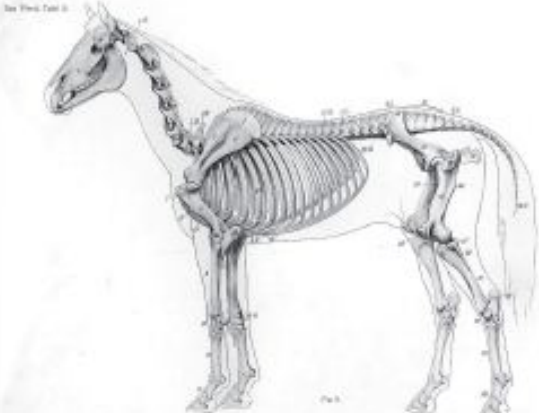


# HORSES & RESEARCH

The horse industry is today an important stakeholder in the European economy and has growing significance. The industry represents a 100 billion Euros a year economic impact and 400,000 full time jobs equivalent.

The use of the horse for pleasure and work is an important part of European history, culture and future development both in rural and urban areas. The welfare and health status of the horse is therefore a major concern for the EU economy.



## Horses and the CAP

A briefing to the European Horse Network  
November 2012



### Horses in Europe

The horse sector is a dynamic agricultural and rural sector in Europe. There are over 6 million horses in Europe, grazing over 6 million hectares of permanent grassland.

Around 400 000 jobs are provided by the sector. It provides 200 million euros a year economic impact with a growing international market.

While total revenue from traditional farming has fallen around 20% from their peak income level in 2005, the horse sector as a whole is growing, with the number of horse riders increasing by around +5% a year.

Market demands in agriculture and leisure are expected to amplify this further in future years, making the sector, horse riding and betting, an important economic contributor for regional growth in rural countries and regions throughout the EU.

The horse sector has been polking methods of farm maintenance. As well as being a growing sector in many countries, it provides an added benefit in many ways: support other farming sectors, by their need to buy grain, hay, straw, and other farm products; by other farms and rural businesses; in addition, horse provide excellent opportunities for further farm diversification, out of other benefits.

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### Horses within the context of the CAP

Within the context of CAP discussions, the horse sector is in an ideal situation to contribute to the common theme throughout – which is the need to provide sustainable growth for agriculture and rural areas in an ecologically balanced way.

The use of horses as working animals on farms and in forestry is growing, and is perfect harmony with the growth of organic farming and the search for

subject to EU market organisation or specific farming, horse breeding for export and the experience which is used to farm other livestock.

A further plus is that distribution is often a viable possibility in the rural difficult climate and remote farming areas – through the natural synergy between horse and tourism for example.



## Horses and Sport

- 6 million horses in Europe – millions of which are involved in some kind of sport
- Millions of leisure riders throughout Europe, a growing sport for all ages and genders
- More than 20 000 sporting events gathering all ages
- An essential source of revenue for many European rural areas
- Promoting values of integration, volunteering, mentoring
- An important part of our European traditional heritage

### Horse Sport within current European Policymaking

2012 has started with strong developments around European sports. The European Parliament voted on 2nd February on the future of sport policy. Expenditure for all was launched with 2.8 billion from 2014 that could be dedicated to future sport projects. Expert groups on sport governance, statistics, financing have met and will continue to set up discussions of common interest at EU level in order to adapt the best possible approach to promote and develop sport at EU level.

The European Horse Network intends to participate actively in the debate. Equestrian sport is one of the most dynamic sport disciplines in Europe, but to date it has not had the exposure it deserves in the European policy making arena. Therefore, the document aims to highlight the growing importance of the sport.




## The Horse in Europe

- 100 billion euros a year economic impact
- 400 000 full time jobs equivalent provided by the sector
- 6 million or more horses in Europe
- 6 million hectares of permanent grassland given over to horse grazing
- A growing sector: the number of horse riders growing by 5% a year

## European Horse Network.

The EHN is a non-profit network of stakeholders acting at a World, European, National or Regional level within the European horse sector. Its purpose is to:

- Promote the development of the horse sector in Europe.
- To help members coordinate their activities in order to increase the visibility and impact of the horse sector.
- Act as a platform for the horse industry to communicate common issues with European institutions and media at the European level.

