



**Network Annual Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 - Brussels**

Attendees:

Bo Helander - EEF, European Equestrian Federation  
Roly Owers – WHW, World Horse Welfare  
Florence Gras – EPMA, European Pari Mutuel Association  
Philippe Casier - EMHF, European and Mediterranean Racing Federation  
Pit Schlechter – FECTU, European Draught Horse Federation  
Stefan Johanson – HNS, Swedish Horse Council Foundation  
Harald Muller - FEI, International Equestrian Federation  
Anne-Laure Lejeune - Confédération Belge du Cheval  
Bernard Maurel – ESSA, European State Studs Association  
Klaus Miesner – WBFSh, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses  
Torbjorn Froysnes – UET, European Trotting Union  
Cathy McGlynn – EFTBA, European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations  
Marko Mazeland - FEIF, Icelandic Horses  
Jesper Moller - FEEVA, Equine Vets

Excused:

Pierre Lekeux, Romuald Glowaki, Hippolia, French Horse Cluster  
Marek Grzybowski, Hipika Polska  
Sanna Mäki-Tuuri, Hippolis

Invited :

Denis SIMONIN, European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G3 Animal Welfare  
Alf-Eckbert FÜSSEL, European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G2 Animal Health

The Chairman opens the meeting and thanks Anne-Laure Lejeune from the Confederation Belge du cheval for hosting the meeting in their Headquarters. Stefan asks all members to describe the past year activities and inform on coming events/projects.

Round Table about 2012 activities of members and future projects:

**FEEVA** priorities are to establish a balance between horses and other animals. For the past 10 years, medicines for horses have not been developed sufficiently as well as Code of Practice for transport. For veterinarians a common recognition of educational practices is ongoing.

**FECTU** – Reminder: 20% of horses in EU are working horses

In June/July – FECTU visited amish farms and workshops in Pennsylvania and Ohio and presentation of the FECTU was made at the Horse Progress Days in Michigan.

This summer, FECTU attended the British Festival of the Working Horse in the east of England and the Agricultural Show in Peterborough.

In September were organised the European horse logging championships at the APF forestry show in Alcester (UK). This month, the University of Luxembourg organises an



International Seminar on Animal energy: transition from marginal phenomenon to economic reality.

**EMHF** – Racing/gallop Federation will meet in November to work on an Action Plan/lobbying strategy – hoping to work with trotting representatives as well as vets and welfare structures.

**EFTBA** – Breeders have worked on CAP reform and the definition of an active farmer and will continue to lobby in the coming months for a coherent gambling policy (with a fair return to racing), a valid framework for animal transport and VAT. A new issue was discussed recently – DNA profiling.

**FEI** – Important year because of the Olympics and zero positive on doping is a strong signal towards a clean sport. Despite the economic crisis, equestrian federations account more riders. FEI should work more on biosecurity issues next year.

**WHW** – The organisation tabled a report on 16/10 in Parliament called equine crisis to raise awareness on horses being abandoned – between 6 000 and 10 000 horses are at risk this winter in UK. World Horse Welfare will also continue its lobbying on animal transportation regulation for slaughter horses and on the promotion of basic biosecurity rules (limit equine diseases).

**UET** – Trotting Federation looks at the new EU Action Plan on gambling – is there a specific action on the fair return for the horse sector? On match-fixing, an EU Convention is being prepared and supported by States (Cyprus Declaration signed in September). A conference on sport manipulation is organised on 11 December.

**FEIF - Icelandic Horses** – Important coming events: Horses on Ice near Amsterdam on 23 March 2013 [www.horseonice.nl](http://www.horseonice.nl)  
Preparing a horse show in Berlin for next summer with the possibility to have 100 horses going through the Porte de Brandebourg (TBC).

**WBFSH** – The Association has its secretariat in Denmark and works closely with the Horse Commission of EAAP (Animal production). General Assembly is scheduled in Newmarket on 5/7 November:

<http://www.wbfsh.org/GB/General%20Assembly/General%20Assembly%202012.aspx>

Its main objective at the moment is to promote young horse breeders. A Championship for young breeders is organised in Sweden in summer 2013.

**ESSA** – EU Heritage label could be organised end 2012 and implemented in 2013 – ESSA will for sure follow this issue to promote/support historic studs. A symposium on Horse and Tourism is to be organised.

**EEF** – Active working groups created to support small EU Federations and look at the cost of championships.

**HNS** – in Sweden, the last national study showed a number of 39 horses for 1000 inhabitant, it is the second horse country in Europe – the horse sector has an impact of 48 billion SEK on the economy.



