



EHN

Activities

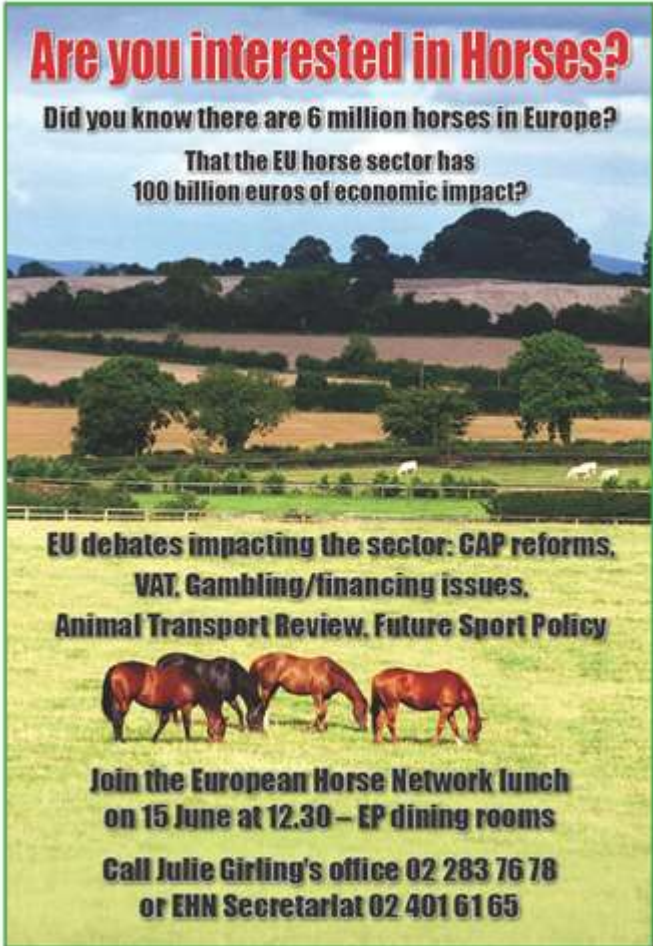
2013 - 2014

2013 Activities

- 3 x Board meetings
 - New members
 - Commision
 - Stakeholders
- 3 x MEP lunch + leaflet
 - Equine Research (Jan.)
 - Equine Welfare (July)
 - Equine Health (Nov.)
- General assembly (Oct.)

MEP Lunches

- **MEP HORSE GROUP**
- **From June 2011 to March 2014**
- 6 meetings
- 6 MEPs attending (on average)
- 6 thematic leaflets
- 5 European Commission representatives invited
- 9 topics discussed
 - CAP reform, Sport,
 - Welfare,
 - Health,
 - Research,
 - Financing,
 - Transport,
 - Taxation,
 - Education
- 20 active members
- 70 MEPs interested
- Attendance of meetings: 6 MEPs on 15 June 2011 - 13 MEPs on 25 January 2012 - 7 MEPs on 10 July 2012 - 5 MEPs on 24 January 2013 - 4 MEPs on 18 June 2013 - 4 MEPs on 27 November 2013



Are you interested in Horses?

**Did you know there are 6 million horses in Europe?
That the EU horse sector has
100 billion euros of economic impact?**

**EU debates impacting the sector: CAP reforms,
VAT, Gambling/financing issues,
Animal Transport Review, Future Sport Policy**

**Join the European Horse Network lunch
on 15 June at 12.30 – EP dining rooms**

**Call Julie Girling's office 02 283 76 78
or EHN Secretariat 02 401 61 65**

Equine 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 these 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 raises a different set of Europe's 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 classical (reproductive) 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 Europe's Regional Development Fund. 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 equipment are needed particularly in rural areas where 25% of the funding should be spent.



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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 and 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.

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Equine health challenges

The equine industry is uniquely dependent on international trade. The large 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 "zoonotic" (zoonotiska/zoönotiska) infectious disease threats is conducted by Member States, however zoonotic disease surveillance is generally not conducted. A common European system for equine zoonotic disease surveillance does not currently exist, which creates a significant gap in protection.

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 large and small animal sectors. Factors that are limiting the commercial incentive to develop new medicines in equine medicine for curative medicines, medicinal value by the Commission, Council and Parliament since 2005 have limited subsequent availability of equine medicines. However, significant threats remain, particularly in relation to medicines licensing. Although there are five different modes to obtaining a licence, the majority of medicines are licensed through national routes. Even through centralized, mutual recognition or decentralized procedures, the result is a lack of consistent European regulation of medicines, with most horses to be treated in individual countries. "Off label" use of medicines in horses is therefore common, and is a problem affecting farm owners, every day the veterinarian is faced with.



