



**Board Meeting
28th January 2014 – Brussels
Minutes**

Attendees:

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
Jesper Moller Nielsen – FEEVA, Equine Veterinarians
Cathy McGlynn, EFTBA – European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations

Excused

Klaus Miesner, World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses
Pierre Lekeux, Hippolia Foundation

Invited: **Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel, European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G2 Animal Health**

Dr Füssel presented an update of the Equine Passport Regulation. The document is now at the end of the process with a consultation of the legal services of the EU Commission and the text will then circulate outside the Institution after being adopted by the College of Commissioners. The Greek Presidency is willing to start the discussion between Member States (the Italian Presidency will take over in July 2014). The European Parliament will discuss it after the election period although the debate has to be linked to the one on Animal Health Law (report from Marit Paulsen is on the table of the Parliament since November 2013).

Content and format of passport:

- Plastic cover with serial number and 3 sections, particularities of the horse, vet record, guarantees.
- Ownership and ref to Stud book are not compulsory but can be added in a plastic pocket linked to the passport document. Although the recording of ownership as it exists in France is an ideal system, it cannot be implemented European wide.
- The document will follow the horse which needs to be identified during the first 12 months of its life.

Database: central or not? Such database exists in all States except 2. The stud book system is a good registration process but insufficient as there is a need to know where the horse is kept.

Veterinarians remain responsible for the process but the registration can be delegated to the breeding structures or any other efficient structure at national level (BE – The Horse Confederation). However, there is no need to have only one issuing body.

Compile database into one at EU level? The database for cows is done at the moment inside a pilot project called BOWIS. The experience could benefit the horse sector. Dr Füssel has evaluated that 10% of the 7 million horses in EU are moving.



Exclusion from the food chain: The horse has to be excluded from the food chain before being treated with relevant medicine.

Life-long exclusion from the food chain? Consider a delay after medication? The discussion should be brought inside the European WG on Animal Health. It has to be discussed with medicine companies.

Chip issue: although it is compulsory for young horses (previous EU Regulation), it is not implemented properly even for competition horses inside FEI.

1. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was validated.

2. Validation of minutes of AGM

Minutes are approved without modifications.

3. Confirmation chair 2014

Stefan is confirmed in the position of EHN Chairman

4. Next MEP Horse Group meeting 2014-03-19

Focus on Education & Training

Markus (EEN) has completed the agenda with objectives (to push forward the benefits of horses in education as well as describe the activities of Equine schools.

Cathy and Roly confirmed McDonald from the UK Racing School as a particularly relevant speaker.

Stefan suggested Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at the Swedish national horse center for trotting, Wängen

Florence will look for an EU Commission representative to invite (DG EAC).

5. EAAP Conference – 2014-08-25

It is too early and narrow time schedule to organise a joint meeting between EHN and EAAP..EAAP would prefer to have the meeting in Warsaw in 2015.

As Pierre is absent from the Board meeting, Stefan and Florence will organise a conference call with Pierre to review how to approach future R&D calls in 2014.

6. Horse/EQUUS conference 2014-09-01 during WEG in Normandie

Ouest France is the organiser and Rodolphe de Loynes has sent a new and completely different version of the programme. As the previous contribution of EHN does not appear clearly in the new version, Board members are willing to have a straight discussion and understand the timeline. Stefan suggested to meeting Ouest France mid February to discuss the content of the conference once again. The sponsorship from EHN will be decided after that meeting.

7. Figures about European Horse sector

EHN is organising an update of its 2010 figures and will proceed with the same methodology (collect existing figures and use 10 key indicators).

- EEF is collecting EU Sport figures,
- Galop and trotting Federation are also publishing yearly figures,



- Markus (EEN) is looking for a student who could coordinate collection and summing up,
- Florence will send the list of 10 key indicators chosen in 2010 to see if members still agree with the list or want to complete it.

8. Report from COPA Horse working group

EHN will be invited at the next COPA Horse Group meeting and EHN will also invite a representative from COPA Horse Group to the EHN board meetings in the future. A representative from COPA could not attend today but will come next time.

9. Web site

Roly explains its concerns regarding the original EHN web site which does not serve the purpose any longer. He suggests renovating the pages, which were approved by the the board.

www.equus2009.eu will be added to the pages of the EHN general site.

10. EHN - Action plan 2014

The new version of the Action Plan is attached

11. Proposal to new EHN principles

EHN principles' document was amended to give the possibility to welcome more members in the Board (new version attached). Final decision will be done at the next AGM.

12. Other issues

DG AGRI grants: Cathy related her recent meeting and the grant of 200 000€ available for 15 to 20 projects with a call scheduled around October for communication/events around rural diversification.

Roly updates on EU documents and events:

- Horse Transport Guidelines: the document on good practices is progressing well and could be adopted this autumn.
- EU Animal Health and Welfare update: EU Commission is preparing an impact assessment at the moment.
- Eurogroup for animal welfare (EP Intergroup) is planning a specific meeting on Horse Health & Welfare in November. Roly participates to an expert/preparation meeting in March.

Next steps:

- **Web site – Renovation of the site and presentation a new visual at the end of February - Roly**
- **EHN Newsletter (February) – Florence**
- **Approach future calls at R&D - Stefan, Florence and Pierre**
- **DG AGRI Call – contact EU Commission to prepare the next call - Cathy**
- **Agenda of next MEP Horse Group: Florence with the help of Markus**
- **Horse Conference in Caen: meet Ouest France representatives before the end of February to discuss content and sponsorship – Florence & Stefan**



→ **Collect stats – Florence coordinates collection with Markus/student – All should send their figures (EFTBA, EEF, Racing)**

Next MEP Horse Group Lunch: 19 March in Brussels

Next Board meeting in Brussels: 20 May in Brussels

Next AGM – 16 October 2014 (location TBD)