



EHN General Assembly 2026

23rd June 2026 – Online

Attendance list at the end of the document.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 2025

Minutes from last General Assembly were sent to all and Secretariat did not receive any comments.

2. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2025/2026 FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BOARD

Mark Wentein, Chairman of EHN, reported on activities of the Association and the recent change in the Secretariat: Louisianne has joined the Secretariat team. Amandine is currently on maternity leave.

Board meetings (online) were organized:

- 13rd October 2025 – To finalise the selection of the service provider for the statistical study.
- 16th April 2026 – To discuss membership applications and to prepare a possible Equine Conference in Ireland, taking advantage of the Irish Presidency and the importance of the equine sector in Ireland.

MEP Horse Group in March 2026 – Meeting with President von der Leyen and four MEPs (40 participants), with a focus on:

- The sector's economic and social value across Europe.
- Reintegrating equines into European agricultural statistics.
- The role of equines in the post-2027 CAP and the wider rural policy agenda.
- Single market simplification opportunities (mobility/trade)

Re-integration of Equine statistics in European Agriculture Farm Statistics

Reintegrating equines into European agricultural statistics has been a strong demand from the European Equine Sector constantly relayed by the EHN for many years.

EHN replied to the call for contributions launched by the European Commission to define new rules for agricultural data collection for the period 2030–2039 and was invited to the Implementation Dialogue on agricultural farm statistics initiated by European Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis on 24th March.

At this meeting, the EU Commission representatives confirmed the intention to collect equine statistics in 2030 and asked the EHN to cooperate with their own study.

EHN Prospective study: Equine in 2040 released last June was successfully presented to many organisations:

The study has been published on the EHN, IFCE (translated in French) and FEI websites. Two web conferences were held to present the study to IFCE agents and the general public. They brought together 70 and 95 people, respectively.

January 2026: the study has been briefly presented to the European Trotting Union during the GA in Paris/Vincennes racecourse.

April 2026: the study was described to the Employment and Training Council of the IFCE in the Ministry of Sport in France with a specific focus on employment in the four scenarios.

EquisFair has also put this topic on a seminar for its members in April. The European Federation of Animal Science, EAAP has also accepted a presentation to the future meeting of the horse commission in September 2026 in Hamburg.

Legal Group

The group is relevant to discuss issues ahead that could impact the equine sector: Essential substances, UK – EU trade agreement, Animal health law, EFSA call for data, US export conditions, Transparency regarding reproductive technics, Statistical data, CAP 2028 – 2034.

EHN Statistical Study

EHN has created a Steering Committee with members to oversee the study. Two meetings organised: one in January to finalise the scope, and one in May to look at the missing data. Another meeting is planned in September to review and finalise the results and prepare the format of the study (prepare Press Releases and infographics).

Invitations/Visits:

- 23 October 2025 - FEEVA General Assembly in Lyon
- 25 March 2026 - Swedish Equine Farmers in Brussels

Coming issues for the second part of 2026

- Internal Rules/Statutes revision

The working group met twice and proposed modifications: a new membership category, a possible new election process and a way to adopt common position papers.

- Equine Conference in Ireland

A conference is being planned to highlight the equine sector in Ireland and Europe, to present the results of EHN Statistical Study and gather European and Irish politicians to relay the information. The date is to be confirmed with Nina and Hilde on 25th June.

Planned in 2027

EUnetHorse final meeting will be joint to an MEP Horse Group in the first week of February 2027.

