

# EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



## Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

We had a very fruitful General Assembly meeting mid-October with a focus on research. EHN is concerned by the low number of EU research projects related to horses and by the disengagement of Member States regarding level of research on our sector. In order to improve the situation, EHN gathered its members around Kent Johansson, Member of the European Parliament and shadow rapporteur on the next EU Research Programme (2014 – 2020) Horizon 2020, Anne-Sophie Lequarré, researcher, previously in the Commission DG Research to understand the political and technical elements of the future programme.

The meeting was also the occasion to learn about EAAP (research organization about Animal Production) and start a

technical collaboration with their Horse Commission.

We also adopted an ambitious Action Plan for next year. During the first semester of 2014, EHN will continue to dialogue with Members of the European Parliament by organising a lunch on the topic "Horses & Education" and will try to update Horse Figures with the help of all members. Be ready to receive a questionnaire in the beginning of next year. On the second semester, we need to meet newly elected MEPs and organise more thematic meetings with EU Institutions (Horses and Environment, Horses and Social Benefits). We will of course actively contribute to the Horse Conference in Normandy on 1<sup>st</sup> September during the World Equestrian Games.

*Stefan Johansson* Chairman,

### Focus on New Members

**The Equestrian Educational Network (EEN)** is an international network, open to national equine centres in Europe. The Network gathers 9 schools and participates to 2 EU funded projects (life-long learning Programme: SPEED and ESKO). Its purpose is to improve equestrian education by facilitating collaboration and exchange of information about current methods (including horse care)

[www.equestrian-educational-network.eu](http://www.equestrian-educational-network.eu)

**FERPI (HAT, Horse and Tuscany)** brings together the regional horse industry. Tuscany is the leader horse territory with 40 000 horses, 13 000 owners and 200 riding schools, University for equine vets and many touristic activities around horses. TESWG-HAT believes that by joining EHN, TESWG will be able to provide Tuscany with the opportunity to access and share best practice with other regional and national horse focused clusters. <http://www.fileraiappicatoscana.it/>



December 2013

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- New Members
- MEP Horse Group on Health on 27/11
- European issues



**EHN leaflets are available**  
Horses in Europe Horses and CAP,  
Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health

[www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu](http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu)  
Or in hard copy from the Secretariat [secretariat@europeanhorsenetwork.eu](mailto:secretariat@europeanhorsenetwork.eu)



@euhorsenetwork



**FERPi**  
I Toscana

## MEP Horse Group – Horses & Health on 27 November 2013

Discussion on the Animal Health Law proposal



A live debate in the European Parliament: MEPs are very much concerned by the future regulation and asked many questions to experts and to the EU Commission representative from **DG SANCO, Helen Falsham**.

Welcoming how the new Regulation would add coherence by replacing 50 directives and 400 pieces of secondary legislation developed over 50 years in response to animal health crises, **Julie Girling MEP (UK)** questioned how the good principles in the Law could be applied in practice. An example of this was in reference to the requirement that all keepers of animals acquire 'basic knowledge' of animal health 'and related matters'. However there is no detail as to what this knowledge should be, how it would be implemented.

The legislative process allows the European Parliament only two months to consider the legislation. **Kent Johansson, MEP (Sweden)** asked for a clear framework in order for each animal sector to be clear in its own responsibility and follow good governance and best practices.

**Jan Vaarten, Director of FVE, The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe**, explained that "health is a precondition for welfare in animals, and good health and welfare of animals, especially horses, is essential to the health and welfare of people in light of their roles as companions, recreation, sport, and food". A great deal of the burden is placed on Member States who may not have the resources to implement requirements" said **Jan Rogers of the British Equestrian Federation**.

**MEPs Janusz Wojciechowski (Poland)** and Julie Girling also questioned Commission priorities, and whether instead they should be acting on live transport for slaughter where there is significant public and Parliamentary support for change, and where transport is one of the most significant health and welfare issues affecting horses. "Horses are the most transported of all animals," observed Jan Vaarten.

EHN asks Parliament and the Commission to consider in a practical way how this Regulation will achieve its purpose of protecting the health of Europe's horses.

Mrs Marit **Paulsen report** was published on 30/10/2013 and will be discussed in AGRI committee in January/February: <http://bit.ly/1aY5kdn>

**A new EHN leaflet has been published for the occasion. Next MEP Horse Group lunch in March 2014 on Education.**

The **EP Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals** met on 21/11 to discuss Welfare and Education <http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu/meetings/>

## Current European Issues

### EU Parliament adopts the CAP (Agricultural Policy) Reform on 20/11 in Strasbourg

After a first vote last March, MEPs were still negotiating the financial part of the reform. The final plenary vote comes after another round of negotiations in which the remaining issues have been resolved. The voted package includes four regulations on 2015-2020 EU farm policy and a regulation setting transitional rules for 2014. Under the new CAP, 30% of member states' budgets for direct payments may be spent only if mandatory greening measures, such as crop diversification, maintaining permanent grassland and creating "ecologically-focused areas", are carried out.

<http://bit.ly/19Zpcfz>

### Guidelines to Assess the Fitness for Transport of Equidae

Following the success of the European Guidelines to Assess the Fitness for Transport of Bovines (released 2012), and the current development of similar Guidelines for Pigs, a 'kick-off' meeting was held on 11th June to discuss the preparation of Guidelines for Equidae. Initiated by the FEEVA and World Horse Welfare, the aim was to engage people with the expertise and backgrounds involved the different sectors related to the transportation of Equidae. The aim of the Guidelines is to produce a practical, user-friendly tool, to help those in the equine sector when taking the decision as to whether an animal is fit for transport or not. It is hoped that this will aid and encourage a more consistent and uniform approach across Europe. The Guidelines will be developed by the Stakeholder Platform. It is not intended to be a legally binding document.

The 'kick-off' meeting was well attended by 18 individuals representing different Stakeholder groups (e.g. industry, animal welfare NGO's, veterinary, enforcement authorities, researchers etc.) as well as guests from the previous and current EU Presidency and the European Commission.

The second meeting took place on 23rd September in Brussels. Attended by 13 individuals. Since the 'kick-off' meeting two new members have joined the Stakeholder Platform (SHP) to represent the transport sector, these being the Animal Transport Association (ATA) and the Belgian Confederation of the Horse (BCP-CBC); The meeting opened with an update on the progress made to date, including the preparation and circulation of a Terms of Reference for the group, and the initial development of a draft of the Guidelines for discussion during the day.

The process of discussing and agreeing the contents of the Guidelines will continue to take place over the coming months, before undertaking a wider consultation with interested parties in the first quarter of 2014..

The next meeting will be held on 14th January 2014 in Brussels. Please email [jo.white@progressiveideas.co.uk](mailto:jo.white@progressiveideas.co.uk) for further information or queries.

### Standing Committee on the food chain and animal health, Section Animal Health & Welfare

meets on 4/12/2013 - Horses Identification Fraud in Belgium and France is on the agenda <http://bit.ly/1b1akit>