



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
BOARD ONLINE MEETING
2nd June 2020
10.00 am CET**

Attendance:

Florence Gras	EPMA
Mark Wentein	Chairman
Roly Owers	WHW
Paull Khan	EMHF
Nick Elssas	EFTBA
Nadine Brandtner	WBFSH
Camille Vercken	HIPPOLIA
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt	FITE
Erica Lindberg	HNS
Amandine Julien	IFCE
Marie Ovrard	HIPPOLIA
Ronan Murphy	EEF
Angèle Dequesne	Trainee

Invited: Filip Vande Cappelle, ATA

1. Brexit - update on negotiations and prepare for No Deal

Ronan Murphy summarizes the Brexit Joint Task Force (IFHA/FEI):

The Task force was set up by the International Horse Sport Federation (which comprises the FEI and the IFHA) to consider animal movement within Europe in a post Brexit environment, particularly in light of the new EU Animal Health Law.

This initiative was largely at the prompting of the European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders who have legitimate concerns about the exclusion of breeding stock from some of the provisions of the Animal Health Law.

The Committee comprises Goran Akerstrom (FEI), Des Leadon (EFTBA), Simon Cooper (ISBC), Paul Marie Gadot (IFHA), Ronan Murphy (FEI) and myself and its terms of reference are as set out in the attached document.

The Committee has held meetings by Zoom conference call on a weekly basis and is in the advanced stages of preparing a Dossier for presentation to the relevant parties setting out the issues and more importantly, proposing solutions.

The Committee represents a concrete example of the value of co-operation between the sport horse and thoroughbred sectors which should hopefully assist in making the case for frictionless movement of horses for competition and breeding purposes in a post Brexit environment.

The group sets up figures and document to support coordination and show what the industry needs.

A new in-depth economic study could be useful but Deloitte last study was made in 2016 (Ireland).

A correspondance with Michel Barnier is regular.

Ronan will keep informing us about activities of the group.

Filip Vande Cappelle will keep us informed about ATA concerns.

A technical expert seminar on the UK landbridge following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU is organised on 8 June. More information will follow.

2. Impact of the crisis on the Equine industry - first figures

Documents made by IFCE and HIPPOLIA relates the impact of the crisis on the French Equine industry and on Equine companies.

IFCE questionnaire to professionals and results will be sent to all.

Breeders are greatly affected by the crisis. Horse racing was stopped nearly in the whole world. In EU, only Sweden continued to organise races. All equine competitions were stopped.

The loss in Sport horses amount € 400 million.

All studies should be sent to EHN that will use it in its communication with MEPs and EU Institutions.

3. Request political and financial support from EU - Agriculture, Green Deal, Tourism Plan

The EU Marshall Plan for Tourism should be looked at in more details to see if financial support .

Erasmus+ programme will be adapted following the sanitary crisis. Projects to keep up the economy of an industry will be financed.

4. Animal welfare strategy

a. Update on the EU Animal Welfare platform

Next Online Platform meeting on 15 June. The Donkey document will be presented.

The platform will continue to meet until summer 2021.

Guidance document for Horses – fact sheets should be finalised soon – draft to be circulated by Roly.

b. Animal Welfare strategy consultation – reply from EHN

The EU Commission has launched 2 consultations: Evaluation of the Animal Welfare strategy (2012-2015) <https://bit.ly/2Nmllwh> - WHW and IFCE have replied.

A second consultation was published on 20 May to assess the effectiveness & relevance of EU Animal welfare rules and their consistency with food, environmental and single market rules, and the sustainability goals of the EU's Green Deal and farm to fork strategy <https://bit.ly/316Cdpo>

Deadline 29 July – Members agree to prepare an EHN answer.

5. How and when to organise an EU Projects Group meeting (Research, Erasmus...)

Organise a specific EHN online meeting to discuss it on 25 June morning.

6. Next meeting in EP - 13 October in EP (if EP opens to events) - agenda - impact of the crisis?

Members agree to combine topics such as the economic impact of the horse industry and the impact of the Covid crisis on the sector.

Erica points out the long term effect with people consuming less putting aside expenses such as riding, racing.

The meeting needs to be prepared before we contact Hilde Vautmans with tentative programme and speakers.

7. Next EHN meetings

25 June - Online EU Projects meeting (TBC) with Camille, Marie, Angèle, Amandine, Catherine, Paull, Roly

A meeting could be organised to prepare October EHN conference (date TBD)

Other remarks:

- Legal meeting minutes (March 2020) to be sent to all
- Reintroduction of equines in the food chain – review EHN position from 2016 by FEEVA and start a new lobbying strategy particularly in the light of the Farm to Fork strategy published in May 2020.
- Review transport regulation

TO DO:

- Send all impact studies made in the equine industry on the Covid crisis (All)
- Discuss EU projects issues on 25 June (Amandine, Camille, Paul, Marie, Catherine, Angèle, Roly)
- Prepare EHN Conference on 13 October, the impact of the crisis on the equine industry and the life after – exchange ideas on speakers and topics (All)
- Reintroduction of equines in the food chain – review EHN position from 2016 by FEEVA and start a new lobbying strategy particularly in the light of the Farm to Fork strategy (Nancy, Mette, Roly)
- Draft reply to the consultation to assess the effectiveness & relevance of EU Animal welfare rules and their consistency with food, environmental and single market rules (Florence, Roly)