Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

EHN held its first Board meeting of the year last week and prepared EHN events for 2014. We are happy to continue and improve our relationship with members of the European Parliament by organising the seventh MEP Horse Group lunch in March on Education around horses and its benefits. The members of the EU Parliament will then enter an election period and we hope to see back on the benches in July a majority of “horse supporters”.

July will be the occasion for EHN to congratulate new and re-elected members and explain its activities and future ambition and be innovative in topics and the way to present them.

Board members also planned the collection of figures to update its key figures document (2010). On this issue, we need the help of all EHN members regarding the 10 key indicators on which we need recent figures. The Horses in Europe updated document as well the various thematic leaflets will contribute strengthening EHN image and position towards EU Institutions.

Thank you for all the help you can provide.

Stefan Johanson Chairman.

Focus on Members
Hippolia - http://pole-hippolia.org/

Hippolia is a non-profit organisation grouping horse industry companies, equine research and educational organisms with the objective to develop innovation and economic competitiveness in the horse sector in France. Created in 2005 like the other clusters in France, it has since labelled more than 100 projects corresponding to a total amount of more than € 60 millions and created 10 companies linked to innovation and research in the horse sector.

Recently, Hippolia has signed an agreement with Equidia (French TV and social media) to promote horse projects and become a supporter of the Normandy Club 2014 gathering all local economic actors supporting the World Equestrian Games next August 2014: https://www.clubnormandie2014.fr/
Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel from the European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G2 Animal Health was invited to EHN Board meeting:

Dr Füssel presented an update of the Equine Passport. The document is now at the end of the process with a consultation of the legal services of the EU Commission and the text will then circulate outside the institution after being adopted by the College of Commissioners. The Greek Presidency is willing to start the institution after being adopted by the College of Commissioners and the text will then circulate outside the process with a consultation of the legal services of the EU.

The document is now at the end of the meeting:

SANCO - Unit G2 Animal Health was invited to EHN Board meeting – 28 January 2014

Educational Network (EEN) is preparing the agenda with the meeting as experts.

The Swedish national horse center for trotting will attend Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at Federation and coordinator of the Equestrian Education.

MEP Horse Group in Brussels – 19 March 2014 on education.

Markus Scharmann from the German Equestrian Federation and coordinator of the Equestrian Educational Network (EEN) is preparing the agenda with objectives to push forward the benefits of horses in education as well as describe the activities of Equine schools.

Rory McDonald from the UK Racing School as well as Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at the Swedish national horse center for trotting will attend the meeting as experts.

The EP Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals elected a new Chair

Dan Jorgensen (former President) has been appointed in December as the new Danish Minister for Agriculture and Food. Pavel Poc (S&D, CZ) has been officially appointed as new President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup on 16/01. The new President has a degree in biology and specialised in subconscious perception in animals. Throughout his political career he has contributed to promote animal welfare policy.

Esther de Lange (EPP, NDL) is the new Vice-President. Animal welfare was one of the reasons why she decided to go into politics following the mass culling of mostly healthy animals during the foot and mouth disease outbreak in early 2000. The reduction of long distance transport of animals destined for slaughter is another issue she has been directly involved since many years. Sophie Auconie (EPP, FR), Hiltrud Breyer (Greens, DE) and Tonino Picula (S&D, HR) have joined the Intergroup as official Members.

Eurogroup for animal welfare (Secretariat of the EP Intergroup) is planning a specific meeting on Horse Health & Welfare in November. Roly Owens (WHW) participates to an expert/preparation meeting in March.

Current European Issues


11 February, the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee voted on the draft report concerning the future EU Regulation on animal health: vote on the four files of the animal and plant health package – A total of 785 amendments have been submitted to the AGRI Committee, including 66 by the rapporteur, Marit Paulsen (ALDE, SE). AGRI also voted on the political agreement reached with the Lithuanian Presidency on the financial component of the package.

Plenary vote scheduled in April.

12 February - Conference on the achievements of the EU Strategy for the welfare of animals 2012-2015 - Mid-term review:

The conference provides the opportunity for a mid-term review of the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals: the achievements and challenges centered on four major themes: farming, transport and enforcement, food quality, education and training.