



EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK

Board meeting - 3rd May 2022 - Zaventem

Minutes

Attendees – Board members

Mark Wentein - Chair
Amandine Julien – IFCE
Marjaana Alaviuhkola - UET
Paul Khan - EMHF
Sandra Zafra - WHW
Julius Peters - FEEVA
Peter Bollen - EEHNC
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt - FITE
Nadine Brandtner - WBFSH
Florence Gras – EHN

Also attending:

Marko Mazeland – FEIF
Haike Blaauw – FNRS
Francisco Lima - FEI
Filip Vande Cappelle - ATA
Guy Heymans - ETF
Jan de Boitselier – CBC
Jeroen Vanavermaete – CBC
Muriel Coppin - CBC

Online:

Joe Hernon – EFTBA
Nick Elsas - EFTBA
Marie Orard – Hippolia
Sana Maki Tuuri - Hippolis
Claire Scicluna – Equ’Institut

Excused:

Astrid von Velsen – ESSA
Ronan Murphy – EEF
Simon Cooper – EEAC
Michael Kjaer - EFFA

Mark Wentein welcomes the attendees in the official headquarters of EHN.

1. Minutes of the last Board meeting – February 2022

Minutes are validated without modifications.

2. Financial statement 2021

The document was prepared with the help of the accountant working with Filip Vande Cappelle and will be sent to all soon.

3. Follow-up on the French Presidency Equine conference

The conference was perfectly organised by the IFCE. Many EHN members were attending in person and speaking at the conference gathering 120 participants in Saumur.

The broadcast in 2 languages is still available on the YouTube channel of IFCE:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwEPHbgryJ4&ab_channel=IFCE

A written report of the conference is being prepared.

EHN will make sure that the European Presidency following (Czech Republic and Sweden in 2023) will support the work done.

In order to follow-up on the legacy of the conference, EHN is creating 3 specific sub-groups:

- Sub-Group on the creation of a European Sustainable Equine Label
EHN will work with Laetitia de Saint Paul, French MP who has initiated the idea. The group will gather all national existing label (NED, BEL, FRA) and think about requirements for a European label. In the past, the IFCE supported a thesis "Equitourism" led by the University of Angers (FR). It could be a basis on these discussions.

Members: FITE, CBC, FNRS, IFCE

- Launch a Eurostat study on Equines (collect recent and adequate figures)
The group will list all the necessary figures and will inquire on the procedure to approach EU Commission/Eurostat.

Members: Hippolia, FNRS, FITE, ATA, IFCE

- European Equine literary Price

The group will benefit from the experience of the French Price, Prix Pégase – Claire Cordilhac from IFCE is a member of the Academy.

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acad%C3%A9mie_P%C3%A9gase#Les_Laur%C3%A9ats_des_prix_P%C3%A9gase_et_prix_sp%C3%A9cial_Cadre_noir

Members: FITE (Catherine could nominate a member), IFCE (Claire), ATA (Filip) and EHN (Florence).

One of the sub-group will meet on the afternoon of 21st June after the MEP Horse Group in Brussels.

4. Update on EU projects

EHIP project on the integrity of racing – The bid was rejected last month although marks were high, 82/100. The aim is to prepare a new submission for October 2022 with the help of new partners. The Swedish Trotting Federation could lead the project. The information will be confirmed in June.

EUHorseNet – Equine Thematic Network – Submitted in March 2022 – results will be known in July.

Nutrition – Phase 2 ongoing.

5. EHN Welfare sub-group

The group met in April and prepared the next MEP Horse Group meeting with a focus on welfare in transport (see item 8 of the agenda).

The group will meet again in September/October to discuss and prepare communication issues: how to reply/react to the campaign to ban the use of horses. The group will learn from the Task Force in Holland working on those issues through social media.

Members agree that EHN should be pro-active and educate the public on positive examples in reality. Future MEP Horse Group/EHN Conference could be on Social license.

A recent and interesting study on welfare and social license from the Swiss Conseil et Observatoire de la filière Cheval will be sent to all members. The FEI will suggest to its board in May to set an independent committee on animal welfare.

EU Animal Welfare platform sub-group on equines is preparing draft guidelines on equestrian tourism.

6. Next MEP Horse Group on welfare in transport of equines – 21st June 2022 in EP in Brussels

In January 2022, the European Parliament adopted the recommendation of the ANIT committee of inquiry on animal transport. The report has now shifted to the European Commission and its ongoing review and 'fitness check' of the Animal Welfare in Transport legislation. The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) will soon deliver its opinion on the welfare of animals during transport (July 2022).

EHN has followed the investigation and provided factual information and evidence. It is important, at this stage to dialogue with MEPs and representatives of the EU Commission to prepare together the future requirements and contribute to the future EU Animal Welfare strategy.

The problem of transport is essentially with slaughter horses, but the industry must be careful about future legislation that could complicate the movements for breeding and of competition and racing horses.

Members discussed the possibility to have studies following the horse health and welfare from the start of the journey and analysing the conditions at arrival. FEEVA said there was no such study today. EHN must find more data/good examples.

EHN must demonstrate to MEPs and the EU Commission, the positive conditions in which such horses are transported.

Suggested speakers:

Barbara Padalino, researcher, University of Bologna, Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Division of Animal Sciences

Filip Vande Cappelle, CEO of European Horse Services and member of the Board of the Animal Transportation Association

Roly Owers, Executive Director of the World Horse Welfare

Stanislav Ralchev or Sandra Sanmartín, EU Commission

Secretariat will contact Hilde Vautmans soon to prepare the meeting.

7. Membership applications

Members have received the questionnaires from the French Equures Label and from the French National Federation of Horse Councils

Both structures are national and have limited input for EHN.

Moreover, the label Equures is only one of different existing sustainable/quality label existing in Europe.

Regarding the French Horse Councils, the work done in France and their members already have representations inside EHN (sport, racing, breeding...).

Interbev has also sent the questionnaire this day.

The structure harmonising European qualifications IGEQ is also applying. Muriel Coppin was attending EHN lunch.

All applications will be asked to make a power point presentations at the next Board meeting in July or at the General Assembly meeting this autumn.

8. Next event and next meeting

Spoga Equipment show in Koln – 25 July 2022

EHN organises a seminar on Monday 25/07 at 11.00 am and will hold its next Board meeting on location.

The seminar will be prepared with Hippolia and BETA on welfare and safety.

9. Others

FNRS – with EEF, have organised the support of horses in Ukraine by providing food and money

FNRS organises its next conference near Schiphol on 16 September. Haike will provide the information, all EHN members are invited.

The FITE will organise first International meeting of Equestrian Tourism which will take place on 13 september in Silkeborg (Denmark). As member of the EC experts group on the Package Travel Directive (PDT), it participated in the [public consultation launched by the EC](#)

FEIF – alerts us on the excess made on the commerce of bloodmares and asks EHN to take position. FEEVA statement on that issue will be communicated to all. EHN could support FEEVA statement.

WHW is helping Ukraine horses by providing food and medicines.

UET gave €30000 for the 350 horses that are on the Kiev racecourse.

TO DO LIST

- Send 2021 Financial Statement to all.
- Launch the 3 EHN sub-groups to work on the legacy of the FR Presidency Equine Conference (Secretariat to organise meetings in June and July)
- Prepare MEP Horse Group with Hilde Vautmans and send invitations
- Contact applicants and invite them to the General Assembly meeting