Equine research

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

While equine research may be considered as part of multi-species research in agricultural intensification and intensification, dedicated equine research with meaningful group sizes is sparse and limited all over the region. Current equine specific equine research has become increasingly difficult to source, although there are a few examples of long-term equine health research such as the Swedish-Norwegian Foundation for Equine Research in the Horses and Horses Study Board in the UK, or a selection of equine welfare centres. Such sources of funding are, however, few in number and present only a small number of Member States.

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

1. Rural economic development
 - Research to improve the quality, carbonless, health and welfare of horses to maximize their contribution to the rural economy
2. Urban to country
 - Social science and economic/business development research to maximize 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, and related issues of transport welfare



Equine Welfare

Animal Welfare Strategy

The EU's Animal Welfare Strategy and Framework Law have the potential to improve the welfare of millions of European horses, ponies, donkeys, mules and hinies, by dealing with key issues such as transportation to slaughter, overbreeding, disease and the general welfare requirements of these animals.

If the Animal Welfare Strategy and proposed Framework Law are to have a positive impact upon equine welfare in the EU, it is essential that they are based on and can accommodate future scientific research such as that reviewed by IFAA. Research and funds are needed to ensure that horse welfare legislation remains up to date or one which fits into the European 2020 strategy given that animal welfare is a concern shared by all EU member states. Europe, as demonstrated by the widespread support that animal welfare campaigns receive.

Good animal welfare cannot exist without good animal health since the two are inextricably linked. In light of this, it is clear that there should be a strong link between the Animal Health Strategy, the Animal Welfare Strategy and Framework Law. These policies should work to improve both animal welfare and animal health, as well as decrease the risk of the spread of animal disease. This would also reduce some of the potential negative impacts on human health.

Finally, if the goals of the strategy are to be achieved, funding needs to be made available for educational and communications based activity.



Horse Welfare

A horse crisis in Europe?

Horses and humans have evolved a unique partnership over many centuries, and to this day horses play an important role in society. This partnership is right as long as we take full responsibility for their welfare. Whether family pets, equine athletes, or used for leisure, agriculture, as transport or even as food, horses contribute to lives, cultures and economies across Europe.

The economic downturn has spared almost no one, and the impact on horses has been especially hard.

Keeping horses for any purpose is now a cost many cannot afford, and it is also becoming more difficult to find buyers for horses when owners are left with no choice but to sell. Horses at the lower end of the market are now virtually worthless in financial terms, putting them at increased risk of neglect or abuse or long-distance journeys to slaughter.

Horse welfare is integral to every aspect of the European horse industry. It is both important in its own right, and vital to ensuring good performance, maintaining biosecurity and the safety of the food chain. The European horse industry has an annual economic impact of €100 billion – which shows that equine welfare should be an issue of interest for policy makers across the EU.

o slaughter

regressed horses, as well as other
country of origin labelling
contains horse meat, such as
may be needed to labels which
only where it was slaughtered
a few hours after a horse
Europe can be developed from

Sport

Europe is at the top of international horse sport, with all but two of the world's top equine events held in European cities or the continent. The European horse sport is also well represented with European athletes at the top of the international equine medal table at London 2012. With world-class facilities and international events taking place every year, Europe has much to be proud of.
Horse investment in sport is just one of many facets of our unique and exciting partnership. The role of horses in sport is significant and vital, as well as socially beneficial – so long as their welfare is not forgotten. When horses are used in sport, a heavy burden of responsibility for their welfare rests on the shoulders of those who own, train, ride and care for them. High value sport horses are generally exceptionally well cared for thanks to the significant investment that flows into the industry and the expertise of operators. As a result, European equestrianism sets the example for the rest of the world by always striving to reach the highest possible standards of welfare and safety, though care for animals in sport is universal, but everyone involved in the sports horse industry knows that they can never let complacency. These high standards must be maintained and improved upon, and the benefits this brings to all levels of horse ownership in Europe. The welfare of horses during transport is one of the most critical aspects of this case.



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EU five point plan

In April the European Commission released a five-point action plan in the wake of the horse meat scandal. As it, they believe it vital to be taken on board food, safety programmes, horse passports, official controls, transportation and welfare, and food labelling.
Mandatory country of origin labelling for meat, as horses in Regulation (EU) No 1180/2011 for some poultry species, and should be extended to horse meat – including products such as mince – as a matter of urgency. It is the right thing to do for consumers, and it will ensure traceability if there are concerns relating to the meat product in question.
The same classification Regulation (EU) No 1180/2011 must be strictly implemented and enforced across all Member States to ensure proper handling, movement compliance with the legislation and a lack of enforcement increases the risk that horses may enter the food chain which should not do so horses which have

been treated with drugs prohibited for use in food-producing animals, or horses that have no passports – or passports of inaccurate particulars – and therefore no record of any drugs which they may have been treated during their lifetime.
Single treatment to ensure passport standards like a single approved passport template incorporating antimicrobial, analgesic, and other listing would make a huge difference to enforcement to live with the current international requirements for international movement and passports for competition events.
Central Equine Database was also essential tools in the wake of the case of any passport, enforcement and an essential tool to combat antibiotic of various origin disease. We welcome the Commission's move towards making these comparisons in all Member States.