3. ADOPT 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Section	2025	2024
Operating income	70/76A	26,350.00	21,900.00
Revenue	70	26,350.00	21,900.00
700000 REVENUE		26,350.00	21,900.00
Operating expenses	60/66A	34,309.56	37,327.56
SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	61	34,097.81	37,214.74
610000 OFFICE AND MEETING ROOMS		1,145.00	700.00
611800 TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES		5,910.88	8,678.67
612300 PRINTING PROSPECTIVE STUDY		2,141.31	1,952.00
612400 WEBSITE		3,785.00	398.57
612650 BUSINESS GIFTS		0.00	126.20
612800 RESTAURANT EXPENSES MEP HORSE GROUP + GA DINNER		6,525.80	8,269.35
612900 PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS		0.00	8,283.05
613500 ACCOUNTANT'S FEES		532.40	0.00
613600 4SING CONSULTANT PROSPECTIVE STUDY		14,057.42	5,702.85
613601 EXPENSES		0.00	1,424.05
616500 EQUIPMENT RENTAL		0.00	1,680.00
DEPRECIATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT COSTS	630	211.75	112.82
630100 DEPRECIATION OF INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS WEBSITE		211.75	112.82
Operating profit (Operating loss)	9901	-7,959.56	-15,427.56
Financial charges	65/66B	45.00	43.50
RECURRING FINANCIAL CHARGES	65	45.00	43.50
OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES	652/9	45.00	43.50
658000 BANK CHARGES		45.00	43.50
Profit (Loss) for the financial year before tax	9903	-8,004.56	-15,471.06
Profit (Loss) for the financial year	9904	-8,004.56	-15,471.06
Profit (loss) to be appropriated for the financial year (+)/(-)	9905	-8,004.56	-15,471.06

Mark Wentein informed members that today, the KBC Account shows more than €44 000. Members asked to present the Financial Statement showing how the reserves from previous years have been used.

Decision: Members adopt the 2025 financial statement. The document is signed by four members of the Board before publication.

4. UPDATE ON 2026 EXPENSES

EHN Budget 2026 Update	
JUNE 2026	2026
MEMBERSHIP FEE 2026	25650
MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATS STUDY	28000
Total resources	53650
Expenses	
Office	700 Headquarters in Zaventem
Web	
Communication/Printing	1000 Statistical Study
MEP Horse Group	3049 MEP Horse Group meetings
EquiGala January	713,9 Invitation MEP Hilde Vautmans
Prospective study	
Statistical Study	38000
Translation Fee	
Event	4000 Equine Conference in Ireland
Board	
AGM	
Transport FG+MW+AJ expenses	2000
Accountant	540
Administration/financial fees	45
	50048
	3602

Members asked for a list of contributors to the Statistical study:

COMPANY	CONTRIBUTION
IFCE	1000
EFTBA	5000
CBC	1000
EMHF	1000
EEF	5000
FEI	10000
HIPPOLIA	1000
WHW	2000
FILIERE CHEVAL	2000
	28000

Decision: The 2026 expenses have been reviewed by members.

5. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – Horse Sport Ireland, EQUESTRIMALTA, MTK

Organisation	Description	Decision
Horse Sport Ireland	- Ireland's national governing body for equestrian sports. - Stakeholders: sport, breeding, welfare, industry. - Interface the government on behalf of the sector, issue equine passports and licences, regulate athletes and horses for international competitions. - Interest: share its expertise in integrated governance, traceability, cross-border policy. HSI is an EEF member (purpose already covered by an EHN member)	HSI will not join the EHN but will be encouraged to become a more active member through EEF.

EquestriMalta	- Malta's regulatory authority for equestrian sports, established in 2020 to oversee, promote, and regulate all equestrian disciplines. - Focus on animal welfare, and infrastructure development. - Aim to represent all stakeholders (athletes, clubs, horses) through transparent governance and international collaboration.	<i>EquestriMalta will not join the EHN</i>
MTK	- Large organisation representing over 340,000 farmers, forest owners and rural entrepreneurs. Strong focus on promoting the equine industry as a vital part of rural livelihoods and sustainable agriculture. - Replace Hippolis (former member at EHN) => application relevant.	<i>MTK will join the EHN, unanimously approved by the members</i>

Applicants will be informed of the decision.

6. DISCUSS AND VALIDATE THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT INTERNAL RULES AND REVIEW OF THE STATUTES

Statutes	
Propositions	Comments
New category of participation: Partner status (Section 4) - For organisations that don't qualify for full membership but are members of an EHN member organisation - Application process is the same process as for full members, except that the "parent" organisation owns a veto right for their admission - Partners can: - Attend the Annual Meeting in an observer capacity - Contribute to any working groups - Receive minutes of working group meetings and other relevant communications - Partners cannot: - Vote at the Annual Meeting or in any other EHN decision - Run for election to the Executive Board - Initiate or vote on position papers on behalf of the EHN	- Concerns that this category could become too broad over time. - Practical difficulties in distinguishing partners from members during online votes. - Need to clarify the benefits of each categories - Members should retain priority over partners. - EHN members should be asked to better communicate to their own members about EHN activities (link to EHN website and latest News)
Election of the Board (Section 6) <u>Mandate:</u> - Board members are elected for a 3 years mandate at the Annual Meeting - Each year, 1/3 of Board seats are submitted for re-election - There is no mandate limit <u>Election:</u> - Board members are elected (secret ballot) by members present at the Annual Meeting - The candidate receiving the most votes is elected. If there is a tie, a second round is held between the tied candidates only <u>Board positions:</u> - Following their election, the Board members elect from among themselves, by simple majority, a Chairperson and a Treasurer - The Board also appoint a Secretary General and Secretaries	- Suggestion to extend the mandate to 4 years. - Rediscuss the possibility to choose the Secretariat from outside the Board.

