ask researchers to work on collection of stats and data.

EAAP annual meeting to be held in Dubrovnik (last week of August 2018 – 27 August to 31) organises its Horse Commission session together with IFCE and EHN on:

Lack of data on the horse industry (on economic, social and environmental aspects), at an international level but also at national levels is a problem often encountered by researchers, institutions and professionals, moreover in the current context of the preparation of the next CAP EU Agriculture Policy (2020-2024).

Discuss on the topic of databases (economic, social and environmental), evaluations of the horse industry, comparisons between countries and the limits and stakes linked to data collection. Florence and Claire could speak at the session.

8. Prepare next MEP Horse Group lunches: Spring/Summer 2018

First Date suggested **on 20/06** and the proposal from Jean Arthuis is to discuss Future CAP again as the topic should be on the table of the Parliament in May.

First proposal:

- Access to Land - MEP, Maria Noichl, DE rapporteur on in AGRI committee
- (Re)use of rural capital (buildings – old farms) to the equine sector
- Status of an Equine Farmer – National Proposal: Position of FNC in France – Position in DE, BE, SW?
- COPA position
- Diversification is possible – milk (interest of Bulgarian Presidency)
- European Commission – Content of proposal of CAP After 2020

Board members must suggest speakers.

An update of the EHN leaflet on Horses in CAP (made in May 2017) + re-print is necessary.

9. EHN Manifesto/White Paper (prepare communication for EU 2019 elections) draft framework to be ready in Sept 2018

Proposal from Ingmar: Ask all EHN members to bring forward their priorities with deadline on 1st June. The next Board meeting will study the input from members and work on the 5 EHN priorities to be ready in September. A leaflet will then be edited to be sent to candidate MEPs and political parties before 2019 elections.

10. Other issues

Roly: Update on Animal Welfare Platform. An informal sub-group on equines should be created in the coming days. Denmark should send the terms of reference and recruit members. EHN must encourage their Ministries to be part of it. A meeting should be organised in April and present findings at the next Platform meeting on 21st June.

Nancy: Animal Transport Guidance coordinated by FEEVA – video on equine best practices will be posted in March – www.animaltransportguides.eu

Ingmar: Update on the vaccine research launched by FEI and IFHA for the African Horse sickness. A new investment will be made, hoping to have a vaccine available in 2019. Media right future EU regulation is a concern for the IOC.

Next meetings

- **MEP Horse Group lunch in Brussels** – 20 June 2018 (validated by members)
- **Legal Group meeting** – afternoon of 20 June
- **Next Board meeting** – Short meeting on the morning of 20 June

Klaus invitation: Bundeschampionate on the weekend 1st and 2nd September and EHN Board Meeting could be held on **Monday 3rd September** in the office of German Equestrian Federation in Warendorf

TO DO

- Give input and suggestions on **EHN web site** www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu (All)
- **VAT** – Send Tables on VAT rates to members to be completed (Constance and Florence)
- **FAO study on green assets** of the equine industry – Ask estimate for a worldwide study (Claire)
- Suggest speakers for next **MEP Horse Group** lunch (All)
- Contact the Association of **Farriers** (Roly)
- Confirm room for **MEP Horse Group on 20/06** – Work on agenda (All)
- Core Group to discuss proposals/**options to reform EHN membership fee** (Roly, Nancy, Tim/Constance) to present at next Board meeting
- **EHN Manifesto** for EU elections: Ask members about their 5 priorities for the coming years (Florence will send a questionnaire with deadline 1st June 2018)