

June 2023

EHN PRESIDENTS' MEETING 2023

PROGRAMME



8th June 2023 – Brussels

Minutes

Mark Wentein welcomed participants and reminded the objectives of the meeting:

- EHN have grown to 32 members and it is essential to know each other,
- We need the involvement of all,
- A brainstorming session on forward-looking topics to understand the challenges ahead (Prospective study, Olympic Games, Biosecurity),
- Essential to explain once again the importance to be proactive on future regulations and agree on common positions.

He also reviewed the Work Programme of 2023/2024:

- Continue the advocacy on Equine Welfare:
Look at welfare in horse keeping (MEP Horse group)
Position Papers and meetings with EU Commission on the new Animal Welfare strategy (to be released in autumn 2023)
- Support and lead EU Projects:
Promote EUNetHorse thematic network, launching event in June 2023
- Prospective study: Equine industry in 2040 to be presented in November 2023
- Olympic Games PARIS 2024 – Event/position Paper/occasion to promote the equine industry and to elaborate a communication strategy on welfare and best practices.

1. EHN Prospective Study

Haike Blaauw and **Robert van Almkerk**, as moderators, explained the methodology and obtained answers from the participants to define variables on which to base the different scenarios.

Objectives: EHN study could help to answer the following questions: How to prepare for the future? What are the trends and predictions? What developments are foreseen?

We cannot predict the future, but we can work on some scenarios and prepare action plans with EHN members to face them.

Insecurity seems to be an important prediction: Ukraine war, Animal activists, Corona crisis...

Scenarios are:

- External realities which cannot be influenced
- Stories of a possible future
- Assume the extremes

4 scenarios were adopted in the Netherlands during the similar study:

- On the horse: everything remains as it is today
- With the horse: reduction of space but high social license
- Next to the horse: less social license
- Without the horse: no social license

The process of scenario analysis is done in 4 steps:

1. Define external trends : macro/micro environment divided into 6 sub-categories (participants defined the major issues to look at and posted their ideas/concerns under the various categories).
 - Technology
 - Gamification
 - AI
 - Connected tools
 - Technology VS knowledge
 - Politics
 - Rise of fake news
 - Populism
 - Public perception
 - Decoupling : political blocks
 - Economy
 - More statistics from Eurostats
 - Less money for Leisure
 - Inflation
 - Influence of China
 - Social
 - Migration
 - Climate crisis
 - Welfare
 - Lack of diversity
 - Ecology
 - Use of land
 - Room for horses
 - Water supply
 - End of life
 - Demographics
 - Ageing of population
 - More people
 - Lack of workforce
2. Work on trend clusters
3. Look at the forces of change
4. Establish Scenarios

Haïke and Robert will work with EHN core group on the different trends provided, decide on the 4 priorities and will return with possible scenarios.

14th November could be the date to meet in Brussels (TBC).

2. Olympic Games 2024 in Paris

Coordination and events in France

Guillaume Blanc - Director of the support of the equine industry at the IFCE (French Equine Institute)

The IFCE has the mission to promote and coordinate the horse sector in France around the OG

The "Horse equine committee" unifies the equine industry in FR and want to focus on:

- Quality of products and services
- Reflection of major topics : welfare, sustainability of activities, water resources

1924 (last OG in Paris) to 2024 – 100 years of history

Specificities of the French equine industry:

- Wide and diverse range of animals: racing, sports and leisure, historical native breeds
- Sports federation = FFE, 6000 riding schools – 700 000 licenses – 3rd Sport in France
- Horse Racing system organised on the Pari Mutuel Urbain (FR betting company) providing financial income
- IFCE dedicated, state-funded institute
- SIRE – Performant central database
- CIRALE, labeo
- Cadre Noir
- Forefront of innovation with Hippolia cluster and INRAE

What is the place for the equine sector during the Olympic Games (OG)?

2 aspects :

1. Inside the OG:

- a. French riders and horses
- b. State-owned horses for pentathlon
- c. Carriage services for passengers with reduced mobility
- d. Sustainable waste management
- e. official fan zones
- f. Establish an ethics and welfare committee with the organizing committee to spread correct information

2. Around the OG:

- a. Exhibition of the horse through art in the XXIst century
- b. International conference on the equine industry in Versailles on 9 April 2024
 - i. IFCE and French equine committee will technically organise the venue
 - ii. 2 days at Chateau de Versailles
 1. Conference on the French equine sector and global challenges for the equine industry
 2. Thematic tours
- c. Seminar on equestrian culture in Lamotte Beuvron in April
- d. Colloquium of the world horse library at the end of July 2024
- e. Deauville Races and Sales in August.

➔ The IFCE wants to associate EHN to the project of international conference to propose topics and speakers. EHN will be invited to the steering committee.

