

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



January 2026

- EHN events and activities last semester 2025

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

All the best for 2026!

Although we could not organize an MEP Horse Group at the end of 2025, this year will be the occasion to organize important meetings: a first MEP Horse Group in April and a second one in July joint to our General Assembly.

Also interesting to note that the EU Irish Presidency will start on 1st July for six months and Horse Sport Ireland will be hosting both the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) General Assembly and the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) General Assembly. EHN will continue to

discuss with the Irish Equine organization for a common event.

We are happy to be able to launch from January to June the EHN Statistical study with the support of Ecorys, a knowledgeable service provider that will start collecting equine figures from February and will present the results in June 2026. Another important equine event in 2026 are the World Equestrian Games to experience world-class equestrian sport, thrilling competitions, and unforgettable moments live in Aachen from 11 to 23rd August.

Mark Wentein, Chairman

EHN Steering Committee for the statistical study held the first meeting on 21 January

The Committee members have defined the geographical scope, validated the indicators and have listed the existing studies and available data that will help to draw the most credible and global picture of the European Equine supply chain.



www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu



EHN Events and activities

EHN Legal Group

The group met several times to discuss relevant EU issues linked to equines and prepare, if relevant, EHN common positions.

Several draft EHN positions have been prepared in September/October for potential communication with Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

- **Agricultural statistics** : the European Commission has launched a public consultation on integrated farm statistics (2030–2039). This was an opportunity for EHN to request the inclusion of equines among the variables to be collected by Member States. EHN has sent the submission [Publications | European Horse Network](#)
- **EFTA: Call for Contributions on Farm Animal Welfare**: EHN submitted a joint position to highlight the specific nature of equine breeding and reproduction activities and to ensure that they are fully taken into account in future legislation.

Work continues inside the group on EU–UK Trade Agreement and Animal Health Law.

EHN met MEPs in Brussels on 24 September

EHN Team met the Co-Chairwomen of the MEP Horse Group in the European Parliament in Brussels to discuss dates and topics for future meetings. Dates in 2026 will be announced soon.

EHN attended FEEVA General Assembly on 22nd October



FEEVA held its successful annual General Assembly in Lyon, hosted by the French Equine Veterinary Association (AVEF). Chaired by President Joe Collins, the meeting brought together 42 delegates and guests to discuss equine health, welfare, medicines, and EU policy developments. AAEP, UEVP, FEI, IVSA, and FVE representatives, presented updates on international collaboration, EU legislation, and welfare initiatives.

Reports from FEEVA's Working Groups highlighted achievements in disease surveillance, welfare, and pre-purchase examinations, and two new position papers—on oral examination and cervical radiography during PPEs—were unanimously adopted. The Equine Section of the Slovenian Veterinary Chamber joined FEEVA as a new member.

EHN Prospective study Presentations

The study has been published on the FEI website:

https://inside.fei.org/system/files/The_European_equine_sector_towards_2040_layout.pdf

It has been translated into French by IFCE and two equipedia pages have been created:

<https://equipedia.ifce.fr/economie-et-filiere/economie/conjoncture-et-prospective/prospective-filiere-equine-europeenne-2040-tendances>

<https://equipedia.ifce.fr/economie-et-filiere/economie/conjoncture-et-prospective/prospective-filiere-equine-europeenne-2040-tendances>

Two web conferences were held to present the study to IFCE agents and the general public. They brought together 70 and 95 people, respectively.

For 2026, the presentation of the study to the employment and training council of the Ministry of Sport in France is scheduled on April 14.

EAAP is requesting a presentation to the horse commission in September 2026 in Hamburg. Other requests have been made and the study will continue to be presented regularly in 2026.

EHN attended the EUnetHorse project meeting as part of the European Advisory Board on 9 December: annual update on project progress.



Funded by the European Union, the EUnetHorse project managed by IFCE is scheduled to span four years, from 2023 to 2027 with 15 partners from nine countries. Its primary focus lies in engaging equine farmers, advisors, and trainers for the sustainable development of equine farms and improve profitability. Amandine Julien presented the **first EUnetHorse Policy brief**, document with the aim to make recommendations to European policymakers regarding the gaps identified during the first stage of the project:

- **reaffirms the Agricultural Status of Equids**. Agricultural status is critical for access to Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support, research funding, and rural development (Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034 (2025/0241 (COD))).
- **Asks for a reintroduction of Equids in Agricultural Statistics**
- **Identifies the knowledge gaps** for the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10, 2028–2034).

Next meeting of the EAB in November 2026.

EHN first meeting on Equine European statistical study on 18 December

EHN has created a Steering Committee to support and follow the Statistical study lead by Ecorys from January to June 2026.



Ecorys is a research and consultancy company providing services to the European Commission, DG Santé and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority).

Ecorys will lead the collection of equine figures working on existing surveys and national interviews.

Next EHN events:

Next MEP Horse Group in Brussels in April 2026 (Date TBC)