# EHN ACTIVITIES

FEEVA GA 2013

# EHN activities



- Leaflets with facts about The Horse industry and Horse activities
- Meetings with MEP horse group at the European parliament. Next: Ultimo June 2013 on equine welfare
- Participation in Equine conferences where political "view" is needed. E.g Sport Conference Dublin 2013
- EQUUS conference 2014 at WEG in normandy
- Board meetings
- General assembly 17. Oct. In Brussels

# Meeting with MEP's Jan. 24th 2013



- Horses & Research
- Leaflet presented
- Morning meeting with Vicky Ford, U.K Conservative, member of parliament committee on research
- Lunch meeting with MEP's
  - ▣ Three showed up, four absent
    - Julie Girling, U.K.
    - Kent Johansson, Sweden
    - Sean Kelly, Ireland (Chair, Sport Committee)

# Horses & Research

## The future for HORSES & RESEARCH

The equine sector is at the intersection of major societal challenges and can address climate change, sustainable agriculture, rural development and health and well-being. All themes and key areas are high on the agenda of Europe 2020 and its research programme Horizon 2020, as well as its Regional Development programme for after 2014.

Thus far, research on animal breeding and health has been addressed mainly through food security objectives. This takes a different turn if Europe looks for a sustainable rural activities with diversification and non-food activities and well-being services, an increase in animal welfare, and promotion of a low carbon economy.

The Horizon 2020 programme states: "Genetic improvement of animals for productivity traits will call for appropriate conventional and modern breeding approaches and for a better use of genetic resources. Animal health will be promoted and integrated disease/pest control measures will be further developed. Strategies for the eradication of animal diseases including zoonoses will be tackled along with research on antimicrobial resistance. Studying the effects of practices on animal welfare will help meet societal concerns."

The equine sector should also look for support in the proposed Regulation for future European Regional Development Funds. In 2014, the EU will promote research and innovation and small companies at local level with a territorial cooperation goal. In Horse Research, productive investments as well as investments in infrastructure and equipments are needed particularly in rural areas where 25% of the funding should be spent.



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See Photo Panel 6

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# Horses & Research

## Equine health Challenges

The equine industry is uniquely dependent on international trade. The high volume of international movements of horses and equine biological products for competition, breeding and sale creates a high risk of disease spread at local, national and international levels, threatening the economic viability of the industry as well as equine welfare. In contrast to the farming and small animal sectors, frequent movement is an essential feature of the equine industry and although the risks are partially mitigated through biosecurity programmes based on education and vaccination, the intrinsic structure of the equine industry creates significant health challenges.

Surveillance of 'notifiable/infectious' infectious disease threats is conducted by all Member States, however endemic disease surveillance is generally not conducted. A common European system for equine endemic disease surveillance does not currently exist, which creates a significant gap in provision.

The welfare of the horse is heavily dependent on the adequate availability of licensed medicines. The horse is regarded as a minor species, and the economic value of the equine pharmaceutical sector is small compared to both farm and small animal sectors. Factors that are limiting the commercial incentives to develop new medicines or maintain licensing for current medicines. Measures taken by the Commission, Council and Parliament since 2005 have helped safeguard availability of equine medicines. However, significant threats remain, particularly in relation to medicines licensing. Although there are four different routes to obtaining a license, the majority of medicines are licensed through national, rather than through centralised, mutual recognition or decentralised procedures. The result is a lack of common European registration of medicines, with most having to be licensed in individual countries. 'Off label' use of medicines to horses is therefore common, and is a problem affecting horse owners, every time the veterinarian is called.



