Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

The last Board meeting, 29th April, was again interesting and efficient. I am happy to welcome an organization, wishing to be a new member at our Annual General Meeting 22nd October in Brussels. It is IFCE, the French Institute for Equine.

Since 2010, EHN has grown from 8 to 20 members today and it is very positive for the future of the Network. The future will precisely be more discussed at our next AGM. I have sent a message to all members in order to call for candidates for the next election of Board members.

EHN needs to renew its Board with influential and dedicated persons. I have already received very positive responses, which mean again that EHN is regarded as an essential structure to communicate and advocate the place of horse in Europe.

COPA Working Party on Horses was also attending our Board meeting last month to keep up our collaboration and use the resources and strengths of our different organizations as efficiently as possible (more information on the Group below).

Enjoy reading,

Stefan Johanson
Chairman

COPA Working Party on Horses meeting on 30 April

Pascal Bioulac from the French Farm Organisation FNSEA was re-elected by the Working Party for a 2 year term. He will be supported by Vice-Chairman James Murphy from the Irish Farm Association (IFA) who is a livestock producer and breeds thoroughbreds and sports horses.


Other priorities of the Working Party in the next 2 years include developing a common strategy on animal welfare and exchanging best practices on research and innovation in the sector to ensure a viable sector.

COPA Working Party on Horses met EU Commissioner Pierre Moscovici on 30 April to discuss upcoming reform of EU VAT Directive and ways to improve economic viability of the Horse sector.
EHN Board meeting – 29 April 2015 in Brussels

Board members agreed on IFCE application (French Institute for equestrian sport and equines)

The IFCE represents all the French equine activities: breeding, racing, sport, research, training, leisure, scientific questions. It is considered as the French platform to relate all sectors, a technical institute which gives references, notes, advices on identification, zootechnical, reproduction and veterinary questions...

The IFCE competences and aptitudes are complementary to EHN: http://www.ifce.fr/


Guidance on fitness for transport should be complete by July and will be available through the FVE website. Both are strong and useful documents. A communication plan for the fitness for transport guidance is under discussion as well as translation perspectives (promotion from mid-July).

Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae (Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids)

Practical Guidelines on the Watering of Equine Animals Transported by Road

Equine Welfare Report “Removing the blinkers: The health and welfare of European equidae in 2015”, focuses on the size and scope of Europe’s equine sector, the legal status of equidae and the welfare problems which persist. World Horse Welfare and Eurogroup for Animals are currently seeking funding to have the document translated into FR and DE. For the moment, only the executive summary (5 pages) will be available in multiple languages.

Copies will be available from mid-June from World Horse Welfare and Eurogroup for Animals.

www.worldhorsewelfare.org

Next MEP Horse Group - 3rd June 2015 in Brussels

Growth, jobs, environment:

→ Show how Horses are playing a societal role
→ Explore new areas for economic and social development where horses are present
→ Review the economic size and employment evolution of equestrian sport and horseracing

Speakers:

• Bo Helander, HNS – Horses’ benefits in society
• Pit Schlechter, FECTU - Horses are coming back in Agriculture and Forestry
• Ali Kucuk, EEF, Economic size of Equestrian sport
• New jobs: Jean-Paul Bérard - Equi-coaching, Géraldine Senterre - hippotherapy

EAAP/EHN Joint Meeting in Warsaw – 2nd September 2015

Innovation and research for developing the horse sector

It will be a unique opportunity to share experiences gained in several European countries, to support the importance of funding equine research and to boost the equine section in Europe.

Innovation and Research in the Horse sector is organized on one day, 2nd September from 8.30 – 17.30

Morning session: Developing Equine practice into Science
Afternoon session: Research in Horse/Human interaction

Round table – How to fund the equine research? Pierre Lekeux and Stefan Johanson will moderate the debate.

Other Events


Round tables on the horse sector needs for a sustainable future:

• Benchmark of the horse policy in different EU states (taxation, agriculture funding,..)
• Look for new financing resources
• Horses end of life: a major issue

Announce EHN General Meeting and Conference in Brussels 21 & 22 October 2015 – Save the Date!

EHN Board is preparing the programme for members to meet decision makers, discuss relevant issues such as welfare and responsible care and take advantage of networking sessions.