Equestrian Sports in the OG

Ingmar De Vos – President of FEI and Member of the Olympic Committee

International equestrian landscape

- 750 million equestrian fans

- 300 billion euros economic impact worldwide
- 60 million horses and ponies
- 2 million jobs linked to the equestrian industry

Essential for equestrian sports to remain in the OG because governments will invest much more in Olympic sports they participate in. The removal of equestrian sports to OG will have a negative impact on investments and development of equestrian sports in third countries.

- Eg : Chinese qualified for team eventing in Paris → Chinese government sees that their investments are paying off

FEI has the huge responsibility to keep equestrian sport in the OG. Equestrian sport has important and influential support: Princess Anne in the IOC Committee as well as Kristin Kloster Aasen, former President of the Equestrian Federation of Norway. The IOC has 100 members and they decide which sports are on the programme.

The IOC works on the priorities of Agenda 2020+5:

- OG need to be universal, as many flags as possible
 - → for equestrian, not just Europe → so the presence of Asian countries is important
 - Quota of 200 athletes only (compared to athletics competitions with 2000)
- More broadcast-friendly formats: shorter, more exciting competitions
- Attract youth
- Improve cosmetics
- Easier to understand - More interesting to larger audiences
- New norm: cost efficiency
 - 2012 in London, IOC measured performances of the sports to the OG based on broadcasting as revenue of IOC mainly comes from broadcasting (60% - €5 billion) → equestrian downgraded from 1 category

Paris 2024

- Very nice venue but no equestrian infrastructure → temporary. Not necessarily more expensive
- Versailles will have all equestrian competitions in the same place → no additional costs
- Biggest challenge is Social acceptance: Confront and answer criticism – equine ethics and wellbeing commission was created for that (independent people, scientists, professors, to establish a plan: redefine relationships between equines and humans, explain that horses are happy when competing, creating recommendations for our community to reinstall the credibility of equestrian sports
- Modern pentathlon: now, collaboration with FEI (since Tokyo)

Challenges for the future

- Los Angeles 2028: equestrian now confirmed for all 3 disciplines (eventing was not sure)
- Brisbane: 2032: nothing is decided. The biggest challenge is the transportation of horses and the quarantine period.
- For the future:
 - We need to reduce the costs by having all disciplines in one venue
 - We need to increase popularity with documentaries on Netflix
 - Ecological footprint: second sustainability handbook just published. Ideas for organizers to reduce their footprint.
 - Try to improve transport and quarantine – we work with EU Commission DG Sante and with IFHA (Horseracing) on the status of equine/athletes
 - We must control disease outbreaks, particularly with the climate change perspective.

3. Biosecurity measures against equine influenza – Dr. Caterina Termine, FEI senior veterinary advisor

Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen, President of FEEVA made an Introduction about the situation on vaccines following the issue raised in Denmark : EU legislation. Art 106 veterinary medicinal products shall only be used in the way it's used in the leaflet. In this leaflet for this vaccine, it says that the booster shall be given annually. All trotting associations and thoroughbreds requires vaccination every 6 months. Therefore, in Denmark, vets are in an uncomfortable position, as Federations wants vaccinations every 6 months, but the EU says no. Ongoing lobbying to change one word: "shall" → "should". No success so far.

Equine influenza

- Highly contagious
- Main mode of transmission : air + objects (fomites)
- Clinical signs: Fever, Cough, Nasal discharge, Enlarged lymph nodes
- Complications: Secondary bacterial infections
- Impact of outbreaks:
 - adverse to individual equine health
 - Close yards/ stables
 - Transmission over long distances
 - Stops all equine activities
 - negative impact on the economy
- Who is at risk?
 - Young and old horses
 - Sick and immune-depressed horses
 - Unvaccinated horses

FEI biosecurity measures

- Examination on arrival
 - Temperature taken twice a day for 4 days before the event and during it
 - Equine health self-certification form
 - Checked for clinical signs of infectious disease
 - Equine influenza vaccination checked
 - horse admitted to the FEI stables
- Measures during competitions
 - Stables cleaned, disinfected and sealed before horses arrive
 - Isolation stables have to be provided
 - No objects (fomites) shared between horses
 - Transportation also disinfected
 - reduced contacts between horses which normally aren't in contact
- Vaccination
 - Will change in 2024
 - Excellent protection but not always 100% protection
 - Have to be updated
 - Biosecurity must also be maintained
- Temperature taking
 - Monitoring of horses is extremely important
 - If fever: isolate and rest the horses – early diagnosis is the best solution

- Disease surveillance: encourage disease reporting
 - Raise awareness
 - Allow any required additional biosecurity measures
 - Inform on equinesurveillance@gmail.com
 - Commonly reported EI outbreaks
 - Horses new to a stables
 - From sales/auctions
 - Imported horses
 - Horses that have been transported with others
 - MOSTLY unvaccinated horses

Combine biosecurity with technology: FEI App that supports biosecurity efforts , allows to check vaccination requirements, health certificates, module for temperature recording.