## Equine research

Although the horse is technically a food producing species in Europe, the status of the horse has evolved towards a sports/leisure companion in the majority of Member States. In comparison to research projects focused on food production and public health, equine research projects have increasingly been judged of secondary importance and not competitive, because their impact is largely sector-specific.

Whilst equine research may be conducted as part of multi-species research in agricultural universities and institutions, dedicated equine research with meaningful group sizes is sparse and limited all over the region. Grants for species-specific equine research have become increasingly difficult to source, although there are a few examples of ring-fenced equine funds from sources such as the Swedish-Norwegian Foundation for Equine Research or the Horsemare Betting Levy Board in the UK, or a selection of equine welfare charities. Such sources of funding are, however, few in number and present in only a small number of Member States.

Consistent funding is required for equine industry-specific research addressing four key strategic areas to maintain the benefits of the horse industry to the European Community:

1. Rural economic development
  - ▶ Research to improve the quality, usefulness, health and welfare of horses to maximise their contribution to the rural economy
2. Value to society
  - ▶ Social science and economic/business development research to maximise the cultural and recreational impacts of the horse industry and generate societal goods
3. Sustainability of the equine sector
  - ▶ Disease control through disease surveillance research and prevention of antimicrobial resistance
4. Equine food security and resilience
  - ▶ Equine food chain surveillance research, medication control, also related to transport welfare



# EHN presentations



- Josh Slater, Professor Royal Veterinary College, president of FEEVA: Horses and research possibilities
- Jan Varten, director FVE: Horses and medicine availability
- Pierre Lekeux, Professor University of Liege, President of Hippolia: The Equine Sector and opportunities in Horizon 2020

# Josh Slater



- Significant trade and movement of horses
- Lack of endemic disease surveillance
- Lack of possibilities for research fundings
  - ▣ The horse is often forgotten!
- Four "Point of benefits from the industry"
- The horse could fit into Horizon 2020

# Jan Varten



- Medicines are licenced in single countries
- Welfare of the horses is treathened
- European licencing is needed
- Responsible use of medicines for animals
  - ▣ Antimicrobials
  - ▣ Anthelmintics



# Pierre Lekeux



- Europe has
  - ▣ High class institutions
  - ▣ High class and dedicated scientists
  - ▣ Good and sufficient infrastructure
- The horse industry want's research and innovation
- The horse industry in Europe needs EU funding to attract regional and private co-funding

# Conclusions, Vicky Ford



- The politicians are aware of
  - ▣ The problems of legality and insurance when a veterinarian work abroad
  - ▣ The problems of reinforcing the rules when horses travel abroad and back again for competition and breeding, especially the 90 day rule.
  - ▣ Whenever new legislation is made, it may affect the horse industry unintentional

# Conclusions

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- Horizon 2020 is a possibility to allocate research grants for horses
- Highlight needed on
  - ▣ Small businesses
  - ▣ Rural development
  - ▣ Regional benefits
  - ▣ Co-financing
- Examples of specific projects is needed
  - ▣ [http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm?pg=h2020-experts](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-experts)

# Horizon 2020



## RESEARCH & INNOVATION

### Horizon 2020

European Commission > Research & Innovation > Horizon 2020 > Experts for Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups

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Before Horizon  
2020 launch

# HORIZON 2020

THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

## Experts for Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups: Call for expressions of interest

The European Commission is widening its search for experts from all fields to participate in shaping the agenda of Horizon 2020, the European Union's future funding programme for research and innovation. The experts of the advisory groups will provide high quality and timely advice for the preparation of the Horizon 2020 calls for project proposals.

The Commission services plan to set up a certain number of Advisory Groups covering the Societal Challenges and other specific objectives of Horizon 2020. To reach the broadest range of individuals and actors with profiles suited to contribute to the European Union's vision and objectives for Horizon 2020, including striving for a large proportion of newcomers, and to gain consistent and consolidated advice of high quality, the Commission is calling for expressions of interest with the aim of creating lists of high level experts that will participate in each of these groups.