

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS

MEP Horse Group on Education and Training with Horses

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Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

On 19 March, Julie Girling introduced the last MEP Horse Group Lunch of this legislature and drew up an assessment after 2 years of meetings since June 2011: 6 meetings and 6 MEPs attending (on average), 5 European Commission representatives invited and 9 topics discussed: CAP reform, Sport, Welfare, Health, Research, Financing, Transport, Education. It has been a strong cooperation between EHN and Parliamentarians in relevant committees (ITRE, ENVI, AGRI, IMCO).

Some of these Members will be re-elected and EHN is already preparing future issues to discuss:

A General meeting could be scheduled in September with re-elected and new MEPs to present updated Figures of the Sector. Social benefits of Horses and

Finances of the European Horse Sector could be other topics to discuss.

To update figures about the Horse Sector in Europe is an important project of EHN. EHN is joining forces with the European Equestrian Federation and is sending a questionnaire to all of you with a deadline at the end of June.

Updated figures will be presented first at the Horse Conference on 1st September in Caen (FR). More information about the conference will come soon. Our Board members meeting in Brussels on 20 May will prepare the framework of the Horse Conference together with Ouest France representatives.

Stefan Johanson Chairman,

Focus on Members

The **European Equestrian Federation (EEF)** was established in September 2009, first as a "forum" and then as a "federation". EEF's statutes were signed by the 28 NFs. The EEF identified issues of concern and established ad hoc working groups and one permanent working group: the European Union WG. The impact of the European Union's legislation on sport and the safe use of horses for sport, breeding and recreation in Europe are considerable and thus a long term and positive relationship with the European Institutions was an important step for the EEF to take. EEF is working in very close cooperation with the FEI and is an active member of EHN Board. EEF representatives and experts attended most of the MEP Horse Group meetings.

In April 2014, EEF is sending a questionnaire to all National Federations to reach statistical data for 2013. EHN is joining the initiative to update its figures. These data will be available during summer 2014 and presented at all relevant conferences and meetings of the Horse industry. <http://www.euroequestrian.eu/>



EHN leaflets are available
Horses in Europe, Horses and CAP, Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health, Education and Training
www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

Or in hard copy from
secretariat@europeanhorsenetwork.eu



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MEP Horse Group in Brussels – 19 March 2014 on Education and Training

Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at the Swedish national horse centre for trotting, and **Keith Rowe**, Director of the Racing Academy in Ireland, both asked for more harmonisation and recognition at EU level. They insisted on a greater mobility, for the benefits of students, trainers, professionals but also for the benefit of countries less developed in this sector.

Markus Scharmann representing the Equine Education Network showed how mobility and sharing experiences are relevant in Life-long learning projects (Leonardo Da Vinci programme). However, Europe has not yet defined common standards in vocational training

Pierre Lekeux from Hippolia Foundation recalled the latest EU regulation regarding Veterinarian schools. Veterinarians are a regulated profession at EU level and schools are evaluated and approved with specific common criterias. 60 Veterinarian schools have been approved out of 100 in EU. However, there are no consequences if a school is not approved and vets from the school can still practice in another country.

Emma McClarkin, MEP, UK is an expert on qualification and education issues and she regrets that more harmonisation is not possible in this sector (Education is not a European policy and therefore the EU Institutions cannot adopt common legislation). However the European Qualification Framework (EQF)¹ facilitates the adoption of guidelines for certain professions. **EHN and the Horse sector should bring forward input on EQF.**

Moreover, the Bologna process and Accords focus on higher education and the horse sector need recognition and guidelines regarding vocational training, insisted **Tim Morris** from EMHF.

Hannu Takkula, MEP, Finland, whose work focuses mainly on the areas of Education, Culture and Sports, insisted on the knowledge about Education with Horses and Dual Careers that should be spread. **EHN should set up a database listing all schools and universities offering education and vocational training on horses** (and where to find jobs in a second step).

Jacob Kornbeck, representing EU Commission, DG Education and Culture, described the new opportunities in Erasmus + and future Sport projects.

Current European Issues

DG Agriculture Civil dialogue groups: Calls for applications (open from 1/04 to 30/04)

[The call for applications](#) is open to non-governmental organisations to apply to civil dialogue groups, each covering a different subject relating to the agricultural policy (CAP) and rural development (RD). The civil dialogue groups' general tasks will be:

- to exchange relevant experience and good practice;
- to advise the Commission on relevant policy;
- to deliver opinions on request of the DG AGRI.

EHN is applying to some of the groups (CAP, direct payments and greening, international aspects of agriculture, rural development, women in rural areas).

24/03 - A Eurobarometer survey on sport and physical activity carried out in the 28 EU Member States shows that while 41% of European citizens exercise or play sport at least once a week, a worrying 59% of respondents say that they never or seldom do so. The number of people saying they never exercise or play sport has increased by three percentage points since the 2009 survey (from 39% to 42%). The findings show large differences among Member States; Northern Europe is more physically active than the South and East.

[Link to study](#)

A group of experts has adopted on 20/03 an ambitious and innovative report in the field of gender equality and sport. The proposals address all stakeholders in the field of sport as well as national governments and the European Commission. [The experts proposed measures relating to management, training, prevention of violence and the media](#)

Next Events

EU Equine Expert meeting - 7th MAY 2014 organised by DG Sanco and Eurogroup for Animals with the objectives to explore issues affecting equines and the multifaceted equine sector, to set the stage for a possible conference in end of 2014 to help inform the European Union's approach to equine welfare and to provide a sound point of departure for the report being prepared by World Horse Welfare and Eurogroup for Animals that will feed into the Commission's equine impact assessment. Roly Owers, Tim Morris and Cathy Wainwright, member of EHN has been invited to speak.

Horse Conference in Caen – 1st September 2014 – Ouest France, the organizer of the conference has sent the final version of the programme – 3 sessions out of 5 will look at figures and political issues of the horse sector. 2 sessions will focus on the Horse industry in Normandy. The one day format prevent from tackling all issues such as health or welfare but organizers intend to renew the conference in 2015. EHN Board on 20 May will discuss EHN participation and will then inform all members.

¹ The European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF) provides a common reference framework which assists in comparing the national qualifications systems, frameworks and their levels. http://ec.europa.eu/eqf/home_en.htm