



## The European Horse Network attended the MEP Horse Group Meeting in the European Parliament in the presence of President von der Leyen

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On March 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2026, the first annual meeting of the MEP Horse Group was held in Brussels in the European Parliament. More than 40 stakeholders of the European equine sector attended an interesting lunch debate with Members of the European Parliament.

The meeting, chaired by Mark Wentin, Chairman of European Horse Network, together with MEPs Nina Carberry (IRE) and Hilde Vautmans (BEL) gathered key stakeholders to discuss the economic and social value of horses in Europe and their role in future EU policies.

Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, joined the inspiring meeting highlighting the importance of the horse sector across Europe.

The meeting focussed on:

- The sector's economic and social value across Europe.
- Reintegrating Equines into European Agricultural Statistics: A Strong demand from the European Equine Sector.
- The place of equines in the post-2027 CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) and the wider rural policy agenda.
- Single market simplification opportunities (mobility/trade)

<https://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu/publications>

EHN have been very active by producing in June 2025 a **Prospective Study** in which we have imagined four scenarios for the Equine industry in 2040

The scenarios were built on similar exercises conducted in France and the Netherlands. These are extreme but possible futures. Each elaborated scenario comes with specific opportunities, risks and options. I will not explain all the phases but I can tell you that the expertise of our members was put to contributions and we have also widely consulted experts from outside through workshops and interviews.

Based on these scenarios, the European Horse Network has carefully built its action plan for the coming years where specific tools will be developed, new research supported and a strong and specific communication expanded.

Moreover, in January 2026, **the European Horse Network started its statistical study**. Since Regulation (EU) 2018/10911 came into force, horses and other equines have been excluded from official agricultural statistics. This has created a major data gap, limiting our understanding of the sector's economic, environmental and social value, and making it more difficult to design effective policies or provide targeted support.

[https://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu//assets/projects/Foresight\\_Study\\_Equine\\_sector\\_in\\_2040\\_final.pdf](https://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu//assets/projects/Foresight_Study_Equine_sector_in_2040_final.pdf)

The second MEP Horse Group 2026 will be organised in the Autumn in Ireland, during the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July to December 2026).



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