



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK
BOARD ONLINE MEETING
15 April 2021**

18 Participants

Invited: MEP Hilde Vautmans and adviser Morgane Lambrecht.

Minutes

Mark Wentein welcomes participants and announces the presence of MEP Hilde Vautmans at 11.30 am. He makes remarks on the difficult situation at the moment for our sport and industry because of the Rhino Pneumonia outbreak and of course the Covid restrictions as well.

1. Minutes of the last Board meeting – 2nd February 2021

Modifications made by Roly Owers and Peter Bollen have been included.

Minutes validated by all.

The website has been updated with all the latest minutes.

2. Planned budget 2021

2021 budget proposal is validated by the Board members.

3000 Euros will be dedicated for the preparation of each EU projects, Racing Integrity, Equine Thematic Network and Energy evaluation of equine feedstuffs. Therefore, €9000 is provisioned for EU Projects. Peter Bollen's proposal is explained in item 5.

EHN could organise only one MEP Horse Group in autumn in Brussels instead of 2 (the European Parliament only re-opens in September or the Horse Group could also be held in a restaurant in the European Quarters). Therefore only 3500 is provisioned for the MEP Horse group.

Update on EHN legal situation: Statutes have been published and the Headquarters confirmed in Zaventem – the Belgian and European House of the Horse. All archives have been transferred. Very convenient access from the airport and by train.

Next General Assembly could be organised there.

3. Update on EU advocacy issues – VAT and Equine Transport

VAT – In a context of negotiation of the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards rates of VAT, EHN intends to bring the attention of the European institutions and Member States on various elements and asks for reduced rates for specific and essential activities. Paull Khan made remarks and asked to include arguments from FR and IR made during the former infringement procedures.

Klaus Miesner noted that the German government will not agree so unanimity will never be reached. The need is to discuss the points where low rate could be accepted.

Ronan in the EEF has been very active but difficult to evaluate how strong is the national lobbying depending on members countries. However, a joint effort is essential.

A task force with Ronan, EEF, Klaus, WBSFH, Catherine, FITE will work with Amandine in the coming days to adopt a common position.

EHN position will be sent to all members (for national lobbying), to MEP Horse Group members and to Thomas Sanchez and François Guerin, Senior Policy Advisors at COPA-COGECA, EU farmers and agriculture lobby.

Equine transport - ANIT Committee is meeting twice in May and on 16 June. An update was made by Sandra, WHW and Morgane (Hilde's assistant). The Committee mandate has been extended to December (Vote in plenary in December).

EHN will summarise the different meetings and waits for the draft report (in May/June?) to suggest amendments.

Remarks: Ronan Murphy and Camille Vercken reminded of Brexit' problems still existing for the movement of horses. Recent transport of mares (deposit of huge amount of VAT). Paull Khan believed that some of these issues will be solved with time (huge paperwork and VAT). It is true to say that Brexit has greatly reduced the movement of horses by 40%. The impact is not because of Covid as movements has increased in other part of the world.

4. Membership application

Patricia Bade van Motman, President of the Hunter-Jumper Equitation Holland had applied some months ago for the European Hunter-Jumper Equitation Foundation /HJEH. Although invited, she didn't attend our General Assembly last December but is still willing to apply. We will question again, Haike Blauw, FNRS (Holland) to have his opinion on this structure.

5. Update on EU projects

EHIP, European Horseracing Integrity Project in Erasmus+ Sport Programme – The call was published in April with a deadline in May (now reported to 17 June). EHN members such as EMHF, UET, Hippolia and WoTA are part of the project. We are helped by an expert (contribution of EHN and EMHF for his budget) and have very good chance of success (or report it to the next call in October).

Equine Thematic Network in Horizon Europe Programme Cluster 6 – Improve data knowledge and better advocacy of equine issues. The leader of the project, IFCE, organises a meeting with 10 different member states (30 participants at the meeting) on 10 May. Countries partners could be: Portugal, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, France, Spain. IFCE will be helped by ACTA from September, a consultant expert in replying to EU Research projects. Members of EHN such as FECTU are already part of the project. The deadline to answer should be February 2022.

Equine Feedstuffs – Towards a common evaluation system of energy content - Appropriate labelling of the energy and protein content of feed will help owners with their feeding management of horses. There is no centralised system available which brings the various formulae and calculations based on chemical composition together to allow for a valid estimate in converting units quickly, as necessary.

It is therefore proposed that a programme should be developed which can be utilised by the feed industry and equine welfare professionals (veterinarians, nutritionists) to quickly convert from one unit to another. This could be made available at a central community site, such as the European Horse Network or through European Equine Nutrition Societies (e.g. EEHNC, EWEN). Around €13 000 is needed in total.

6. Webinar for EHN members on AHL Implementation

A webinar to inform and educate members on the new rules could be organised in June in the format of one hour Webinar.

IFCE could make a presentation when it has the final version of the text not published yet. Members agree and will look for a relevant date.

Nick Elssas made remarks on discussions in Denmark – dangerous move from the government on private keeping of studbook (more scrutiny).

7. Exchange of views with MEP Hilde Vautmans and Feedback of the contact with Mrs. von der Leyen.

The discussion with the President was on three unsolved topics, Brexit (accelerate the paper work and the movements of animals), VAT (need all Member States to put low VAT rate on their agenda, even Germany), Animal Health Law (delay the implementation).

Because of the Covid situation, we have a moment and EHN should be proactive.

We could keep the MEP Horse Group informed by inviting them in the restaurant as online meetings are difficult to organise (too many). She suggests to invite European Commissioner Mairead McGuinness.

On Brexit issues (Paull Khan), Hilde suggests to contact Nathalie Loiseau (FR MEP, member of the Renew Group and Trade Committee).

Ronan Murphy asks to accelerate AHL issue for DG Santé. Morgane will obtain a meeting.

Remark by Guillaume Maupas on Rhino – Vaccination should be an obligation to avoid pandemia although it represents a high cost for owners.

Next meeting – 8 June at 10.00 am CET

TO DO

- VAT Task force to meet to validate EHN position (Amandine, Catherine, Ronan, Klaus)
- ANIT in EP – Transport of animals – Collect the draft report to distribute to members (May/June) (Sandra to stay in contact with Morgane)
- AHL Webinar – Find a date (Florence, Amandine)
- Find a date and topic for next MEP Horse Group (All)