



General Assembly Meeting 2023

Zaventem Headquarters

7th June 2023

Minutes

Meet the new members

IGEQ – Muriel Coppin

Mission: To improve horse welfare by developing, promoting and maintaining equestrian qualification standards.

Membership of 42 countries and 7 regions

Main activities:

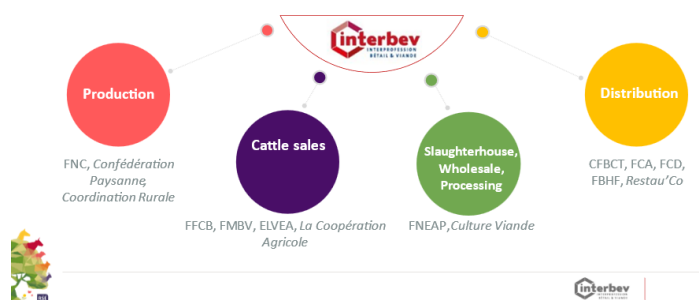
- International standard setting for equestrian educational qualifications
- Provide help and advise to develop a national education system for new countries
- Maintain standards or improve a current system by consultancy visits
- Coordination of International Trainers Passports
 - Current qualifications are mapped against internationally agreed minimum standards at 3 International levels.
 - Eligible list accepted by all members
 - Passports are issued by members (federation or recognised body): Formal confirmation of educator's qualifications and useful both at home and abroad
- Annual conference with a trainer and examiner
- Open source webinars:
 - Risk management in equestrianism
 - Social license to operate
 - Role of research in providing evidence based training
- Facilitate exchanges between examiners/coaches
- Consultancy visits concerning developing/improve education systems
- Sharing good practices

Next Conference and General Assembly on 13-16 November 2023 in Vienna.

INTERBEV – Marianne Orlianges – Guy Arestier

Represents 5 branches and Horse meat/Interbev Equins is one of them

INTERBEV Equins, 14 national organizations grouped into 4 colleges



At the world level, INTERBEV is a member of the IMS (International Meat Secretariat)

There is no European representation of the livestock and meat interprofessions: Some of INTERBEV's member organisations are part of COPA-COGECA, others of UECEBV, but the equine sector is not very well covered.

INTERBEV wishes to contribute to the debate about animal welfare at all stages of the sector: breeding, transport and slaughter. Our priorities are to maintain the horse's livestock status, and to rehabilitate slaughter as a favourable end-of-life solution for horses.

INTERBEV Equins wishes to work towards rehabilitating slaughter as a solution for the end of life of horses. Maintaining the horse's purpose of slaughter helps to limit the abandonment and mistreatment of old horses. However, the development of exclusion restricts the possibilities of slaughtering horses before they age and their health deteriorates.

In 2017, INTERBEV launched the CSR approach: Love meat, eat it responsibly

- Contribute a global response to the expectations of society and industry players in terms of good production and consumption practices, with supporting evidence and guarantees
- Approach regulated by the internationally recognized AFNOR ISO 26000 social responsibility standard
- 1st agri-food organization to receive the AFNOR label attesting to a confirmed commitment to CSR

In 2020, the sector published its first social responsibility report. This comprehensive document reports on the progress and initial results for an increasingly sustainable French meat production.

It lists the main issues identified during long-term consultations with public authorities, the scientific world, environmental protection and animal welfare NGOs.

It is also based on precise and quantifiable indicators that make it possible to measure the impact of the measures taken and their evolution over time.

<https://www.interbev.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/rapport-rso-english-v2021-planches-1.pdf>

INTERBEV publishes annual reports <https://www.interbev.fr/interbev/linterprofession/bilans-annuels/> and organises an annual events on different topics: "Millenials, let's change era!", "The interprofession facing the challenge of the citizen consumer".

EQUISFAIR CLUSTER – Lauran Schreiber and Didier Serteyn

Equine Cluster in Wallonia

EquisFair serves all companies, research or training actors linked to the equestrian world and based in Wallonia, BE.

