



EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
BOARD MEETING – Brussels - 3rd March 2020
Minutes

Attendance:

Florence Gras	EPMA
Mark Wentein	Chairman
Roly Owers	WHW
Paull Khan	EMHF
Nick Elssas	EFTBA
Mette Uldahl	FEEVA
Nadine Brandtner	WBFSH
Klaus Miesner	WBFSH
Camille Vercken	HIPPOLIA
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt	FITE
Erica Lindberg	HNS

Invited: Amandine Julien, IFCE – Johanna Andersson, Hippolis – Jan de Boitselier, CBC

Excused: Alain Liberos, Route Européenne d'Artagnan (REA) – Claire Scicluna, Equine Vet

Ronan Murphy representing EEF and replacing Bo Helander in the future cannot attend because of flight connection missed. A letter to thank Bo for his valuable contribution for so many years will be signed by the Chair.

Mark Wentein welcomes all and announces some items that are not on the agenda:

Our agenda is modified because of the late withdrawal of Alain Liebert from Route d'Artagnan – However, new applications will be reviewed by Board members.

Feedbacks from meeting in February in EP with MEP Pascal Durand – EHN, FEEVA:

Pascal Durand has organised the meeting in support of the French Member of the Parliament Loic Dombreval missioned by the French government last Dec, to write a report on the welfare of companion animals: https://www.i-cad.fr/articles/Loic_Dombreval_protection_animaux
Equines seem to be included in the report that must be finalised in June. End of life, euthanasia were the questions asked to Mark Wentein and Mette Uldahl.

Mette takes the occasion to ask EHN to put the “end of life issue” back on the agenda of the Association.

End 2016, EHN has taken position (position paper attached) and has linked its activities and conferences to this topic by inviting Pierre Naassens representing UECVB (EP Conference on 16/10/2018).

Life-time exclusion debate continues to be a priority of EHN. The position paper (attached) will be updated.

New trainee from mid-May to end August - Angèle Deguesne (profile attached)

Perfect situation as she is paid and socially covered by Louvain University to study public affairs messages. She is a passionate horse rider; and studies public affairs and political science in France and Belgium. She will be a great support in the preparation of EU meetings and documents. Paull Khan suggests to ask for collection and compilation of all equine welfare initiatives.

ALTER DO CHAO in Portugal – ALTER HORSE SUMMIT invitation on May 14. Members are asked to represent EHN. Mette Uldhal from FEEVA should attend. EHN presentation will be prepared.

1. Financial Statement 2019 – Final adoption

Expenses 2019 = €13663,66

Still MISSING membership fee of 4 members – reminder will be sent and EHN 2020 invoices sent End of March.

EHN Bank account today = € 19 312

EHN Board members validate the final 2019 Financial Statement.

2. EHN new by-laws – Review discussions from AGM and verification

Participants validate the final version of the by-laws with 2 spelling modifications.

The content (in FR) will be shown to a lawyer for compliance with the Belgian Law and send to all members.

3. Next MEP Horse Group meetings and conference in 2020

Dates could be changed due to Corona Virus Crisis

Tuesday 2nd June, Salon of 40 booked in EP for lunch

Topic: Future CAP – Is there still a place for horses?

- CAP After 2020 (MEPs from AGRI and ENVI Committees)
- The impact of the EU Green Deal on Agriculture (EU Commission representative)
- Benefits of horse breeding and definition of active farmer (testimony from a young farmer)
- How to prepare CAP National Plan to include equine in an efficient way (representatives of national administrations)

Roly Owers and Nick Elsas cannot attend on this date.

Tuesday 13th October, Meeting room of 100 booked in EP from 10.00 to 12.00 with sandwich lunch

Topics: Economic importance of Equine industry and Social License

Another date in July? *(or first date to replace 2nd June if the crisis pushes back events in EP?)*

Roly Owers, after a discussion with Ingmar de Vos, is supporting this further meeting to look at Brexit – and more specifically on horse transport – given the risk of a no-deal scenario at the end of the year. The project was presented to Hilde Vautmans by e-mail but not yet confirmed.

Cooperation with other official EP Intergroup

Animal welfare Intergroup - Is scheduled on 14 May, one-hour discussion on horse meat (Country of Origin issue)

Sport (unofficial intergroup like us) - EMHF and EPMA will contact the group to discuss future meetings

4. Communication

Green assets fact sheets

Agata has worked on Green Assets Fact Sheets (draft attached). She asks members to review the English version and to agree on figures or suggest relevant ones.

