



**General Assembly
16th November 2021
Sofitel Brussels Europe**

Attendance:

Mark Wentein	Brugse Koetsiers
Roly Owers	WHW
Paull Khan	EMHF
Nick Elssas	EFTBA - Online
Nadine Brandtner	WBFSH
Frédéric Bouix	FITE
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt	FITE
Amandine Julien	IFCE
Ronan Murphy	EEF - Online
Peter Bollen	Equine Nutrition
Florence Gras	EHN
Julius Peters	FEEVA
Simon Cooper	EASBC
Haïke Blauw	FNRS
Filip Vande Cappelle	ATA
Roly Owers	WHW
Jessica Stark	WHW
Sandra Zafra	WHW
Frederieke Velaar	FNRS
Arno Jusling	FNRS
Marko Mazeland	FEIF - Online
Jan de Boitselier	CBC
Simon Cooper	EASBC
Isabelle de Gizardin	UET – Online
Guy Heymans	ETF
Markus Scharmann	EEN – Online
Erica Lindberg	HNS - Online

Excused: Claire Scicluna – Equ’Institut, Astrid von Velsen – ESSA, Camille Vercken - Hippolia

1. Opening of the annual meeting

Mark Wentein opened the General Assembly reminding EHN had to deal with the sanitary crisis and important restrictions in 2021. Despite this complicated context, EHN has tried to maintain an important activity.

2. Agenda and Minutes of the last General Assembly – 8 December 2020

Minutes adopted without comments or modification.

3. Report on activities 2021 from the Chairman

EHN Statutes were published on the 23rd March 2021 in the Belgium Moniteur. The official headquarter of EHN is now in Zaventem, at the FRBSE-KBRFSF.

The team is composed by three people working in the Secretariat: Mark Wentein, Florence Gras and Amandine Julien.

In January, an online survey was launched to look for member’s priorities.

The website was simplified and updated regularly by the World Horse Welfare.

All meeting were organised online due to the sanitary crisis. EHN organised 4 online boards (2nd February – 15 April – 8 June – 7 September).

- a. February meeting discussed the budget and allocated money for EU projects.
- b. Hilde Vautmans attended April meeting to discuss priorities and provide elements to EU Commission President on important issues for the equine industry.
- c. During June meeting, Agata Rzekęć presented its work on promotion of green assets.
- d. September meeting worked on the preparation of the General Assembly and the MEP Horse Group and created the animal Welfare working group.

The budget has been allocated to support projects of interest for the industry:

- a. Green assets: in 2021, Agata Rzekęć created an interactive map to gather all data collected. 9 countries have contributed to this project.
- b. EHIP: European Horseracing Integrity Project has been submitted for Erasmus+ funding on June 17. Results about the submission should be known end-November 2021. If positive, EHIP starts at the end of January 2022 and involves four EHN members.
- c. EUNetHorse: the deadline to submit this project is the 15th February 2022. 8 countries should be covered. The objectives are: socioeconomic performance of equine farms, horse health and welfare, environmental sustainability and integration with other agricultural sectors.
- d. NUTRITION: Evaluate the energy in feed stuffs to help farmers and breeders. The project has given its first results in November 2021 (a video is available and was sent to all members by Peter Bollen).

EHN organised two events in 2021.

- a. A webinar on the European animal health law (AHL) on the 7th September. 35 people attended this meeting to better understand the main changes after the entry into force of the AHL.
- b. MEP Horse Group on the 16th November: “2022, a turning point for the European Equine industry. How can decision makers support the industry and the sport?”.

4. Financial report for 2021

EHN registered €19.800 as financial resources (membership fees).

Total expenditure should be around €25.735 (we benefit from reserve from 2020). EHN is waiting for final invoices from the management of the website, the publication of the flyer, the final invoice from the Sofitel, the photographer. The invoices for the Green assets project, EUNetHorse and Nutrition projects are still pending.

The Financial Statement 2021 will be sent to all members in February 2022.

€46.766 are on the EHN bank account balance.

