

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS

Mark Wentein, Hilde Vautmans, Ursula von der Leyen 15 October 2019 in Brussels



Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

We can say that EHN has successfully launched the MEP Horse Group in the newly elected European Parliament. The presence of Ursula von der Leyen created the "buzz" in the EP and gave a strong signal to the group.

Never before has there been so much interest from the industry, the EU administration and from the new Members of European Parliament (16 MEPs have confirmed their support). With MEP Hilde Vautmans, who coordinates the group of

MEPs, we have someone who is knowledgeable and dynamic. We have all the elements in place to make 2020 an eventful year for Equines.

Board members will meet on 3rd March to prepare the next MEP Horse Group and push forward useful projects.

I wish you all a wonderful festive season!

Mark Wentein, Chairman

New EHN member

EASBC

European and African Stud Book Committee

Coordination of 35 stud books – 87% of horses are from UK, FR and IR and represents 10 000 movements/year.

The mission is to develop and promote the highest standards of Stud Book operation to safeguard the integrity of the Thoroughbred breed.

EASBC holds a biennial conference for all of their member Stud Books, which has in recent years rotated between three host countries of GB, Ireland and France.



December 2019

- New Member
- EHN AGM
- Update on EU legislation
- Next Meetings



EHN leaflets and Manifesto are available

Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health, Education and Training, Veterinary products, Growth & Environment, Responsible Ownership, Horses in future Agriculture policy (update June 2018), Equestrian Tourism

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EHN Meetings

July 2019 - Re-create the MEP Horse Group in EP



MEP Horse Group starts a new chapter with Hilde Vautmans (BE, Renew Europe): "I feel very honoured to take over the presidency from Jean Arthuis and Julie Girling. The horse industry is indeed a crucial sector that immensely contributes to the welfare of our European economy. As Chairwoman, I will do my best to put these challenges on the agenda of the European Parliament in order to improve and enhance the current situation in Europe."

EHN General Assembly – 16 October 2019 in Bruges



Modification of by-laws: A sub-group was created in February 2019 to analyse and propose a new way to elect Board members in 2020 and clarify the application of membership.

Main changes are that the Board increases to a maximum of 12; Board Members and Chair all have three year terms, with normally no more than two consecutive terms. Rotation system will be introduced amongst current Board members, such that one third step down at the end of Year 1, one-third at the end of Year 2 and the rest at the end of Year 3, avoiding the dangers of co-terminus terms and multiple retirements.

A new text must gain approval by the next Board Meeting, to take effect from October 2020.

Possible Actions in 2020:

- More collaboration with new MEP Horse Group
- Legal Group meeting to be organised in March
- Brexit – Follow-up and promotion of practical solutions
- Develop Green Assets to provide arguments for future CAP negotiation

Agata Rzekec, researcher for INRA, EHN, IFCE has developed a software and collected information on 5 European countries. Such study could be continued and improved in 2020 by collecting data from further countries, producing articles and infographics, by adapting the tool to local projects.

- EU funded projects - Hippolia, IFCE, FECTU, Equine Nutrition, EEF and FEI representatives want to push EU projects (Erasmus+ and Research programmes)
- Develop partnerships with EAAP Animal researchers (Joint survey on end of life/identification).

MEP Horse Group – 15 October 2019 in the EP in Brussels



Mrs Vautmans presented the strengths of the European equine sector and prepared the actions she intends to carry out with her fellow parliamentarians in the coming years. She has set 4 priorities:

- The horse as an "agricultural" animal in the next CAP;
- The promotion of knowledge and good practices as a basis for animal welfare;
- Tax harmonization;
- The availability and harmonization of the placing on the market of veterinary medicinal products.

Recalling the symbolism attached to equines in terms of sustainability and interconnection with the environment, Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen stressed that the horse perfectly characterizes the alliance between tradition and modernity.

EHN members exposed the current stakes related to the Brexit and the movements of the horses. The work related to equine welfare and the green assets of the equine sector in the next CAP were discussed. The under-representation of equidae in European funding and research programmes has also been highlighted.

EU legislation Update

7 October 2019 – EU Animal Welfare Platform (AWP)

Conclusions adopted <https://bit.ly/2MatU3E>

And the final version of Equine good practices for keeping and training are published: <https://bit.ly/36OrW0M>

16 December 2019 - EU Council adopts Conclusions to develop a new EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals and continue the work of the Animal Welfare Platform <https://bit.ly/34yyDCg>

Next meetings

3rd March 2020 – EHN Board meeting + EHN Legal Group in Brussels