

# EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 in Brussels**  
**MEP Horse Group on the welfare of equines**

Celine Ledoux from EU Commission presented the future EU Animal Welfare Strategy

EHN experts presented the work done inside the FEI Commission on Equine Ethics, and on horseracing's social licence.



May 2023

- Events
- MEP Horse Group meetings

## Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

Although the year 2022 was again impacted by the Covid crisis, EHN managed to meet physically and organise two MEP Horse Group meetings in the European Parliament, on transport and actions on welfare.

EHN dedicated working group on welfare was active and adopted valuable position papers showing how the welfare of equines is at the center priority of all professionals. EHN demonstrates what is already done and what is in progress by responding to the EP inquiry group on transport and to EFSA scientific position.

At our General Assembly meeting in November 2022, we were proud to welcome four new members.

EHN represents today 32 organisations.

It was decided for 2023 to continue our dialogue with the EU Institutions on equine welfare and to look at future challenges by setting up a Prospective study on what could be the equine industry in 2040. Such a study will help our members to consider the future with a strong action plan. To help us, EHN has invited the Presidents of each equine organisations to reflect on these future challenges in June 2023 in Brussels.

EHN Presidents' meeting and our MEP Horse group on Equine Welfare in June will be another opportunity for EHN to increase the cooperation and mutual assistance between its members.

**Mark Wenten**, Chairman



Our new members in 2023



<https://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu/>

## Events and MEP Horse Group meetings

### French Presidency Equine Conference – 1st April 2022 in Saumur: The Horse, an asset for the post-crisis world in France and in Europe.

120 participants from France and Europe attended the Conference in Saumur. Panellists from equestrian sport, horseracing, horse welfare and politicians agreed to say that the Covid crisis has pushed people back to nature and it is an opportunity for the equine world. Equines are still in need of recognition as the animal is not a pet but stands in between agriculture and sport. There is a need to improve the knowledge, the research and to invest in education and training for the equine to gain the place in society it deserves.

In order to follow-up on the legacy of the conference, EHN will work on a sustainable equestrian tourism label.

[Listen to the presentations and discussion in English](#)



### MEP Horse Group on the welfare in transport – 21st June 2022 in Brussels



The report of the European Parliament Inquiry Committee on the protection of animals during transport was adopted in January 2022 and will provide input to the EU Commission in the revision of the animal welfare legislation in 2023. The European equine industry could be highly impacted by possible new requirements. Movements of horses are essential for horseracing, competitions, breeding or sales purposes. If transport can be a cause of stress and strain for equines (adaptation, confinement, restricted space, physical exertion, noise, climatic conditions), horses moved for sport, races or breeding are transported in good conditions.

EHN has followed the investigation and provided factual information and evidence by inviting Barbara Padalino, researcher, University of Bologna, to present her study on the effects of the journey and journey conditions on horse health and welfare, Filip Vande Cappelle, CEO of European Horse Services and member of the Board of the Animal Transportation Association to express his opinion as a professional of equine transport and Alana Chapman, Research and Education Officer of the World Horse Welfare to suggest specific improvement in transport for the welfare of equines. Stanislav Ralchev,

policy officer at EU Commission, DG SANTE, made an update on the revision of the EU legislation of the protection of animals during transport.

### Seminar on welfare and safety of equipments at Spoga Horse Show – 25th July 2022 in Kohn



Improvement of safety and welfare becomes an objective for many regional, national, European and International decision makers, leading to new standards and legislations. This awareness and new rules not only represent constraints for equipment manufacturers, but also market opportunities.

Claire Williams, Executive Director of the British Equestrian Trade Association presented the latest developments in Safety standards for rider and on rider related safety equipment and latest statistics on rider injuries based on work undertaken in the UK. Thibault Delattre, Project Manager at Hippolia French Equine cluster, showed the technological innovations to improve the comfort and the safety of the horse at work, and therefore, its welfare. Uta König v. Borstel, Professor in Animal Husbandry, presented her research on the impact of bridles and bits on horse welfare. Roly Owers, Chief Executive Officer at World Horse Welfare, looked at innovative products that solve current and future welfare problems.

### MEP Horse Group on animal welfare and social license to operate – 22nd November 2022 in Brussels



EHN demonstrated that more and more across Europe, initiatives are taken to put welfare in the forefront. In different parts of the world, anti-doping, safety and welfare requirements are rapidly evolving to protect the integrity of horseracing and improve the safety and welfare of human and equine athletes. The public view on the use of horses in sport is changing and equine organisations must work collaboratively to address the issues and safeguard the future of the industry. The work of the FEI Commission on Equine Ethics and Wellbeing was presented by Jessica Stark, Director of Communications & Public Affairs at World Horse Welfare. Paull Khan, General Secretary of the European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation explained how Racing's social licence is moving and how the sport needs to take action.