Amendments to the Statutes (Section 8) - Any member representing at least 10% of the total EHN members can suggest amendments - An amendment is adopted if at least 2/3 of the members present or represented at the Annual Meeting vote in favour	- Suggestion that the board should also be able to propose amendments without a minimum representation threshold. - Drafting note: remove the phrase “by any member” from the text
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Internal rules	
Propositions	Comments
Working groups (Section 4) - Minutes will be shared on the EHN online workspace (EHN Hub) - The Secretariat will keep up to date a list of all active working groups	- Suggestion that the executive board must approve the creation of working groups. - Working groups should be required to report to the Board. - A specific provision should address standing groups (e.g Legal Group).
Adoption of Common positions (Section 5) <u>Consultation process:</u> Draft position papers are shared by email. Board members are consulted first. If 2/3 of the Board approve the position paper, the paper is then sent to all EHN members. A position paper is adopted if at least 80% of member organisations approve it. Both conditions must be met for adoption. Organisations that don't reply are considered as having given their approval. <u>Non-adoption:</u> - If a position paper doesn't meet the adoption conditions, it is not adopted as an EHN document. However, organisations can still use the text independently and associate their logo with it - If a position paper is adopted but without unanimous support, it stands as an official EHN document. Dissenting organisations can specify their reasons for disagreeing, on their own behalf	- The minimum consultation time of 3 to 5 working days was considered too short by some. - Suggestion to include at least one reminder during the consultation period. - Discussion regarding the weighting of expert opinions on technical matters, and then how to define “expert”.
Transitional Provisions (Section 8) The current Board mandate runs until end 2027. The transition to staggered Board renewal will be implemented as follows: - June 2027: 1/3 of the Board is renewed, starting with members who wish to step down - June 2028: a further 1/3 of the Board is renewed - June 2029: the final 1/3 of the Board is renewed From 2029 onwards, the staggered renewal system will apply on a permanent basis, in accordance with the Statutes.	Suggestion to renew the entire board in 2027.

Decision: As some comments received are on articles that had not originally been scheduled for revision (such as Article 2 on the equine activities represented in EHN + discuss Good Governance principles), Members agreed that no vote would be held today on the updated statutes and internal rules at this stage. Members agreed to continue the discussions inside the Board. A consolidated revised draft incorporating feedbacks is to be put to a vote at an extraordinary General Assembly before the end of 2026 (if possible).

7. UPDATE ON STATISTICAL SURVEY AND LEGAL GROUP

a. STATISTICAL SURVEY

With support from Ecorys, the study (February - September 2026) will be identifying trends by indicator and by country.

Indicators:

- Number of horses
- Herd distribution by segment (sport, leisure, racing, work)
- Annual foal birth
- People directly and indirectly employed by the horse industry
- Hectares of land dedicated to horses
- Sector's turnover

Countries covered:

- Tier 1: France, Germany, Ireland, UK,
- Tier 2: Italy, Belgium, Poland, Sweden,
- Tier 3: Rest of EU27
- In the annex, if possible: Norway, Switzerland...

Situation in June 2026:

- Ecorys received replies from 18 different countries, including all Tier 1 and Tier 2 countries.
- Data coverage varies. The Steering Committee is consulted for help and advice – It was the purpose of the meeting in May.
- 13 Interviews will be made in June/July: it should prioritise economic intelligence, Tier 1 and 2 countries validation and anchor Tier 3 assumptions.