50 million SEK revenues come from ATG, horse betting operator, to support education and equestrian centres. However small signs of decrease: less racegoers, less amateur trainers....a strategic document on how to stop the decrease is being prepared.

**CBC** – The Belgium Horse structure works on equine diseases and the promotion of Belgium breeds.

**EPMA** – Promotes the Pari Mutuel/Tote model for integrity and financing purposes. EU Action Plan on online gambling to be adopted on 23 October looks at integrity but avoids financing issues. EPMA will continue to work both issues in 2013.

#### **Presentations (attached in PDF format):**

##### **Alf-Eckbert FÜSSEL, European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G2 Animal Health**

EU Commission is working on a new Animal Health Law:

- Add control mechanisms
- More precise – no possible interpretation at national level

Figures – 5,5 million equidae in EU, only 2,9 million are registered which means that 47% of horses and donkeys are not registered - registering could avoid abandoning and allow more surveillance particularly in transport.

Surveillance for diseases such as RESPE only exists in France – Poland is starting to do it. A responsible horse ownership is essential.

##### **Denis SIMONIN, European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G3 Animal Welfare**

Regulations for animal welfare have been adopted for the past 40 years on farm animals. Now the scope is enlarged to farm animals + experimental animals and zoo.

*Animal Welfare Strategy proposal (2012 – 2015) based on 4 axes:*

1. The use of animal welfare indicators (space indicators, good feeding, good health, no injuries...) Preparing templates for farmers
2. Information to consumers (through databases, certification schemes)
3. A network of reference centers (call for tenders to test the idea in 2013)
4. Requirements for competence (licensing systems for killing animals? For transportation?)

Conception of a product must also include animal welfare principles

Consultation on indicators will be done in 2013.

#### **Survey results – 12 responses out of 17 members (results attached).**

Globally, members are satisfied with the information provided from EHN Board. On the last question on potential organizations or competencies that should be part of the EHN, members answered:

- Equestrian Schools (the Association exists)
- More regular/constant update of statistics concerning development of the horse sector would be very helpful. The first set of statistics published in 2010 have impressed lots of people.
- Proposal of EAAP horse section (European Association for Animal Production - former Federation Europeenne de Zootechnie) in order to support Research and Education projects.



## **EHN Annual Meeting**

### **1. Election of a chairman for the Annual meeting**

Stefan Johanson is chosen to chair the meeting

### **2. Election of a secretary**

Florence Gras is writing the minutes

### **3. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda, sent out, was approved by participants

### **4. Report from the chairman**

All members validated the activity report (attached).

Chairman asks all members to contact their political representatives to present EHN and gather support and attendance at the MEP Horse Group meetings.

Another request to all members is to send their report from their own General meetings as well as press releases and reports in order to complete EHN Newsletters.

### **5. Financial report for 2012**

Report attached and approved by all.

Income – membership fee from 17 members.

Expenses – MEP Horse Group lunch, web site and leaflets.

Cost effective financial statement. It will enable EHN to organise/support events in 2013.

### **6. Application of new member organisations to EHN**

No new applications

### **7. Election of members to the Executive Board**

Candidates for 2013 mandate: Stefan Johanson (HNS), Cathy McGlynn (EFTBA), Florence Gras (EPMA), Bo Helander (EEF), Roly Owers (WHW), Klaus Miesner (WBSFH), Jesper Moller (FEEVA).

All are elected at the Board of EHN.

Board meeting to be organised in January.

### **8. Setting the annual membership fee for 2013**

Membership fee stays at the same level: 500€/per year

Stefan will send the invoices after the meeting.

### **9. Adopt the Action plan for 2013**

A proposal is described to members (attached).

Remarks on COPA Horse Group activities and relationship with EHN – EHN could invite successor of Lucia at our next meeting and Stefan could see how the Swedish Farmers Association, member of the COPA Horse Group, could be more active.



Cathy suggests preparing a document mapping how Horse is perceived and regulated in various States.

Philippe suggests to organise internal EHN workshops on specific issues.

A budget proposal for 2013 is distributed to members. It shows that EHN has a consequent reserve to support the organisation of seminar and conference in 2013 and 2014.

End at 3.00 pm

**Next steps:**

- **Contact WEG for a new meeting (Bernard and Stefan)**
- **Contact MEP to support MEP Horse Group meetings (All)**
- **Send meeting reports + Members' Newsletter for next EHN Newsletter (All)**
- **Contact COPA and Swedish Farmers (Stefan)**
- **Invite the Equestrian schools Network to participate to EHN (Harald)**
- **Coordinate the leaflet on Horses & Research (Roly)**

**Next EHN Board meeting in Brussels (EPMA office): 24 January 2013 - From 10.30 am**