



## **General Assembly Meeting 2022**

**Brussels**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### Attendance

Mark Wentein – EHN Chairman  
Paul Khan – EMHF  
Jessica Stark – WHW  
Sandra Zafra – WHW  
Haïke Blaauw – FNRS  
Fenna Elzinga – FNRS  
Marko Mazeland – FEIF  
Filip Vande Cappelle – ATA  
Catherine Bonnichon de Rancourt – EEF/FITE  
Jan de Boitselier – CBC  
Amandine Julien – IFCE  
Kouraychia Boina Ali – IFCE  
Florence Gras – General Secretary  
Marjaana Alaviuhkola – UET  
Isabelle Gizardin – UET  
Marie Orard – Hippolia  
John Ravanelli – EFFA  
Peter Bollen – EEHNA

### Excused:

Francisco Lima – FEI  
Roly Owers – WHW  
Julius Peters – FEEVA  
Guy Heymans – ETF  
Klaus Miesner – WBFSH  
Pit Schlechter – FECTU  
Markus Scharman – EEN  
Astrid von Velsen – ESSA  
Claire Scicluna – Equ’Institute

The Chairman, Mark Wentein, welcomes all members.

### **1. Approval of the agenda and minutes from last General Assembly 16 November 2021**

**Decision:** Minutes are approved without comments

### **2. Report on activities 2022 from the Chairman and the Board**

Mark Wentein relates the activities of 2022:

More physical meetings with 2 in-person Board meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> July) and 2 online Board meetings (9<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> September) + specific meetings online to listen to EHN applications.

Equine Welfare is becoming the number one topic. EHN started by looking at transport issues and will review more issues related to welfare during 2023.

The MEP Horse Group on Equine Welfare organized today is to show the actions undertaken by the equine industry – further documents will be prepared in the perspective of the dialogue with the EU Commission and Parliament on the future EU Strategy on Animal Welfare.

### **Advocacy**

Equine welfare in transport :

- **EHN Welfare sub-group** created beginning 2022 to work on this topic
- Two letters to MEPs on ANIT reports : One before the adoption by the committee, the second before the adoption in Plenary session
- Identification of initiatives related to the Social Licence to Operate (work in progress)
- **MEP Horse Group equine welfare in transport on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022**
- Document sent to MEPs
- Position on the opinion of EFSA in November 2022

### **Event participation and EHN promotion**

15<sup>th</sup> March – ATA Conference online

8<sup>th</sup> March – EquiGala with the Belgium Equestrian industry

1<sup>st</sup> April – French Presidency Conference in Saumur

10<sup>th</sup> June – Conference in Deauville – Horses and legacy

18<sup>th</sup> July - Ostende racecourse

25<sup>th</sup> July – Spoga in Koln/Seminar on Equines’ safety and welfare equipment

30<sup>th</sup> August – Ostende + Waregem racecourses – EHN was thanked by Belgium racing

October – Meeting Joe Collins

10<sup>th</sup> November – WHW Conference in London

### **New activities**

#### **Creation of a sub-group on European Equine Sustainable Tourism Label**

This label should be created to promote “Sustainable horse destinations” (different possible areas/locations/initiatives: cities, territories but also events) with a strong horse identity. Existing national labels were identified to help with the setting up of criteria.

Other projects and initiatives must be studied: the project of European Cultural Equine Route, State Studs Heritage, Euro-equus, Route d’Artagnan...

- 2 meetings (May and September) were organised to work on criteria (first grid of criteria presented in July)
- Next steps: definition of selection jury and governance ; consultation of existing labels to create a draft application file.

#### **European statistical study**

- 1st mail sent to Eurostat → waiting for an answer

#### **European Equine Literary Prize**

- Not started yet – although Secretariat has started to list relevant books.

### **Update on European projects**

#### **EUNetHorse**

The project was accepted by the European Commission and will start the 1st March 2023. It is a 4-years project and it involves 9 countries. EHN and some of its members will be part of the European advisory board (EHN, FECTU, EFTBA, FEEVA, WBFSA and World Horse Welfare). (More information in PPT Annexed)

Although, there are not a great attendance of MEPs, it is essential at this stage to invite the EU Commission at our meetings.

**Decision:** Members approved the report from the Chairman.

### **3. Financial report for 2021 – Update of financial situation 2022**

Members have received the 2021 financial statement that needs to be signed and send to the fiscal administration.

EHN thanks Kris, the accountant of European Horse Services (the company of Filip Vande Cappelle) for managing EHN accounts.

