



Minutes

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Meeting	EEF EU-Committee Meeting
Date	02 February 2017
Time	11h00 – 16h30
Location	EEF/BEL NF office, Belgicastraat 9, Box 2, 1930 Zaventem, BEL
Chair	Bo Helander
Minutes	Carina Mayer

Participants	
Bo Helander	Chair
Jacky Buchmann	Member
Klaus Miesner	Member
Constance Popineau	Member
Frank Spadinger	Member
Invited	
Hanfried Haring	President
Carina Mayer	Secretary General
Florence Gras	EHN
Constanze Winter	GER NF
Catherine Bonnichon	FRA NF
Wojtek Pisarski	POL NF

Pt.	Topic
1	Welcome
2	EU Equine passports legislation
3	EU Consumer Rights legislation
4	Prizemoney and VAT
5	EU funding programs (ie Erasmus+ sport, etc)
6	Equine veterinary products in Europe (Animal Health Law)
7	Industry paper for horse sport
8	AOB

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomes the attendants and opens the meeting. Frank Spadinger is confirmed as a member of the Committee after Damian McDonald unfortunately departed from the IRL NF. Constance Popineau is also changing jobs but the Committee would be very pleased to see her continued contributions to the Committee, if supported by the FRA NF.

2. EU Equine passports legislation

Klaus Miesner provides the Committee with a summary of the issues currently being faced by NFs regarding the EU Equine passport legislation. The main problem is that the regulation is partly subject to interpretation with regards to the question on who is allowed to change/amend equine passports (the NF or only the issuing body?). The current case of the GER NF is still subject to a decision but it appears that the situation is less tense now than it was at the end of 2016. The way that the GER NF interprets the regulation the NF is still allowed to amend passports, for example related to a change of ownership (but not identification). The GER NF will try to resolve its case through conversation with the opposing party. The Committee will keep an eye on this matter.

It is also mentioned that there is an initiative of the vet sector to get rid of the UELN (Universal Equine Life Number) but the Committee members are in strong support of maintaining the UELN. Catherine Bonnichon will share the link with the Committee where signatures are collected in favor of the UELN.

The Chair also informs the Committee that in horse racing they are currently considering upper-lip identification as a better way of identification than neck microchips (one advantage among others being that the chip doesn't migrate). However, further scientific studies are needed to justify such action in a very sensitive body part of the horse.

3. EU Consumer Rights legislation

Carina Mayer summarizes the outcome of the meeting held with the EU Commission DG Justice Mr. Mikolaj Zaleski on 11 November 2016. Constanze Winter informs the Committee that the "nature of the good" clause has not been applied by German courts in the past and that the damages are not covered by the Directive, only by national legislation. Constance Popineau informs that since 2014 there is a new law in France so that there is no more reverse burden of proof on life animals and that horses are considered as second hand goods. Since then there are no more real problems related to the Directive for the equine sector in France. Furthermore, in France auctions are also excluded from the Directive. Constanze Winter confirms that in Germany horses are considered as second hand goods as well.

It is agreed that the argument of horse welfare must be used with Julie Girling and the EU Commission because the buyer is not liable for the horse up to six months after the purchase and can basically do whatever he wants which is not good desirable in the light of horse welfare.

Constance Popineau shares the information that in France a special website had been put up with contract templates and a mediation process but the mediation center is not active anymore.

Florence Gras states that the Chair of the EHN, Mark Wentein, will have a meeting with the MEP Mr. Arimont soon in order to continue the debate on how to achieve a better balance of rights between the professional seller and the private buyer. At the moment the situation is unbalanced in favor of the buyer.

Florence Gras proposes that Erica Lindberg shall organize a follow-up meeting with Mr. Zaleski so that the topic can be tabled again.

It is agreed that Catherine Bonnichon, Constance Popineau and Constance Winter shall agree on a position and draft a proposal for the EEF based on the following different potential solutions:

- Exclude life animals from Article 5 of the Directive or
- Exclude life animals from the reverse burden of proof (using the horse welfare / animal protection argument) or
- Amend the timeframes currently defined in the Directive
- Leave it to the member states to find a solution (like the French example)
- (Consider a recommendation of a mediation process in the Directive)

4. Prizemoney and VAT

In 2016 a conference call was held on VAT rates in the equine sector with the decision not to do anything further because some countries didn't want to change the status quo.

Florence Gras informs the Committee that the consultation process on this matter will close on 20 March 2017 and Copa is currently consulting its member countries on this subject.

It is agreed that EEF supports a reduced VAT rate (but will not define further details).

The topic of VAT on prize-money is also discussed but no further action will be taken at this stage.

5. EU funding programs (ie Erasmus+ sport, etc)

Carina Mayer provides a summary of the Erasmus+ sport info day held in the European Commission on 31 January 2017. There are several funding programs currently available to EU member states and particularly the "Erasmus+ sport" program can be of great interest for the EEF. The 2017 deadline for project applications is set for 06 April 2017. It is agreed that Carina Mayer shall produce a document with an overview of the Erasmus+ sport project & application requirements so that NFs can be informed accordingly.

Klaus Miesner also proposed to consider a „Young Riders Club“, similar to what already exists for young breeders in Germany which proved to be a very successful concept.

6. Equine veterinary products in Europe (Animal Health Law)

The issue regarding life exclusion from the food chain is still a major topic that needs to be further pushed by EHN and its members. It is considered as absolutely inappropriate that horses coming from third countries can go back to the food chain after six months whereas horses from EU countries remain excluded from the food chain for their entire life after they have received specific medication. This clearly leads to a welfare issue because the end of life becomes very expensive for horse owners and there is a severe risk that horses are being neglected for these reasons. Belgium will push the issue forward again, requesting alignment of the legislation of third countries and EU countries. EEF shall ask its members for support in this matter so that as many countries as possible will push the matter further. Florence Gras informed the Committee that the EU-Commission requested more scientific studies before a potential change of the legislation. Klaus Miesner stated that he will have a meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officer in the German ministry in order to discuss this subject. Florence

Gras will provide the Committee members with a list of attendance related to the recent meeting of the European Veterinary Association so that the NFs can identify a potential point of contact in their own country.

In addition to the above the EU-Committee also supports the current initiative towards a single EU market for veterinary products with less restrictions on national registration of the veterinary products (but a European registration instead).

7. Industry paper for horse sport

The attendants agree that it is important for the equine sector to collect data in order to have solid numbers on the size and consequently importance of the equine industry in Europe. The main goal must be to convince Eurostat to include horses in their datacollection again so that a common methodology can be applied and reliable data gathered from the ministries. In case this is not possible it would be an alternative to use the data collection methodology applied by the United States authorities and apply the same for the European equine sector.

8. AOB

Catherine Bonnichon informs the Committee that Julie Girling's report has led to an online platform which will be available soon. EEF shall see whether there is a possibility to be included on the platform. Furthermore the report on sport has been voted on in the EU Parliament and Florence Gras shall share it with Carina Mayer. On a third note, France is currently trying to negotiate with the EU on the subject of equine transport in the tourism sector.