



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
BOARD MEETING
20th June 2018 - Brussels
Minutes**

Attendees:

Mark Wentein - DBK
Roly Owers – WHW
Bo Helander – EEF
Shane OD'wyer – ITB - EFTBA
Constance Popineau – EFTBA
Romane Carron – French TBA
Nick Elsas - EFTBA
Paull Khan – EMHF
Erica Lindberg – HNS
Claire Scicluna - FEEVA
Florence Gras - EPMA

Excused

Nancy de Briyne – FEEVA
Nadine Brandtner – WBFSH

1. Categorisation of membership fee – options

A core group (Nancy, Roly, Tim and Constance) has exchanged various options and looked at a few other organisations (including FVE, FEEVA, OIE and Eurogroup for Animals) to see how they structure their membership fees.

Many do have different levels of membership as opposed to a single rate – but what parameter the levels are based on does vary quite considerably.
EHN system must be simple and all organisations should remain equal in rights and responsibilities independently of what they pay.

To adopt a split membership fee structure, the group suggests to limit to 2 levels:

- €600 annual fee for organisations of less than €1million annual income
- €1,500 annual fee for organisations of €1million+ income.

Constance also suggests to consider that each member can bring one participant to EHN events and should pay if more representatives from the same organisation.

Erica points out that HNS is functioning with horse betting money and with the legal gambling reform implemented in Sweden from 1st January 2019, the financing is not yet known.

The above proposal will be submitted to next General Assembly in October.

2. EHN Manifesto

All members were asked to contribute with their priorities.

There are commonalities in the various contributions:

- Welfare – from responsible care to second life to end of life
- Agriculture – maintain equines as farm animals, access to farm resources and CAP support and clarify food chain issues
- Harmonisation of vaccination and access to medicines

- Coherent taxation and funding developments

A draft with 4 or 5 priorities will be sent to all for review.

A leaflet (one page) should be prepared and edited in October to be distributed at EHN Conference and sent to candidate MEPs and political parties before 2019 elections.

On welfare issues, Mark suggests that EHN has a proactive attitude with animal rights groups (organise a meeting, find an event to participate). The Party for the Animals is a political party present in many EU countries and could gain more than 2 representatives (elected in NDL and Germany in 2015 elections) in the EP next year. The Party has 5 representatives in the House of Representatives in NDL (elections in 2017). In Municipal elections, the Party has representatives as well (3 in Amsterdam where they have obtained the ban of carriages from 2019).

Roly could organise a meeting with animal rights group on the issue of uses of equines.

On Future CAP, EHN could follow COPA position. COPA Horse Working Party meets on 25/06 to work on advocacy and position paper – EHN will meet James Murphy. Joe Hernon, Chairman of EFTBA will also coordinate actions.

3. EHN/WHW/FEEVA/EUCBV proposal for a Conference on Responsible Ownership/Value of horses on 16 October 2018

The room in the EP has been booked for 16 October thanks to Jean Arthuis, but only for 2 hours and a half as the EP rooms are occupied by multiple committees before the end of mandate of this Parliament.

2 sessions moderated by MEPs and Member States representatives:

Session 1: Secure the Value of Horses

Responsible breeding

Retraining of racing and sport horses

Rehoming

Residual value/food chain

Session 2: Responsible ownership in Practice

Welfare charter for farmers

Good practices in Transport and survey on improvements

Good practices in Slaughterhouses

4. Other issues

Update on Animal Welfare Platform: Roly relates about the work of the informal sub-group on equines. The group met twice in April and May. The aim is to publish 2 Guidelines (one for horses and one for donkeys and mules).

Roly will circulate the draft.

Next Platform meeting on 21st June.

Membership: European Federation of Farriers Association could see potential advantages in becoming a member but did not feel that they could afford €600 this year. Gary Burton and Miles Williamson-Noble are invited to attend the next AGM.

Next meetings:

Board: Klaus' invitation on **3rd September** in the office of German Equestrian Federation in Warendorf was unfortunately declined for practical reasons. Members prefer to meet in Brussels.

Next Board meeting is scheduled on 4th September in Brussels from 10.30am to 3.00 pm

Paull Khan suggested to meet at future dates around a racing day in France or elsewhere (easy access is important). He will make date suggestions at the next meeting.

Next General Assembly meeting on 16 October 2018 in Brussels – starting from lunch at 12.00 to 4.00 pm

Equine Conference in European Parliament on 16 October in EP from 4.30 to 7.00 pm (draft programme attached).

TO DO

- **EHN Manifesto** for EU elections: draft document will be sent (Florence) and reviewed by all members in order to have a document ready for September
- **Animal Rights Group**: organise a meeting (ask Roly for help and expertise)
- **Categorisation of membership**: the option to have a split membership will be submitted to next AGM
- **Lobbying on future CAP**: Meet and discuss with COPA Horse Group (Erica, Joe Hernon)
- **EU Animal Welfare Platform**: Roly will circulate the draft guidelines of the Equine Welfare sub-group.