5. Prepare EU projects: next EU Research programme + Erasmus+ Sport funding

EHN EU projects sub group participants created at the EHN AGM in October 2019 : Hippolia – Marie Orard/Camille Vercken, FEEVA, EEF – FEI, WBFSSH – Nadine Brandtner, HNS, ESSA, IFCE – Amandine Julien, EPMA – Florence Gras

Camille Vercken from Hippolia presents possible EU projects applications :

Erasmus+ Sport

Collaborative Partnerships action offers the opportunity to organisations to develop, transfer and/or implement innovative outputs and/or engage into intensive dissemination and exploitation activities of existing and newly products or innovative ideas in different areas relating to sport.

1. Hippo Mundo project

Create a database of all Sport Horses Stud books – 72 considered inside WBFSSH + 25 outside
Combine/Compile pedigree information with performances
WBFSSH and FEI (owner of International performances) are opposed to the project.

2. Hippolia/FEI - database gathering sanitary information/performances for competition and travelling purposes in the perspective of 2024 Olympics.

3. Horse Racing Education of professionals on Integrity/EMHF/UET

Could be a continuity to the Erasmus+ funded DIME project coordinating five vocational schools for future drivers (trotting) - the two-year project including schools in SW, NO, FR, will finish in 2020
Pascal Launey, Director of AFASEC in Graignes and EEN Director, Markus, will be contacted.

4. Create a Horse Welfare label in cooperation with many countries – invent sanction and insurance withdrawal from equine entrepreneurs in Holland if they don't apply the rules correctly – could EHN look at practices in various countries? NDL, FR, SW, FIN

Met KNHS in EU Erasmus meeting – Fenna Westerduin, Public affairs manager.
Contact with Welfare and Green label in Normandy

HORIZON 2020 - Last call in January 2020

1. HeavyHorsePlus

Aim is to revive the breeding and rearing of heavy horses in Europe by means of a consortium.
The project includes:

- Genetics and genomics over > 30 varieties
- Research on meat quality
- Research on milk quality
- Research on work capacity

With the objective of increasing the sustainability of heavy horse farming in the EU

The call is FNR-05-2020 (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/fnr-05-2020>)

There are already about 15 partners in the consortium

Poland, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Italy, France, Spain, Slovenia, Australia (as an expert) with mainly scientists and also some other organizations (FECTU, Animal welfare).

An amount of approximately EUR 6 million will be requested.

2. INNOSUP call (Horizon 2020: INNOSUP-01 "Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains" (November 2019 – Deadline 3rd April 2020).

Hippolia Cluster to federate other EU Equine clusters (FIN, SW, BE...). The objective of this call is to develop the value chain linked to innovation in the equine sector by building joint projects between the various European networks and by promoting innovative projects between our members. Budget 2.5 to 5 million euros.

HORIZON EUROPE research programme (2021)

3. Equine Thematic Network proposal in preparation at IFCE for January 2021 “sustainable Horse” “Horse in Society”
 - Improvement of sustainable practices (exchange of best practices, dissemination of knowledge) → related to the work already done by Agata on Green Assets
 - Improvement of incomes in an agricultural sector (exchange of best practices, dissemination of knowledge)

This project will insist on assets of equine animals on the development of a sustainable agriculture and on rural development.

1st stage - at the national level (IFCE): project definition and elaboration of a synthesis; partner search in France

2nd stage (in April/May) – partner search at the European level

6. Communicate with Animal Rights Association (topic added on the demand of FECTU)

Ethical perspectives mixed with modern constraints.

Global momentum at the moment on Social License

Topic on how to use the horse/Evidence based – write a position paper

Create a narrative justification on benefits for horses and humans

The objectives is to convince decision makers/politicians and the public by expressing all the values of equines in our society.

We must also prepare farmers to stand up and communicate the right way because they will treat animals the correct way.

7. New members application

- a. Route d’Artagnan REA – Alain Liberos – cannot attend as ill

Referring to our future by-laws, this application is not accepted. Alain Liberos, by e-mail, wants to have the opportunity to fully explain the business model of the REA in the next meeting.

- b. Claire Scicluna – Equ’Institute – decision not taken at last AGM

Claire will be invited at our next meeting.

8. Next EHN meetings

2nd June – MEP Horse Group lunch with EHN Board and EHN EU Projects Sub-group

TO DO

- Message to Bo Helander (Florence, Mark)
- EHN 2020 Membership Fee invoices sent to members (Florence)
- EHN by-laws in FR – check by lawyer (Florence)
- Review content of Green Assets Fact Sheets – suggest figures (All Board members)
- Meet/Call/Skype with Hilde Vautmans to prepare the agenda of the next MEP Horse Group, 2nd June + see if a possible date in July (Florence, Mark)
- Update position Paper on Life-exclusion from the food chain and End of life issues (Mette, Roly)
- Link with EP Sport Intergroup (Florence, Paull) and Animal Welfare Intergroup (Roly)
- Collect information for possible EU projects application (members of the EU Project sub-group)