

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



8th June 2023 in the European Parliament in Brussels

MEP Horse Group on the welfare of keeping equines

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission and MEP Hilde Vautmans



July 2023

- Presidents Meeting
- MEP Horse Group

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

EHN won, once again, support at Europe's highest level and was honoured by the presence of Mrs Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission. The MEP Horse Group, chaired by MEP Hilde Vautmans, gathered, on 8th June, 55 participants from the equine industry from all over Europe, Belgian administration, EU Institutions. Such meetings are essential for the professionals of the equine industry to demonstrate all their initiatives and improvements.

It was important as well to gather most of the Presidents and Directors of EHN for a brainstorming session in Brussels in June to prepare future actions such as the

Prospective study and the Olympic Games in 2024.

The Equestrian sport worldwide represents 750 million equestrian fans, 300 billion euros economic impact and 2 million jobs but it is a constant battle to keep the equestrian disciplines on the agenda of the Olympics and Paralympics. This is why EHN must remain a strong and united organization to contribute as best as possible to the influence of our industry.

Mark Wentein, Chairman



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

Events and MEP Horse Group meeting
EHN Presidents' Meeting – 8 June 2023 in Brussels



More than twenty-two EHN member structures, represented by their Director and President discussed strategic issues. A workshop was first proposed as part of the **European prospective study**: The equine industry in 2040. This study should develop scenarios and an action plan for the members of the European Horse Network. Participants identified trends that could impact equine activities. The outcome will be shared probably in November 2023. The study is led by the Federation of Equestrian Centres in the Netherlands (FNRS) and is supported by IFCE (French Equine Institute).



The second major topic was the **Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games**. The holding of this sporting event on European soil is indeed important for the equine industry. IFCE, the coordinator of the event in France, proposed that EHN members could co-organise an International conference in April 2024 to address key strategic and shared issues such as sustainable development and welfare. Ingmar De Vos, president of the International Equestrian Federation and IOC member, presented the main issues and difficulties that exist at each edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to maintain equine disciplines. Dr Caterina Termine, FEI Chief Veterinary advisor, presented the **biosecurity measures** against Equine influenza.

MEP Horse Group on the welfare in keeping equidae – 8 June 2023 in Brussels



The meeting dealt with the conditions of detention of equidae, in the context of a review of EU animal welfare legislation. **Ursula von der Leyen, President of the**

European Commission, was able to hear the concerns and expectations of the industry. She took advantage of this meeting to reaffirm her support for the professionals of this industry. Their needs will be taken into account in the legislative proposal to be published in the autumn.



Professor Kathalijine Visser-Riesdtra from the University of Dronten in the Netherlands stressed the importance of taking scientific data into account in future regulations in order to improve the living conditions of horses in Europe. **Ingmar De Vos, FEI President**, explained the rules for protecting horses during international competition. The Belgian rider, **François Marthy Jr**, was able to explain how well-being is taken into account in the accommodation and day-to-day management of high-level horses. **Alexia Bret-Morel**, ethologist at the French Equestrian Federation, presented the model of certification of French equestrian centres that allows to support professionals engaged in a voluntary approach. **Lumi Drozzin** from MTK and **Minna Peltonen** from the Equestrian Federation in Finland presented the recent impact study of the equine industry and its many benefits, reducing the risks of exclusion, supporting well-being and promoting carbon sequestration. To conclude, **Mark Wentein**, Chairman of EHN, stressed the importance for the industry to adopt a common position. Thus, the EHN has drafted a position paper on horse holding for European decision-makers in order to present the specificities of the sector that must be taken into account.

EHN General Assembly – June 2023



New topics for EHN work programme 2023/2024:

- Lack of human resources in our industry and how to involve the younger generation.
- Set up a Sustainability programme/action plan with the results of the Prospective study
- Prepare an event linked to Olympic Games 2024 - meeting in Versailles in April 2024.

Next meeting in November 2023 in Brussels