



General Assembly Meeting 2025
Belgicastraat, 9 B 2 – B 1930
Zaventem

3rd June 2025

Minutes

1. Opening of the Annual meeting

Mark Wentein welcomes new faces and congratulate new representatives:

- Quentin Simonet elected as president of the European Equestrian Federation (EEF)
- Peter Truzla, new president of the European Trotting Union (UET)

2. Approval of the agenda and minutes from last General Assembly December 2024

Decision: the minutes are adopted without comment.

3. Report on activities 2025 from the Chairman and the board

While the period between December 2024 and June 2025 may seem short, it has been marked by significant activity within the network, both internally and externally.

Internally, EHN has continued its efforts to strengthen its actions. Concrete actions include:

- **The launch of the new website**, which is now online and easy to update: [Home | European Horse Network](#)
- **The recruitment of an accountant** for the delivery of proper financial statements and compliant publications.

Two Board meetings were organized to discuss strategy and prepare future events:

- **25th February** – To discuss a possible modification of EHN by-laws to improve the election process and the approval of policy papers in the future. Secretariat is working on an Internal Rules document.
- **30th April** – To prepare the MEP Horse Group and the General Assembly meetings.

Two Welfare Working Group meetings took place:

The group met twice in January.

Transport-Related Decision: EHN members decided to keep the EHN common position on Welfare in Transport as it was validated last year on 12th April 2024, without working on amendments that could

add to the confusion of the individual positions of EHN members.

Relaunch of the Legal Group on 19 March with the participation of 11 members' organisations:

Following the request made at the December 2024 general meeting, the Legal group was relaunched with a first meeting in March.

Prospective Workshop on 8 April in Vincennes racecourse:

35 participants from 25 different organisations attended the full day (larger than EHN members). This workshop led to the drafting of three documents:

- the prospective study, which will be distributed as widely as possible. The draft version was sent to all EHN members and workshop participants for feedback.
- two internal working documents: the key challenges and key actions for the sector, and the EHN roadmap.

4. Adopt 2024 Financial statement + Update 2025 Budget

Decision: 2024 Financial statement is adopted without comment.

Update on 2025 expenses:

Amandine Julien presented the main expenses incurred by EHN in 2025. In addition to operating costs, EHN has already paid part of the foresight study to the service provider 4Sing.

5. Update on European regulations:

Welfare in transport

Members of the European Parliament are currently reviewing over 3 000 amendments submitted to the draft report. Positions vary widely, both between political groups and within some groups themselves. The amendments reflect very contrasting views, particularly concerning the derogation regime in the relevant article (Art. 2) :

- some call for the complete withdrawal of the proposal,
- others propose an extension of the derogations,
- while some advocate for their complete removal.

All these positions are represented among EHN members.

Next:

- October 2 for the vote on the draft report in the Agriculture and Transport committees.
- National action: important for each member to contact their government to ensure the issue is properly discussed at the Council level.

Keeping horses

A call for contributions regarding animal keeping is expected in the coming weeks. The consultation is likely to be conducted on a species-by-species basis. Currently, no specific timeline has been announced for the horse's consultation.

EFSA Calls for Contributions on Breeding and Blood Collection

As part of its mandate, the EFSA launched on 15 April two calls for contributions:

- one on breeding practices,
- and one on blood collection for commercial use.

After looking at the calls for data, it appears that the type of data requested does not match EHN's profile as network organization.

This topic was included on the agenda of the Legal Group meeting on 4 June. The aim is to discuss how EHN could submit recommendations on these issues directly to EFSA.

EFSA Scientific Opinion on Slaughter

Still as part of the mandate given by the European Commission, EFSA published two scientific opinions on 18 January 2025:

- one on the welfare of horses during slaughter,
- and one on the welfare of horses during on-farm killing for reasons other than consumption.

At this stage, the EHN Secretariat has not yet had the time to review the content of the opinions in detail.

Essential substances

On 19 May, the European Commission adopted the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/901), which replaces the previous regulation and sets the new list of essential substances for the treatment of equines.

- A letter from EHN was sent to EMA and the European Commission, but the EHN Secretariat has not received any response so far.

The old and new lists will coexist for two years, from May 21, 2025, until the repeal of the previous list on May 21, 2027. This transition period allows practitioners to adapt and gives the European Commission time to review feedback from the public consultation. In response to numerous objections and requests, the Commission has tasked its expert committee with re-examining the list, which could lead to the reclassification of certain substances as essential.

