



**FEEVA**  
Every horse matters

**11 October 2023**  
**FEEVA General Assembly**



# Keep up to the objectives of the European Horse Network

- Promote the development of the horse, pony and donkey sector in Europe.
- To help members coordinate their activities in order to increase the visibility and impact of the equine industry,
- Act as a platform for the equine industry to communicate on common issues with European institutions and media
- Discuss, define and lobby on areas of common interests on the European political agenda.

# Priorities unchanged EHN Manifesto

EHN Board collected Members' priorities and looked at commonalities:

**6 overall priorities** (unchanged since 2019):

- Consider horses as agricultural animals
- Promote horse welfare and responsible care
- Favour appropriate funding to equine activities
- Ensure favourable taxation system for equine activities
- Promote the availability of medicines and a good disease surveillance system
- Educate and integrate workforce into a dynamic industrial ecosystem



**EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK**

1 million Equines

4 million hectares of grassland

800,000 People employed

100 billion Euros/year Economic Impact

Horses are pasture animals and bring benefits to the environment and to the development of rural areas

**PRIORITIES**

- Consider horses as agricultural animals
- Promote horse welfare and responsible care
- Favour appropriate funding to equine activities
- Ensure favourable taxation for equine activities
- Promote the availability of medicines including vaccines and a good disease surveillance system
- Educate and integrate workforce into a dynamic industrial ecosystem
- Advocate for digital solutions improving horse traceability

European Horse Network informs and advocates through meetings with decision makers, conferences and publications.

Thematic areas:

- Responsible Care and Ownership
- Animal Health, Identification and Veterinary Products
- Equestrian Tourism, Sport and Horse Racing
- Equitation and racing economics
- Agricultural and rural Development Policy
- Breed
- Agriculture Policy Beyond 2020
- Equine Green Assets

[www.europeanhorseteam.eu](http://www.europeanhorseteam.eu)

# Update on EHN activities 2022/2023

EHN grows to 32 members!

## Advocacy: Welfare, the key topic

- Creation of EHN Welfare Working Group beginning 2022
- EHN opinion on Parliament's Committee on transport regulation
- EHN opinion on EFSA report on transport
- June 22 – MEP Horse Group on equine transport
- November 2022 - MEP Horse Group on Welfare
- 2 EHN Position Papers on transport and keeping of equines

Spoga in July 22 – Seminar on safety and welfare of equipments

June 23 – answer to the survey of the European Commission on the List of essential substances for the treatment of equine species (based on the FEEVA statement)



# Welfare in Transport

December 2022

POSITION ON EFSA'S  
SCIENTIFIC OPINION –  
THE WELFARE OF  
HORSES DURING  
TRANSPORT



The EFSA's scientific opinion on transport of live equidae has been published on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2022. This document brings to light the importance of transport in horses' life:

- According to TRACES around **170 000 horses** were transported between member states per year between 2019 and 2021 across all means of transportation ;

# EHN Position on kept Equidae

June 2023

## EHN POSITION ON THE UPCOMING REVISION OF THE EU LEGISLATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE – KEPT EQUIDAE WELFARE RULES



In the context of the revision of the European legislation on animal welfare, the European Commission is currently working on a proposal of regulation on animals kept for commercial purposes, which will amend rules of Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.

The European Horse Network (EHN) would like to share its position about the keeping of Equidae and how the European legislation should improve their welfare throughout the EU.

### General comments

# EHN Presidents Meeting

## June 2023



EHN member structures, represented by their Director and President discussed strategic issues:

- **The European prospective study:** The equine industry in 2040. This study should develop scenarios and an action plan for the members
- **Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.** IFCE, the coordinator of the event in France, proposed that EHN members could co-organise an International conference in April 2024.
- Ingmar De Vos, president of the International Equestrian Federation and IOC member, presented the main **issues and difficulties that exist at each edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to maintain equine disciplines.**
- Dr Caterina Termine, FEI Chief Veterinary advisor, presented the **biosecurity measures against Equine influenza.**



# MEP Horse Group June 2023

The meeting dealt with the conditions of detention of equidae, in the context of a review of EU animal welfare legislation.

**Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,** was able to hear the concerns and expectations of the industry. She took advantage of this meeting to reaffirm her support for the professionals of this industry. Their needs will be taken into account.







# Work Programme 2023/2024

## **Continue the advocacy on Equine Welfare**

The EHN Horse Welfare Working Group will continue to meet and coordinate position papers, highlighting the specificities of equine welfare (proposal of the Commission will probably be delayed)

## **Support EU Projects**

Promote EUNetHorse, unique European thematic network started in March 23 and will bring strong and useful cooperation to the horse industry over the 4 years to come

Prospective study: Equine industry in 2040 – study and survey ongoing and could be presented in December 2023/January 2024

## **Events to organise/promote**

EHN Webinar on the strengths and weaknesses of the horse industry **workforce**

**Olympic Games PARIS2024** – Event in April in Versailles/occasion to promote the equine industry and to elaborate a communication strategy on welfare and best practices.

MEP Horse Group in the European Parliament – topics to prepare (information to add after the Board meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October)



All minutes,  
thematic leaflets,  
press releases and  
Newsletters are  
posted on the EHN  
website

@euhorsenetwork



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