Welcome to the very first European Horse Network newsletter.

As a new organization we are trying to make sure all our members know what we have been doing and also our supporters and other people throughout Europe interested in horses.

Members have been working hard on different issues and so the European Horse Network is a really important way in which we keep in touch with what each other are doing.

In Brussels we also help raise the profile of horse issues and so I think the lunch organized with Julie Girling and other members interested in horses is benefiting all our organizations.

Stefan Johanson
Chairman, European Horse Network

The EHN and its members

The European Horse Network is a non-profit network of stakeholders acting within the European horse sector.

One of its purposes is to act as a platform for the horse industry to communicate common issues with European institutions and media at the European level.


EHN organised a lunch with Julie Girling and other European Parliament - the first meeting of a parliamentary group interested in horse issues

1 July 2011

- EHN European Parliament June lunch with Members
- June Board meeting
- Dates for the Diary
- European issues
- Member updates
A new group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) interested in horses has been launched by Julie Girling MEP during an inaugural meeting together with members of the European Horse Network.

Julie Girling said, “Issues relating to horses cover a surprising number of European Parliament Committees and policy areas, from agriculture and competition law, to equine welfare and gambling, to name just a few. This new group is a way to help ensure that those here in the European Parliament interested in horse issues are kept informed, and are able to come together to discuss developments with stakeholders such as the European Horse Network.

"Representing the predominantly rural area of South West England means I am acutely aware of the importance of supporting rural businesses – many of which in my own constituency are related, directly or indirectly, to horses. I am also a keen horse rider and owner so am naturally interested in legal developments linked to the sector.

European Horse Network Chairman, Stefan Johanson, added, "It is really important that we from the growing horse sector are proactive in making sure that Parliamentarians and other decision makers in Brussels understand what horses mean throughout Europe, and put forward vital information to debates".

A new date is set to meet again in November.

EHN Board meeting 15th June in Brussels

The Board meeting discussed the lunch meeting at the Parliament and how best to promote members’ issues.

Equus 2011 or 2012?

Next EQUUS Conference cannot be organised this year in Poland because of October national election. The government in position cannot agree on specific funding. However, members agree to keep the organisation in Poland but to see if it could be organised during spring 2012.

Location in Denmark is not relevant as the previous conference was already organised in a Scandinavian country. Cyprus, although will hold EU Presidency from July to December 2012 and could be an opportunity as the Commissioner in charge of sport, Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, is Cypriot.

Action and Communication Plan 2011

Both the action and communication plan were updated and are available on the website.

COPA Horse Group – collaboration

The Chairman has checked regarding the COPA Horse Group. They are working with similar issues as EHN. COPA

is not allowed to be a member of EHN but interested to cooperate around some issues. The Chairman will contact Lucia Zitti at COPA and invite her to our next Board meeting.

Other issues

Members discuss shortly about the European Year of Volunteering. Every member can gather information about volunteering at the national level. This information can be used in future years.

Dates for the Diary

Next EHN Board meeting is in Brussels on the 1 September and the date of the Annual General Meeting confirmed for the 26th October, also in Brussels.

European Issues

Animal Welfare in Transport Review The Commission document is due out in September

Green Paper on On-line Gambling Responses to the Commission green paper are open until the 31st of July. The European-Parimutuel Association and European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders Associations are
currently drafting their replies. The Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament is currently drafting their report.

**VAT on horse sales** The European Court of Justice found against Germany and Austria in late May. Currently only France and Ireland await their judgement on their current reduced rates of VAT.

**Common Agricultural Policy** The EHN intends to work with Julie Girling on raising awareness of horses within the current discussions on the future of the CAP.

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**Members' Info**

**European Draft Horse Federation**

The second European Championship for Horseloggers will take place end of July in Belgium. For more details see: [http://cecd.be/English/rules-of-the-world-championship.html](http://cecd.be/English/rules-of-the-world-championship.html)

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**World Horse Welfare:**

**Meeting of Experts - Charity spearheads meeting of experts in drive to improve horse welfare**

On 15 June 2011, World Horse Welfare brought together a group of distinguished scientific experts in a bid to develop recommendations that will help address key welfare concerns currently facing horses being transported long distances across Europe to slaughter.

The leading international horse charity arranged the meeting of experts in London, during which professionals from Europe and the USA shared their knowledge and experience. Exhaustion, journey times, dehydration and water provision were the topics examined: all serious concerns the charity has documented during field investigations along Europe’s routes to slaughter.

[Read the full story here](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/information/latest-news?view=show&content_id=4438)

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**Danube Delta horses - World Horse Welfare’s quick response to Romania call for help**

Following recent reports of serious welfare problems regarding the way in which wild horses were being rounded up for slaughter in the Danube Delta area of Romania, World Horse Welfare quickly made authorities, including the European Commission and Romania’s Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels, aware of its concerns.

A World Horse Welfare spokesperson said: “We were extremely concerned about the situation in the Danube Delta and monitored it closely. The charity has been working in Romania since 2004; through this work we’ve built-up a strong contact base, including vets, welfare organisations and horse lovers involved with efforts to assist these horses, and have been liaising closely with them.”

[Read the full story here](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/information/latest-news?view=show&content_id=4412)

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**Dourine returns to Europe - Return of a serious equine disease to Europe**

World Horse Welfare reports that there have been three outbreaks of the equine notifiable disease dourine in Europe. The most recent was reported in the Napoli region of mainland Italy on Tuesday 14 June. The other two outbreaks were reported in Catania, Sicily on Friday 27 May. There have been no recent cases of this disease in the European Union and investigations into the source of the outbreaks are underway.

[Read the full story here](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/information/latest-news?view=show&content_id=4444)

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World Horse Welfare’s Keep Your Horse Healthy disease prevention awareness campaign, including free information pack, helps horse owners protect their horses by providing practical advice and guidance on preventing diseases like dourine.

[Find out more about the Keep Your Horse Healthy campaign and download your free information pack](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/information/disease)

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