



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
BOARD ONLINE MEETING
2nd February 2021
10.00 am CET**

Attendance:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Mark Wentein | Brugse Koetsiers |
| Roly Owers | WHW |
| Paull Khan | EMHF |
| Nick Elssas | EFTBA |
| Joe Hernon | EFTBA |
| Nadine Brandtner | WBFSH |
| Camille Vercken | HIPPOLIA |
| Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt | FITE |
| Frederic Bouix | FITE |
| Amandine Julien | IFCE |
| Ronan Murphy | EEF |
| Guillaume Maupas | UET |
| Isabelle Gizardin | UET |
| Peter Bollen | Equine Nutrition |
| Florence Gras | EHN |

Excused: Julius Peters, FEEVA

Invited: Christian Walter, Final Furlong

Mark Wentein welcomed the new Board members.

1. Minutes of the last General Assembly (8 December 2020)

Minutes are approved by all.

Statutes have been translated into Flemish and reviewed by a lawyer. He will send the document to the Belgium administration for publication. Delay could be important because of the Covid measures.

2. New Board elects the Chairman, Treasurer

Mark Wentein is re-elected Chairman for a 3 years mandate

Amandine Julien has been chosen as Treasurer

Florence Gras will act as General Secretary/support staff

3. Animal Health Law – update on the upcoming implementation (important changes, level of preparation of member states, challenges).

Meeting with Mrs. von der Leyen on Friday 5 February

5 people attending: Hilde Vautmans, Mark Wentein, Ingmar de Vos, Goran Akerstrom, Amandine Julien

Topics: Ask for a postponement on AHL (not April but end of the year)

Bring awareness on Brexit impact and VAT reform

The last industry consultation on the implementing act should start next week. The equine industry should reply in only one document.

4. Brexit - update on the first weeks of implementation

Practical problems/important paper work and authorities unprepared.

Need a framework negotiated between UK and EU to clarify positions

Trucks and drivers certification not done/should be accelerated. Need a system of equivalencies for certification.

5. Membership application

Christian Walter presents Final Furlong

Final Furlong is the first Italian and international project entirely oriented towards building an integrated platform of relationships, research and analysis dedicated to the equestrian and horse racing world through:

- the creation of opportunities for discussion at an international level to give new stimuli to the race operators and to feed the passion of enthusiasts;
- the promotion of cultural and economic opportunities to develop themes and contents that express and enhance the values of horse racing;
- the creation of innovative events to give rise to new forms of communication in the horse racing sector to attract and fascinate new audiences

Paull Khan and Guillaume Maupas wonder why the structure didn't contact the EMHF and UET

They are aware of the very complex situation (organisation and finance) in Italy for horseracing and horse betting. These concerns delay the decision of the Board.

EHN Board members will observe first how Final Furlong develops.

6. 2020 Financial Statement approval

The Financial Statement is adopted by members.

EHN expenses amount to only € 2,346 for 2020 because of the postponement of all events.

The membership fee for 2021 stays at the same level although EHN bank account is well provisioned. Roly Owers noted that we need to be careful with the level of our reserves, especially in the current climate, but it was agreed that this does provide an opportunity to finance more projects and to plan more events once the situation will become clearer regarding the organisation of conferences.

7. Activities for 2021 + Budget proposal 2021

– Result from questionnaire sent to members

25 answers received.

Priorities: AHL (72%) and Welfare (68%) are the 2 top priorities for members; Brexit, EU projects and the CAP are also topics of interest (36%).

- Planned actions on the AHL: organisation of a technical webinar on changes and new rules; participation to the public consultation; lobbying for the postponement of the implementation.

Actions: Members ask for more webinars to exchange on legal and practical information. They want the EHN contribute more to public consultation and support projects of interest for the European equine industry (green assets, racing integrity, thematic network, and feed quality). Information on member's activities can also be developed (information during meetings, sharing activities by email) .

The questionnaire should be updated regularly.

- **Green assets of equines/**Continue from the Fact sheets made from the research of Agata and continue to collect useful information from more countries. A budget allocated in 2020 for this project was not spent so will be provisioned for 2021. The collection of figures is also linked to the EU project on the equine thematic network (call late 2021/2022).
- **Organise a Webinar on the impact of Brexit with the customs control.**
- **Support financially the preparation of EU projects (Racing Integrity and Thematic Network)**

- **Proposal of project on feed quality** (Peter Bollen). The Equine Health & Nutrition Association works with a university on an European calculation system of feed quality. They ask for a participation of the EHN of 50%.
- **Find support for the equine industry through other EU policies such as Sustainable Tourism**
- **Next MEP Horse Group – Online meetings until after summer**
 Covid impact follow-up in May
 One ealth Concept/Animal/Human health in July
 Social License/new ways of engaging with horses at October conference
 Combine meetings with the sustainable Tourism intergroup/Sport Intergroup

8. Next EHN meetings

4th March - Legal Group meeting

Next EHN Board meetings:

15th April at 10.00 am CET

8th June at 10.00 am CET

7th September at 10.00 am CET

TO DO:

- Prepare the common contribution under EHN banner to the AHL implementing Act consultation launched on 5 Feb (Ronan Murphy/Goran Akerstrom to coordinate)
- Discuss dates and test the different ideas of events with Hilde Vautmans for online MEP Horse Group
- Prepare a proposal for practical Webinars to bring knowledge and training to members