EHN has to find an accountant office to certify annual results before September 2022 (Filip Vande Cappelle could provide such services).

Decision: Members agree with the draft financial report. Secretariat will provide an updated version in February 2022. Secretariat will meet Filip Vande Cappelle to work on accountancy issues.

5. Membership application

Hunter-Jumper Equitation Holland submitted its application for the second time.

- a. The application was sent the 10th November, only 6 days before the General Assembly. Article 8 of the statutes provides to send application at least 15 days before the general assembly.
- b. Hunter-Jumper Equitation Holland is a private company registered as commercial enterprises at the Chamber of Commerce. Article 36 of statutes requires that EHN members has to be organisations representing the equine community.
- c. Hunter-Jumper Equitation Holland organises competition for KHNS members. Article. 3 §2.c of EHN Statutes provides that applicant must be “a special group of stakeholders of the equine industry, which in principle is not already represented by an existing member”. Nevertheless, KHNS and the European Equestrian Federation are already EHN members.

Decision: Regarding these elements, EHN members unanimously rejected the Hunter-Jumper Equitation Holland application and recommended this organisation to contact KHNS and the EEF.

6. Priorities of Actions and budget proposal for 2022

In January, a new survey will be sent to identify members' priorities.

Decision: EHN members agreed on the following actions for 2022:

- a. **18 January 2022** – EquiGala is organised by the Belgian equestrian federation, which welcomes the new EHN headquarter. EHN is going to book a table for this event and invite important guest (Hilde Vautmans and other MEPs).
- b. **From 5 to 7 February 2022** - the SPOGA horse exhibition has invited EHN to meet on location. EHN will ask if it is possible to organise an event and meet the equine industry manufacturers. It could be a seminar/webinar on the movements of equines.
- c. **1 April 2022**- Conference of the French EU Presidency organised by the IFCE in Saumur (supported by both French Agriculture and Sport ministries). Four EHN members and Hilde Vautmans will speak at this conference. All members will be invited. EHN members will be consulted to work on the guest list.
- d. **Mid-June 2022:** organisation of an MEP Horse Group at the European Parliament.
- e. **End-August/September 2022:** organisation of a conference with equine professionals and EHN CEOs. Depending on the cost, it could be organised at the Stephex Stables during the Belgium Masters.
- f. **November 2022:** EHN conference and general assembly.

Members asked for maintaining a hybrid format for meetings (in person and digital).

An estimated budget for 2022 was proposed.

7. Setting the annual membership fee for 2022

Members decided to keep the same membership fee for 2022. €19.800 are expected as financial resources. Provisional expenditures would be around €20.550 corresponding to the activities scheduled (see above).

8. Others

Roundtables: members presented the main activities conducted by their organisation during the year and their concerns.

Julius Peters, elected President of FEEVA.

WBFSH did a re-brand (new logo, new moto) and elected a new Vice-Pres from New Zealand.

FITE expressed the difficulties of its members still heavily impacted by the sanitary crisis.

Important events will occur in 2022:

- a. In May 2022, EHN could be presented at the annual conference of the ATA in Mérida, at Mexico.
- b. EEHNC is organising its congress in April with a second session in September. For its 2023 congress, EEHNC would like to organise a meeting with EHN.

EHN members are working on the following topics of interest:

- a. The ATA raised EHN attention on the entrance into force, in 2026, of a new transport act. It will have impact on the possibility for individuals to drive small trucks and vans. The camping industry will face the same challenge. The equine industry has to think about a strategy to lobby on this issue.
- b. The World horse welfare is working on an ethical framework for sport to help regulators in their decisions (a workshop early October with important attendance).
Brexit also has an impact on horses welfare during transport. Horses are enduring longer journeys because they are moved via Ireland. The UK considers in removing requirements to obtain driver certification because of the lack of transporters.
- c. EMHF is conducting a project on pony racing to improve the attractiveness of racing jobs for young people.
- d. The EASBC insists on the fact that there is a decrease of movements. It is partly due to VAT applied for movement of stallions. The UK is considering to ban export fo slaughter horses.

END OF AGM at 11.20 am.