



**Board meeting
7th September 2021**

Attendance:

Mark Wentein	Brugse Koetsiers
Roly Owers	WHW
Paul Khan	EMHF
Nick Elssas	EFTBA
Joe Hernon	EFTBA
Nadine Brandtner	WBFSH
Camille Vercken	HIPPOLIA
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt	FITE
Amandine Julien	IFCE
Ronan Murphy	EEF
Isabelle Gizardin	UET
Peter Bollen	Equine Nutrition
Florence Gras	EHN
Julius Peters	FEEVA
Yael Dotan	FEEVA

1. Minutes of the last Board meeting – 8 June 2021

Minutes adopted without comments or modification.

2. Update on EU advocacy issues:

a. VAT rates reform

EHN wrote a position that was sent to the person in charge at the Slovenian Presidency (from July to December 2021). The compromise of the Slovenian Presidency is still in favour of maintaining Equine activities in the annex III and should be discussed at members States level next week.

EHN members should continue to lobby for it at national level.

Decision on the text could be taken in the next 3 months.

b. Antimicrobial's debate in EP

The EU Commission is in the process of the Implementation of the Veterinary medicinal products Act. This Delegated Act (DA) is to find criteria to set up a list of antimicrobial reserved to humans pursuant to the requirements of the World Health Organisation and in accordance to the One Health concept.

MEP Martin HÄUSLING, Die Grünen (Germany) is objecting this DA and has prepared a Resolution for objection voted by the ENVI Committee in July.

Reject the text and go as far as possible in the principle of reserving all antimicrobial to humans is dangerous for the equine industry.

This document/objection is now going to the plenary for a vote.

The open letter/petition prepared by the European Veterinarians (asking MEPs to keep the text of the EU Commission) has been sent beginning of September and signed by many organisations dealing with animals. Deadline for signing is the end of this week.

EHN will follow the state of the petition and the vote of MEPs in plenary (15 September if confirmed on the plenary agenda) or in October.

Decision: Sign the petition and distribute it widely

- c. **Fitness Check on Welfare policy** – transport regulation + ANIT inquiry committee, slaughter and animals on farm rules + update on the EU Animal Welfare Platform

Roly Owers made an update - The EU Commission has confirmed they will review the transport, slaughter and farm animal welfare regulations/No timeline at the moment Consultation this summer on which EHN has contributed.

ANIT Committee in the EP reviewing transport – Report in June and 1200 amendments tabled at the meeting yesterday.

EHN sent remarks on the first report.

EMHF has sent a comment on various amendments (to be distributed)

Decision: EMHF's position on amendments will be sent to all members

Decision: Create a specific EHN Working Group to prepare and coordinate comments/arguments on the various welfare issues

Members of the Group: Amandine Julien, Paull Khan, Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt, Roly Owers + ask Filip Vande Cappelle

3. **Exchange on national negotiations/legislation: Future CAP and land (access and management)**

The work on the future CAP is ongoing at the Member States level – National Strategic Plans should be sent to the EU Commission before the end of the year.

EHN members should work with their agriculture Ministries to create support and allocations for equine activities.

EHN members could exchange their arguments and work to help each other's.

IFCE shared its position a few months ago.

In Belgium, the equine industry is struggling against the other Farm activities as the access to land is a competitive issue.

Decision: Members to send their national proposals/relate their work with their own Ministries.

4. **Update on EU projects (Equine Thematic Network, Nutrition)**

Equine Thematic Network/HORSENET (Amandine Julien)– 10 European countries are involved and at the moment preparing their network at national level. A partners' meeting will be organised mid-October.

Nutrition (Peter Bollen) – The work will start next week and should finish mid-November as announced.

5. Next MEP Horse Group on 16 November – Programme and speakers

EHN Team is meeting Hilde Vautmans on 21st September to prepare the meeting.

The programme of 2020 Conference that EHN could not organise because of lockdown last October needs to be updated.

Members request to put high on the agenda: Equine movements, transport issues, One Health concept (Covid impact + antimicrobial + future CAP/Green Deal) and education/staff issue

Decision: An updated programme will be distributed to Board members for comments before 21st September

6. EHN General Assembly – To be organised the same day as MEP Horse Group

The agenda will be discussed at the next meeting

7. Others

a. Horse Commission presentation at EAAP presentation (document distributed but not commented)

b. **French EU Presidency Equine Conference 1st April 2022 afternoon in Saumur** organised by both French Ministries (Agriculture and Sport)– draft programme with 3 sessions.

Paull Khan suggests to add a session on the economic impact.

Catherine suggests to add the tourism issue as well in session 3

Amandine also suggested to invite representatives from the two following Presidency Check Republic and Sweden to create a dynamic on Equine during the three Presidencies.

Decision: Members of the Board could send their comments before 15th September

TO DO:

- Sign the Veterinarians' petition on antimicrobial debate and distribute it widely
- Create a specific EHN Working Group to prepare and coordinate comments/arguments on the various welfare issues
Members of the Group: Amandine Julien, Paull Khan, Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt, Roly Owers + ask Filip Vande Cappelle
- Members to send their national proposals/relate their work with their own Ministries on the future Agriculture Policy.
- An updated MEP Horse Group programme will be distributed to Board members for comments before 21st September
- Members of the Board to send their comments on the draft programme of the future French Presidency Conference - before 15th September