Officially launched on February 5th, 2019 at Liege Airport. 25 members joined at launch. Today, 60+ companies active in various fields of the equine industry.

Networking events, trainings and participation to exhibitions and shows to promote members.

COFICHEV – Charles Trolliet

The Swiss Horse Industry Council is a national, non-governmental and independent body of experts in the fields of equestrian sports, horse breeding, horse keeping and boarding, scientific research and vocational training. It was formally established in August 2014 and counts 17 members who, while chosen ad personam, are in direct or indirect contact with the main stakeholders in the Swiss equestrian industry.

The association is managed by a three-person board, assisted by a part-time secretary. The purpose of the association is to develop a future-oriented strategy for the horse industry, based both on its own needs and expectations as well as on those of the society in which the industry operates. Its core activities include the identification of opportunities and threats facing the industry, the role of the horse in society, and the provision of a platform for exchange, reflection, and coordination. In

this context, COFICHEV already produced a document in 2011 entitled "Ethical reflections on the horse, an ethical approach to decisions to do right or avoid doing wrong". This report has been considerably expanded and updated in recent years and the new version, entitled "Ethical Reflections on the Dignity and Welfare of Horses and other Equids" was published exactly one year ago.

In addition to these publications, COFICHEV regularly takes a position in legislative consultations relating to the horse in Switzerland. COFICHEV provides the public with sources of information about horses, particularly in terms of feed and equine genetics and genomics.

On the latter subject, it has benefited from the financial support of the Federal Office for Food Safety and Veterinary Affairs, which has welcomed the creation of a database enabling breeders to avoid producing animals with severely debilitating genetic defects, which is prohibited by Swiss legislation. Finally, COFICHEV periodically organizes specialist symposia, the most recent of which were devoted to the status of the horse as a livestock or companion animal and to raising media awareness of equestrian sports. It also invited the various Swiss stakeholders to a day of reflection on the expectations, criticisms and attacks on the equine industry from animal protection circles. Despite being a small organization with very limited financial resources, COFICHEV has managed to carve out a place for itself on the Swiss equestrian scene. We are therefore particularly pleased to be able, through our membership of the European Horse Network, to develop our network and contacts beyond national borders, and we look forward to future collaborations.

Annual General Assembly Meeting

1. Opening of the Annual meeting

Mark Wentein welcomed the participants - 23 EHN members represented out of 32.

Marjaana Alaviuhkola, Chair of UET, said a few words to remember Stefan Johansson, the creator of EHN and first Chairman in 2010.

2. Approval of the agenda and minutes from last General Assembly 30 November 2022

Decision: Minutes are approved without any modification.

3. Report on activities 2023 from the Chairman and the Board

We are organising our General Assembly earlier than usual as our accountant said it was more relevant to do it in the middle of the year for our financial report to be sent to the fiscal administration in due time.

Therefore, I will make an update of the report that you have heard last November.

Two Board meetings:

21st March and 28th April: To validate the Prospective study (content and budget) and prepare the Presidents and MEP Horse Group meetings

Equine Welfare is still the number one topic. EHN started by looking at transport issues and continues to send information and position papers related to welfare during 2023.

The **MEP Horse Group on Equine Welfare** organized in November was to show the actions undertaken by the equine industry – a position paper was prepared and sent on 31st March in the perspective of the dialogue with the EU Commission and Parliament on the future EU Strategy on Animal Welfare. Tomorrow, we will again look at welfare in keeping equines.

5 Meetings between the European Commission and the Equine subgroup of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, were held since last November (3 on the Kept Animal Regulation, 1 on transport and 1 on slaughter).

Kept animal regulation: the Commission plans to draft legislation based on general principles to protect equine welfare and, in some years, draft equine-specific legislation with details

requirements. During the meetings, we discussed various topics such as water, environment (indoor and outdoor), training of personnel, physical and mental fitness and education and handling techniques, among others. In addition, we discussed the scope of the new legislation, and the majority of members agreed it must encompass more equids and not just farm ones.