The accountant is advising EHN to organise its General Assembly meeting earlier next year (Spring 2023) in order to comply with the deadline of the fiscal administration to present the Financial Statement.

An update of 2022 expenses is also presented – the total should not be over € 15000.

Mark W is informing members that ING Bank does not want to manage the EHN account. The policy of the bank is to refuse all non-profit organisations. Therefore, we will ask other banks, Belfius, KBC or other banks in Belgium.

**Decision:** Members approved the 2021 Financial Statement and all administrators give powers to the Chairman to publish the financial documents.

#### **4. Membership Applications (see link to documents: <https://gargantua.ifce.fr/69li>)**

6 membership applications to vote on. It continues to be a good sign that EHN is serious and useful. Amandine presents all applications and informs members of the Board's opinion.

**Decision:** Interbev, Equisfair Cluster, IGEQ and COFICHEV are all accepted as new members.

Equures Label, French Horse Council Federation are refused.

Amandine will inform the applicants of the decision of the General Assembly.

#### **5. Draft Work Programme and budget proposal for 2023**

Continue the advocacy on Equine Welfare:

- ⇒ Adopt and disseminate a Manifesto on Equine Welfare
- ⇒ Look at welfare in horse keeping
- ⇒ Position Papers and meetings with EU Commission on the new Animal Welfare strategy (mid-2023?)

Support EU Projects

- ⇒ Re-submit EHIP/Erasmus+ project

EHIP on Racing integrity could be re-submitted in March. EHN and Hippolia are preparing the new version. The new leader could be the Swedish trotting federation. According to the evaluation report, updates are necessary on educational modules.

- ⇒ Promote EUNetHorse thematic network, starting in June 2023

Events to organise/promote

- MEP Horse group meetings in March and June ?  
Topics to look at : Label on Horse Destinations, best practices and welfare on horse keeping/stabling, communication on welfare
- Official launch of EUNetHorse in June (France – probably in Le Pin, in Normandy)
- Presidents' Meeting – June 2023 - Gather the Presidents and CEOs in the Equine industry
- Olympic Games PARIS 2024 – Event/position Paper/occasion to promote the equine industry and to elaborate a communication strategy on welfare and best practices.

A proposal for 2023 expenses was also presented – around € 20 000

**Decision:** Members agree to prepare the Presidents Meeting and to conduct a survey on their concerns/priorities.

Haike (FNRS) suggests to prepare a study on long term scenarios in 10 and 20 years: The equine industry in 2033, 2043. Such perspective could help us to see the impact of the climate change, shortage of staff and other impacts on our industry and help us to see what could be developed to prevent negative results. He will send examples of a similar work done in NDL.

FNRS is open to host an EHN event.

Catherine (EEF/FITE) asks to see if EHN could help to harmonise administrative codes to register equine activities in Europe.

## **6. Setting the annual membership fee for 2023**

**Decision:** Members agree to maintain the membership fee as it is.

## **7. Others**

**Marko (FEIF)** informs members about the issue of blood mares in Iceland. Julius Peters (FEEVA) will be contacted.

**Sandra (WHW)** takes note of the issue that is also on the agenda of the next Animal Welfare Intergroup meeting in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The group will also look at Working equids – WHW document on this issue will be presented.

Sandra is also informing members of a meeting on Friday 9 December of the EU sub-group on Equine Welfare (EU Animal Welfare Platform) to discuss with the EU Commission the future legislation on equine stabling.

**Catherine (EEF)** is now chairing the European Equestrian Federation EU committee. The next meeting at the end of December will look at AHL and Welfare, equine movements and CAP.

**John (European Farriers)** is working on the registration of the professionals in countries where it is not the case.

**Peter (EEHNA)** informs members about the study on nutrition – phase 3 will be finalised in April 2023 and presented at the next Equine Nutrition Conference. An App will also be available.

**Filip (ATA)** announces the next Animal Transportation Association conference in Mexico in March 2023.

**Amandine (IFCE)** recalls that a study listing all equine welfare initiatives in Europe is ongoing with the help of Kouraychia (intern at the IFCE). She also informs members of the ongoing thought about the creation of an European Equine Cultural Routes (to be linked to the Sustainable Label on Horse Destinations). IFCE is also preparing specific actions linked to Olympics 2024.

**Haike (FNRS)** will send us the results of an evaluation study on the cost of horse keeping conducted in NDL.

**Paull (EMHF)** informs members of the creation of the Pony Racing Association gathering similar initiatives in Europe in order to promote the training of jockeys.

**Marjaana (UET)** announces the World Trotting Conference on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in Berlin – Focus on animal welfare and medication.

**End 3.45 pm**