



## **EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK BOARD ONLINE MEETING**

**8 June 2021**

15 attendees

*Excused: Ronan Murphy*

### **Minutes**

Welcome by the Chairman, Mark Wentein.

#### **1. Minutes of the last Board meeting – 15 April 2021**

Minutes are accepted by members with one modification from Paull Khan.

#### **2. Update on EU advocacy issues – VAT and Equine Transport**

EHN **VAT** Task Force met and agreed to request low VAT rates on 3 transactions. The position was sent to all members for national advocacy. All fiscal decisions in EU must reach unanimity of Members States.

VAT rates reform's discussions will continue under the next EU Presidency, Slovenia. EHN will send our common position to the relevant person.

Members made comments on the VAT issue linked to Brexit. Because Britain has left the Custom Union, there is a need to pay the VAT when a horse goes over the border. This means huge amount of money for mares that will return to their country of origin. Paull Khan said that the horseracing industry has been talking to the Revenue Authorities to change that and find accommodations.

**Equine Transport** – waiting for the ANIT Committee draft report to eventually table EHN amendments.

Roly Owers reported that the live animal transport regulation will be reviewed as well as the slaughter regulation. EU Commission is clearly undergoing a complete reviewing of the animal welfare regulations.

#### **3. Equine Green Assets – Follow-up**

Agata Rzekęć has started the project in 2019 with the aim to define, qualify and quantify environmental impacts of equines. The first leaflet was published in October 2020 and distributed to EU decision makers.

In 2020/2021 – Data collection was made among 6 EU countries and around 5 green assets. Creation of an interactive map: <http://u.osmfr.org/m/487390/> the link can be shared with anyone in the Equine industry. It will be posted on EHN website.

This tool is in constant evolution and the work is in progress. It can be used to share knowledge, to communicate with stakeholders, to build arguments to promote equines and to set up projects (like the future equine thematic network).

Next step: Continue to improve the data and the number of countries covered (Italy, Ireland, UK...)

Illustrating green assets through a video report in partnership with ESSA and 3 State Studs in France, Slovenia and Germany.

EAAP conference, 72nd Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science in Davos, Switzerland on 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 will present all the findings:

<https://www.eaap2021.org/>

#### **4. Update on EU projects (EHIP - Racing Integrity, Equine Thematic Network, Nutrition)**

EHIP – European Horseracing Integrity Project will be submitted for Erasmus+ funding on June 17. The final document will be sent to all members. News about the submission will be in November 2021. If positive, EHIP starts at the end of January 2022 and involves 5 EHN members.

HORSENET – Equine Thematic Network (Name to be confirmed). The deadline to submit (Horizon Europe Research Programme) is 15 February 2022. 8 countries should be covered, Partners are starting to be defined. The main objective: Sustainable development/resilience of farms with an equine activity.

Specific objectives need to be better defined but could be: attractiveness of jobs related to equine, better integration of equine in agriculture, welfare in breeding.

The project, if successful, could obtain €3 million for a four years project in which more than 10 EHN members could be involved.

NUTRITION – Evaluate the energy in feed stuffs to help farmers and breeders. Appropriate labelling of the energy and protein content of feed will help owners with their feeding management of horses. To date, 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 used 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 and through European Equine Nutrition Societies (e.g. EEHNC, EWEN). Depending on the evaluation, the project should start to give results in November 2021.

#### **5. Planned Webinar for EHN members – AHL Implementation**

The aim is to explain the changes and to list what is happening in the different European countries. Nick Elssas informed about the discussions and concerns in Denmark.

The relevant date could be **7 September** – One hour Webinar with the IFCE general presentation and the exchange of views and concerns from members + continue afterwards with our Board meeting.

#### **6. Plan next MEP Horse Group/EP Conference**

End of October or beginning of November when MEPs are meeting in Brussels – EHN will contact Hilde Vautmans to confirm a date. The topic could be the "One Health concept" as it could cover the impact of the Covid crisis, Antimicrobial discussions, AHL implementation and welfare issues. We could also look at the movements of equine in general – that topic covers Brexit, transport, identification.

Our General Assembly will be on the same date.

#### **7. Others**

Joe Hernon insisted on the different constraints brought by Brexit and AHL that are slow to solution. Discussions and frictions between EU and UK at the moment are impacting the movement of horses and the work of breeders and owners.

## TO DO

- Prepare AHL Webinar (7 Sept) and invite all members (IFCE and Secretariat)
- Contribute to the collection of data on the Green Assets development (All)
- Equine Thematic Network – Give input and contacts to Amandine (All)
- VAT rates reform – lobby at national level (All) send EHN position to Slovenian Presidency (Mark)
- Find a date for next MEP Horse Group (Mark will contact MEP Vautmans)