Next steps

- Next Steering Committee on 9th or 10th September with presentation of the results from Ecorys.
- In September:
 - Format and edit the study
 - Create Infographics and Press Release
 - Present it to all members online
 - Publication on various websites
 - Official public presentation during the Equine Conference in Ireland or an MEP Horse Group

b. LEGAL GROUP

TOPIC	UPDATE
Essential substances	A document based on FEEVA et FEI statements has been drafted and sent to: - Chair of the CVMP at EMA (John Schefferlie) – no reply yet - EC : Francisco Reviriego Gordejo, DG SANTE – replied
UK – EU trade agreement	Members have been working on an EHN position Once approved, the paper will be sent to the Bilateral Relations Unit
Animal health law	Position paper will be circulated so EHN members for approval before being sent to the EC
US export conditions	EHN sent its position through a Commission's consultation
Transparency regarding reproductive technics	Meeting with DG AGRI scheduled on the 25th of June
Statistical data	EU Commissioner <u>Valdis Dombrovskis</u> indicated that equids should be reintroduced into agricultural statistics after 2030
CAP 2028 – 2034	A document is being drafted and the legal group will work on an EHN position
Next <u>legal</u> group meeting is <u>scheduled</u> on the 7th of July	

8. NEXT EVENT: EQUINE CONFERENCE IN IRELAND

The provisional date of 26th October remains unconfirmed, pending responses from MEPs Nina Carberry and Hilde Vautmans. The conference aims to showcase the Irish and European equine sector, presents the findings of the EHN statistical study, and bring together European and Irish politicians.

Mark meets both MEPs on 25th June and will inform all members.

9. SETTING THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2027

It was proposed to maintain the 2027 membership fee at the same level as 2026, with no increase for the time being.

Discussion:

- Suggestion of incorporating an automatic inflation-linked adjustment mechanism into the internal rules, to avoid revisiting the matter every year.
- Some argued in favour of discussing the fee each year, taking into account the broader economic context of the equine sector.

Decision: Mark suggested deferring the decision to the second General Assembly at the end of the year 2026, once the full financial picture is clearer.

10. OTHERS

Benelux

A member reported recent regulatory changes affecting health certificates at internal borders, restricting exemptions to border provinces and creating additional administrative and financial burdens for the sector, with no prior consultation of the industry.

Animal welfare/extreme heat

Issue of equestrian events being held in high temperatures. Proposition that the EHN develops a position paper enabling organisers to reschedule or adapt events in extreme heat, rather than cancel them.

Decision: Members fully agreed on the importance of the issue. The consensus was that federations should work together to develop collective and forward-looking solutions.

Honorary member

Mark suggested nominating Filip Vande Cappelle as an honorary member of the EHN in recognition of his many years of contribution to the organisation. Filip was representing the Animal Transport Association.

Decision: Members agree on the nomination



EHN General Assembly 2026
23rd June 2026 – Online at 10.00 am
Attendees (28 members represented):

First name	Last name	Organisation
Haike	Blaauw	FNRS Equestrian Centres in the Netherlands
Louisianne	Carrere	IFCE – French Equine Institute
Mark	Wentein	EHN Chairman
Tanguy	Courtois	Filière Cheval
Marko	Mazeland	FEIF Icelandic Horses
Paull	Khan	EMHF
Florence	Gras	EHN
Nadine	Brandtner	WBFSH
Claire	Williams	BETA
Nick	Elsass	EFTBA
Peter	Truzla	UET
Roly	Owers	World Horse Welfare
Francisco	Lima	FEI
Muriel	Coppin	IGEQ
Alexia	Ghem	EquisFair
Charles	Trollet	Equi-Scope
Barbara	Pfistner	ECAHO
Guy	Arestier	Interbev
Marianne	Orlianges	Interbev
Catherine	Bonnichon - de Rancourt	FITE – Equine Tourism
Karolina	Lagerlund	HNS Swedish Horse Council
Claire	Scicluna	Equ’Institut
Michael	Köhler	FEEVA Equine Vets
Astrid	Von Velsen	ESSA European State Studs
Gabriella	Torell-Palmquist	Equine Educational Network
Marie	Orard	Hippolia
Quentin	Simonet	European Equestrian Federation
Peter	Bollen	Equine Nutrition
Jan	De Boistelier	CBC
John	Ravanelli	European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA)

Excused :

Ingmar De Vos – FEI
Mike Butts (replacing Simon Cooper) – EASBC
Carol Clarkson - EHSLC
Filip Vande Cappelle – ATA/EHS