Equine Health

Research – Horizon 2020

Knowledge and education of the single horse owner and larger is essential to improve the health and welfare of horses. It is one of the EU's improvement of procedures inside the industry as well as the development of medicines and vaccines is an ongoing process, which constantly needs to be reinforced. Attention to their needs has to come from both the industry itself as well as from the public interest.

The Equine Industry as well as the universities inside the EU therefore has to be aware of the possibilities for funding inside the new Horizon 2020 research program recently adopted by the European parliament. Development of new knowledge and new procedures is vital for the industry in many aspects, economic as well as welfare and health wise.



Equine Health

Equine health and welfare is pure human welfare

The welfare of the estimated more than 6 million horses in Europe has lately been shown to affect more people than just horse owners. The horse as an obligatory instrument for transport and labor in farming, in industry or for private purposes is no longer a necessity for most persons. Keeping of horses is today more widely connected with human leisure and wellbeing, although the role of the horse in maintaining and keeping forest and landscape must be recognized as vital in many cultures. However horses in many countries are also bred and slaughtered for human consumption.

The welfare of the horse is therefore closely connected with human welfare mainly as part of the leisure industry but in many households also as a companion animal, that is a part of the family. The health and welfare of the horse does not only affect the more than 400,000 people in Europe that professionally works with them. It does also have an enormous impact on the many families that keep, feed and use them in their everyday life.



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medicine availability

The proposed animal health law recognizes the relation between animal health, animal welfare, public health and the environment as well as it states "that prevention is better than cure". Statements from the horse industry point of view all need to be looked at in combination to be effective prevention.

Prevention of disease and restriction of spread of disease in the horse population of Europe should always be the main goal. However when disease occurs, it is vital that the veterinarian and the horse owner do have the access to proper medicines. This is right now not always the case because of different licensing and marketing of medicines in different countries. Medicines that are available in some, especially small, countries only a few products registered for the use in horses are available, because of significant costs for the producers to register the medicinal products in every single country with other a limited market. It is very problematic to enable use of medicinal products registered in other countries inside the EU or a common EU registration body a therefore greatly needed.



Antimicrobial resistance

The horse industry welcomes that the proposed animal health law takes antimicrobial resistance into account, and suggests that antimicrobials that have developed resistance to antimicrobials should be given special attention in the label-issues and covered by the scope of the Regulation. Nevertheless there clearly is no real risk a horseman to be overwhelmed in practice, as prevention and control of these pathogens is different from other food chains, but to be watched out.

Responsible use of antimicrobials is high on the list in Equine Veterinary Association and from Swedish Association of over the EU a new survey conducted by VETCOM (Federation of European Equine Veterinary Association) clearly demonstrates that when best practice is implemented by the healthy veterinarians, it is nearly always because of lack of experience of people observing in the specific country.



The new European animal health law will also affect the horse industry.

The new EU commission proposal for an animal health law aims to bring the large body of European Union EU animal health legislation into one single and clear regulatory framework. The potential benefits of enhanced animal health and welfare are great; for animals, their owners, society, public health and the wider economy. However veterinary legislation that forms essential

components to implement this proposed legislation will need to be done. The European Commission also needs to prepare a roadmap for the drafting of the secondary legislation. This in particular is the case when equine health and equine diseases are discussed. It is therefore vital that the stakeholders in the horse industry is consulted in due time before this secondary legislation is drafted.

2014 Action Plan

- Board meeting (Jan., May, sept.)
 - Commison (Jan.), Dr. Füssel
 - Update key figures from 2010
- MEP lunc + Leaflet
 - March 19th: Horse & Education
 - Sept.: Horse & Social benefits
- Equus conference 2014 – WEG 2014
 - September 1st, Caen
- General assembly (Oct)

FEEVA and EHN in the future

- Membership ?
 - Evaluation after three years
- Participation in EHN board ?
 - Influence on politics
 - Meet with politicians and Commission
 - Substantial part of FEEVA budget
- Future possibilities
 - No participation in EHN board
 - New person put forward
 - Extend current position