

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



**MEP Horse Group
in the European
Parliament in
Brussels on
4th June 2025**

**MEP Hilde
Vautmans, MEP
Nina Carberry,
Co-Chairwomen
of the MEP Horse
Group and Mark
Wentein,
Chairman of the
European Horse
Network**

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

Important organisational decisions were launched in Spring (new website and new accountant) and we can say that EHN has successfully conducted the prospective study 2040.

Many members including myself, were impressed by the Foresight Study published in June 2025. This work is useful for the industry and is completely changing our way of working inside EHN.

We now have a credible and forward looking action plan and a provisional budget until 2028. EHN has grown to a very

professional organization.

I am confident in the future thanks to our strong relationship with politicians and the support and contributions of our members.

We will all meet again during Fall in Brussels to continue our cooperation with the Parliament and try to draft with them another public and visible report about the needs of the equine industry.

Enjoy Summer!
Mark Wentein, Chairman



July 2025

- Prospective Workshop on 8th April in Vincennes and publication of the foresight study: Equine Industry in 2040
- EHN General Assembly in Zaventem 3rd June 2025
- MEP Horse Group in the European Parliament 4th June 2025
- Next events



Latest news

15/06/2025
EHN publishes its Foresight Study: The European Equine sector looking forward towards 2040

20/02/2025
8 April 2025 in Vincennes Racecourse - Workshop Prospective

28/01/2025
EHN Welfare Working Group members meet

All news

THE EQUINE INDUSTRY IN €

- 100+ billion euros a year economic impact
- 400,000 full-time equivalent jobs provided by the sector
- 6 million or more horses in Europe
- 6 million hectares of permanent grassland green cover
- Global in hosting Equestrian competitions, in horse

WHAT WE STAND FOR

- Keeping equines in an agricultural activity and enhance
- The equine sector features rural, young and feminized leadership and physical mental health benefits.
- Humans enjoy an extraordinary relationship with equine inclusion, sport for all, including for people with disabilities
- Equine Welfare from breeding to end of life, in all the schools across the EU
- Equestrian tourism is an exemplar of 'slow tourism' res
- In many equine sectors, such as horseracing breeding, conservation and safe routes.

New EHN Website launched in April 2025
www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu



EHN Events and activities

Prospective Workshop in Vincennes racecourse on 8 April 2025

35 participants from 25 different organisations attended the day. The Workshop was very well moderated by Adrian and Petra from 4Sing, and all participants contributed.

EHN has received many positive feedbacks from participants who have reviewed the four scenarios for the equine industry in 2040 and tried to find ways to adapt to them.

Many deliverables came out of this Workshop and were discussed during the General Assembly in June 2025:

- EHN Roadmap and Action Plan for coming years
- The Four scenarios with threats and opportunities
- The multi-annual budget (2025 – 2028) corresponding to the roadmap



Four scenarios were foreseen around two axes composing the social license to operate: sustainability and the social acceptability of equine activities. The scenarios are extreme but possible futures. Each elaborated scenario comes with specific opportunities, risks and options.

The full study is available on EHN website:

[Foresight Study: The European Equine sector looking forward towards 2040 | European Horse Network](#)

EHN General Assembly Meeting in Zaventem on 3rd June

Decisions adopted:

- Membership: it was agreed that recruiting new members should be a priority.
- Lobbying activities: maintaining the budget for two annual MEP Horse Group meetings.
- Statistic study: a need of approximately €20,000 has been identified. EHN's 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 soon.

Legal Group with 11 members' organisations met on 19 March, 4 June and online in July

The Group is relevant to discuss issues ahead that could impact the equine sector such as the UK/EU trade agreement, the evaluation of the EU animal health law in 2026, blood collection, essential substances for equine treatment, transparency in reproductive technics. The Group met online as well in July and is finalizing important EHN statements for the end of August.

MEP Horse Group in the European Parliament in Brussels on 4th June: Transparency and Traceability



More than 60 participants attended the MEP Horse Group lunch in Brussels. MEP Nina Carberry (Ireland, EPP) relaunched the idea of a Parliamentary initiative report on the equine sector, stressing the importance of collective and coordinated reflection. She presented the current traceability system in Ireland (HSI database) and the action plan launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen it. *"Transparency and traceability are two concepts essential in the equine industry to preserve the health and welfare of the horses in Europe,"* she stated. *"We can make progress to reach a higher level of protection for horses from birth to end of life."*

Jessica Stark (World Horse Welfare) then called for an ambitious reform of the animal health regulation, in favour of a digital traceability system, interconnected and harmonized at European level. Nadine Brandtner (WBFSh) highlighted the need for registration of advanced breeding techniques, both to ensure transparency with buyers and to ensure genetic monitoring over time.

MEP Hilde Vautmans (Belgium, Renew) insisted that *"the lack of reliable data goes against the principles of evidence-based policy."* Mark Wentein, Chair of the European Horse Network (EHN), echoed this concern: *"Visibility begins with data. Recognition begins with visibility. If we want to support the equine sector, we must first count it."* Together, they called for updated statistical tools and enhanced coordination, to achieve better recognition of the equine sector in European policies.

Next EHN events:

Next Board meeting on 10th September online.

Next MEP Horse Group in Brussels in October/November (Date to be decided with MEPs)