



**Board Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – Brussels  
Minutes**

Attendees:

Cathy McGlynn, EFTBA – European Thoroughbred Breeders' Association  
Roly Owers, WHW - World Horse Welfare  
Florence Gras, EPMA - European Pari Mutuel Association  
Stefan Johanson, HNS - Swedish Horse Council Foundation  
Bo Helander, EEF - European Equestrian Federation

Invited

Markku Saastamoinen, Hippolis  
Marek Grzybowski, Hipika Polska  
Pascal Bioulac, FFE, representing the COPA Horse Group  
Anne de Sainte Marie, FFE, representing the COPA Horse Group

Excused:

Frederic Chauvel, Pole de compétitivité Filiere Equine/Hippolia  
Klaus Miesner, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses  
Nancy De Briyne, Deputy Executive Director of FEEVA

**1. Agenda and Minutes from the last meeting**

Minutes of the last Board meeting are approved as well as minutes of the Annual meeting (26 October 2011).

**2. ELO – proposal of partnership**

Florence met the Executive Director of ELO, Thierry de l'Escaille. The structure could cooperate with EHN regarding meetings with MEPs, ELO is in charge of the Secretariat of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Hunting, Rural developments. A meeting will be organised with the Chairwoman of the Intergroup Veronique Mathieu. It will increase our visibility inside the European Parliament.

A joint document on Horses and Biodiversity could be co-published. Florence will meet ELO team in February to discuss the feasibility.

**3. MEP horse group**

Successful so limited number of seats – we need to be flexible.  
Table setting is analysed and changed.

**4. Membership presentations and application**

**Hippolis**

Presentation is done by Markku Saastamoinen.

Equine industry in Finland:

75 000 horses (5,4 M inhabitants)

- Warmblooded trotter 36 %
- Finnhorse 27 %



- Warmblooded riding horse 24 %
- Ponies 13 %

2030 estimation: 130 000 horses

- 15 000 stables
  - ¼ company-based
  - ¾ farm-based
- Employment: full- or part-time 15 000 employees
  - Ca. 8 horses / 1 person

Economics: estimated turnover 830 M €/year

- Investments 23 M €/year

Markku is a Senior Scientist from MTT Animal Production Research, one of the structures represented inside Hippolis.

Mission of Hippolis:

- Strengthen the development strategy of the industry as a whole
  - Develop and strengthen the cross industrial and scientific networks
  - Increase influence the educational aspects and knowledge
  - Ensure support the innovative projects for private entities
  - Foster the equine tradition thorough the Finnish Equine Museum activities
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- Recent topics:
    - Horse welfare - Discussion + the new animal welfare law (2015?)
    - Profitability of the Equine Industry
      - Hobby and/or business?

### **FEEVA**

FEEVA representatives could not attend EHN meeting but sent a presentation on their activities to Stefan who delivered it.

Board members met in December 2011 and decided to join EHN for 3 years.

FEEVA is a part of FVE, gathering all professional EU Vets, established in 1997.

Activities in 2010/2011:

- Member of FVE Transport working group
  - Transport Forum; Codes of Practice
- Member of FVE Medicines working group
  - Essentials List (470/2009)
  - Antimicrobials: responsible use and prescribing guides
- Position statements
  - change of status of the horse
- European Acknowledged Veterinarians (EBVPD)
- Engagement with other networks and professionals
  - CALLISTO
  - European Horse Network
  - other healthcare providers to the horse

### **GESCA**

An IT failure has prevented the application for membership to arrive before the Annual meeting last October. The application was therefore presented to the board. GESCA represents 16 national FR structures of horse's professionals (stud books, Racing



Authorities, Association of Owners) and horse farms: breeding, horse training, racing, horse riding...

Monitoring, PR and Lobbying tool: Recent Position Paper on VAT.

Stefan will invite GESCA representative to attend next EHN Board, usual procedure for new members.

## **5. Equus 2012**

Marek gives an update of location and programme:

The Venue: Olympic Center in Warsaw on Friday and Saturday + Racecourse on Sunday with the biggest annual flat race in Poland.

The date – 28-30 September 2012

Funding – 50% to be covered by the National Lottery/Tote, Totalizator Sportowy Co (To be confirmed soon).

Expected audience of more than 160 (Equus 2009).

Aims:

- To extend horse industry cooperation to the Baltics, Central European EU countries and Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan
- To enroll national horse organisations from these countries in EHN
- To identify major legal, political and social obstacles for development of horse industry in Europe, international exchange,
- To share experience of effective marketing in order to promote horse breeding, riding and racing on the national markets and enhance international exchange

All EHN members will provide input or speakers regarding the programme (slides attached).

A Save the Date message could be sent in the end of February if the funding is confirmed.

## **6. Action & Communication plans**

Cathy insists on the necessity to adopt a position Paper on Sport – Bo will send documents of the EEF with information and figures on equestrian sport. Marko will be contacted also for statistics on Iceland horses.

Florence will contact once again the Chairman of the EU Equestrian Club.

Next MEP Horse Group before London Olympics (28 July)?

Updated Action Plan is attached.

## **7. Trends in the European horse sector**

Stefan organises a meeting with Frederic to prepare Research and stats issues. He will then report to the Board.

## **8. Need to register EHN?**

Is it useful? Can we achieve EU projects without being registered?

Florence will investigate and report at next Board meeting.

## **9. Next Newsletter (content proposal)**

Next Newsletter: New members, MEP Horse Group meeting report, announcement of future sport events, advertise EQUUS.



#### **10. COPA horse group – collaboration**

Pascal Bioulac represents the French Groupement Hippique, part of FNSEA, 3500 farms, he is an observer inside COPA and partner of the COPA Horse Group, Philippe Houdard.

On VAT issues, COPA Horse Group met Sophie Auconie in September 2011, delivered a common position.

Next COPA Horse Group in April (TBC). Stefan will be invited.

**Meeting closed at 3.00 pm**

#### **Next steps:**

- **Newsletter – All send input – Cathy to coordinate the edition**
- **EQUUS – Confirm funding with Marek – Stefan**
- **EQUUS – input on programme - All**
- **Invite GESCA at next EHN Board – Stefan**
- **Prepare Research and stats issues – Stefan + Frederic**
- **Meet Julie + assistants to prepare next MEP Horse Group meeting - Florence, Cathy**
- **Draft EHN position paper on sport – Cathy, Florence, Bo**

**Next EHN Board meeting in Brussels: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in Brussels**