- The topic was included on the agenda of the Legal Group meeting on 4 June 2025 to discuss what actions the EHN could implement.

6. Presentation of the Prospective study

Following the workshop held at the Vincennes racecourse on 8 April 2025, several documents were produced by the EHN Secretariat with the support of 4Sing:

- The Four scenarios with threats and opportunities
- An internal report on key challenges and actions for the equine sector
- EHN Roadmap and Action Plan
- The multi-annual budget (2025 – 2028) corresponding to the roadmap

All documents were sent to EHN members ahead of the General Assembly.

Official report on the 4 scenarios

More information in the PPT presentation (attached to the minutes).

This report will be uploaded on the website and publicly available. Members are invited to widely disseminate this document, to present it at meetings or to use it as a basis for reflection for internal discussions within their organization or country.

Report on key challenges and actions

More information in the PPT presentation.

This document is the summary on one part of the April workshop. It is only an internal document compiling the ideas expressed but participants. It is not a public document.

EHN roadmap and action plan

The report is the result of discussions conducted during workshops of the prospective study. It expresses reflections about potential EHN evolutions. A projection of multiannual budget is also presented to help

prioritise.

Multiannual budget

Following the drafting of EHN roadmap, it became essential for EHN to structure its budget within a multi-annual framework extending to 2028. This approach allows the network to identify which actions should be prioritized or postponed. Based on the projections, additional fundings would be necessary to implement all planned activities.

The budget projection shared with members included:

- An initial version, based on the implementation of the roadmap developed from the foresight study ;
- 2 revised versions: one increasing EHN resources thanks to an increase in membership fees, another postponing several activities.

Decisions:

- **Membership fees:** if several members seem open to an increase in membership contributions, other are mentioning that it needs to be discussed in their own organization. However, before considering any increase, it was agreed that recruiting new members should be a priority, particularly to enhance national representation.
- **Lobbying activities:** maintaining the budget for two MEP Horse Group meetings and EHN internal meetings.
- **Statistic study:** a need of approximately €15,000 to €20,000 has been identified. The EHN share could amount to around €10,000, with additional support expected from members to complete the final study budget. A call for funds will be sent to members in the upcoming weeks.

7. Presentation of the EUnetHorse project and links with the EHN roadmap

The EUnetHorse project, funded by the Horizon Europe program, brings together 15 partners from 9 countries with a budget of €3 million over 4 years (2023–2027). This multi-actor initiative aims to promote knowledge transfer in the equine sector across three key areas: socio-economic performance, animal health and welfare, and sustainable development.

Key achievements so far include:

- Concrete actions to help professionals in adapting their practices: over 50 solutions assessed through workshops and cross-visits;
- 21 technical sheets (target: 80) already available in English;
- Organization of demonstration and training days in the 9 partners countries.
- Political deliverable: an upcoming policy brief on R&D needs in the equine sector (January 2026) for the European commission and national research agencies.

EHN contributed to the project by providing initial financial support and participating in the European Advisory Board of the project. The EHN members that are members of the European Advisory board of this project will be associated to the elaboration of the policy brief.

EUnetHorse website: <https://eunethorse.eu/>

8. FEI presentation – FEI Welfare Strategy Action Plan (Göran Akerström, FEI, veterinary director)

The FEI presented the context and content of its action plan stemming from its Equine Welfare Strategy.

In June 2022, the FEI established the Equine Ethics & Wellbeing Commission (EEWBC), tasked with assessing the situation and issuing recommendations. On 18 November 2023, a final report was published, containing 30 recommendations.

- Following this publication, the FEI officially launched its Equine Welfare Strategy Action Plan in March 2025 with 37 actions implemented identified in the report “A Good Life for Horses” (18 November 2023).
- A dedicated budget of 1 million Swiss franc (CHF) and an independent advisory committee have been mobilized to support the plan’s implementation and oversight. The next steps will include regulatory developments between 2025 and 2027, along with a planned discipline-by-discipline focus in the future.

Website : <https://inside.fei.org/fei/equine-welfare/action-plan>

9. Setting the annual membership fee for 2026

Decision: the annual membership fees are adopted without comment and the membership fees remains the same.

End 5.10 pm

TO DO

- Send the revised budget forecast based on the discussions held
- Schedule a board meeting in September to review internal operating rules
- Plan a second Horse Group MEP meeting for the fall