Transport regulation: members discussed their views on journey time limits, temperature and ventilation, space allowance inside the vehicle or personnel training.

Slaughter regulation: key point of discussion is the need for this legislation to be future-proof, so that it is easily updatable to include the latest scientific evidence on the best techniques to ensure the welfare of horses at the time of killing.

The draft legislation is expected in autumn.

Advocacy

- Welfare in keeping equines:

MEP Horse Group tomorrow in the presence of the European Commission and Ursula von der Leyen to have the possibility to show research and practices.

We have prepared questions for the EU Commission and the report of the session will be distributed to all MEPs interested.

Participation to equine events – Promotion of EHN

- Horse Economic Forum on 20th May (Portugal) – Haike Blaauw and Paull Khan were invited to speak and spoke about EHN. Horse Economic Forum is a newly-established body with congruent aims and objectives to the EHN - while we concentrate on the political, they concentrate on the business and commercial. It will be interesting to see to what extent they grow over time and become more international.
- EUNetHorse launching event in the Haras du Pin, in Normandy, on the 12th and 13th June: A 4-years project involving 9 countries (Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Portugal, Finland, Poland, Romania and Switzerland). EHN and some of its members will be part of the European advisory board (EHN, FECTU, EFTBA, FEEVA, WBFSH and World Horse Welfare).
- European Trainers Federation takes the initiative to invite MEPs to a small seminar + lunch + racing in Ostende racecourse on 3rd July. Hilde Vautmans have been asked and other MEPs could join.
- World Trotting Conference in Berlin from 14 to 18 August 2023 – The organisation of the meeting is made by UET with EHN members to come and speak about the useful cooperation in Europe (Cooperation is the main topic of the conference).

European Equine Sustainable Tourism Label

This label should be created to promote “sustainable horse destinations” (different possible areas/locations/initiatives: cities, territories but also events) with a strong horse identity. Existing national labels were identified to help with the setting up of criteria.

Next steps in a coming meeting : work on the type of selection jury and governance; consultation of existing labels to create a draft application file; collective reflexion on services and offer that could be provided to applicants is necessary; it implies to work on a business model

➔ Suggestions from members - EHN should look at the EU Green Claims Directive proposal

EHN Prospective Study: The Equine industry in 2040

It was agreed during the last General Assembly in November to start working on future scenario on the model of similar studies made in France and in the Netherlands.

A small EHN group has been formed to work on the issue.

Haike Blaauw will be the moderator tomorrow at the Presidents’ meeting to explain the methodology and obtain answers from the participants to define variables on which to base the different scenarios.

EHN will present the results in November (suggested date is the 14th November) in Brussels to all members and MEPs. An action Plan for the coming years will be based on the results.

7. Setting the annual membership fee for 2024

Membership fee invoices 2023 will be sent this month to all members.

Decision: Membership fee for 2023 and 2024 stays the same as in 2022.

8. Others

Interbev:

- List of medicinal products reopened. Opportunity to advocate for the application of the temporary exclusion for some substances (instead of permanent exclusion).
- European Citizens' Initiative to ban slaughtering of horse: we have to follow carefully this initiative.

EEF:

- Obtained EU fundings for Young Equestrians Leaders and requested help and advice on how to continue to work on EU projects.
- EEF attended the Sport Forum in Stockholm – Sustainable events were discussed.

ESSA:

- Wishes to speak about the lack of human resources in our industry and how to involve the younger generation.
- It is essential to connect Sport and culture in our industry.

Hippolis:

- Profitability and comply with the sustainable business model is also a topic to reflect on
- Finland is setting up the Sustainability programme (Welfare, Environment, Governance, SLO). The EHN Prospective study will help us to establish a sustainability programme/action plan.

WHW:

- Ongoing study on Equine slaughter
- Annual Conference on 9 November – Horses in the environment.
- A paper on SLO – Equestrianism can learn from other business industries will be sent to all.

Decision: Attract the young work force and sustainability programme/action plan could be topics for EHN in 2024.

End 17.30 pm