



Brussels, 7th November 2017

The MEP Horse Group led by Jean Arthuis met on 7 November at the European Parliament in Brussels to discuss the impact of Brexit on the horse industry.

The conference was attended by MEPs, French parliamentarians, agricultural attachés, officials of the European Commission and many representatives of the equine industry, members of the European Horse Network.

Belgian MEP Hilde Vautmans, who is also very involved in the group, wanted to show the innovations of European equestrian sport. Mrs Vautmans highlighted the values of integration, volunteering and mentoring of equestrian sport, as well as its constant innovation; **Frédéric Bouix**, General Director of the French Equestrian Federation and President of the FITE, Federation of Equestrian Tourism who presented the first European Equestrian Route last July, the Route d'Artagnan, returned to the details of the mobility of horses in Europe and how the Benelux / France agreement could be extended to other countries such as Germany and Italy. **Harald Muller**, Director of Education and Standards at the International Equestrian Federation, explained the organization's approach to helping owners of training facilities and event organizers ensure the right construction and maintenance of the surfaces as well as the reduction of the environmental impact of the events. **Bert Prouvé**, Belgian professional rider, and **Christophe Ameeuw**, CEO of EEM World, showed that with professionalism and passion, equestrian activities and events can still be created or recreated and attract new audiences. **Boy-Adrian van Gelderen**, a student at the Young Riders Academy, testified about this entirely new educational concept for promising young riders.

Jean Arthuis MEP, while demonstrating the excellence of the European equine sector, wanted to highlight the constraints and uncertainties, particularly those related to Brexit.

Alix Choppin, Marketing Director of Arqana, perfectly emphasized the importance of horse sales in Europe, 32% of global sales and the current legal and economic constraints: VAT discrepancies, problems of sales guarantees. Indeed, **Fredrick Federley, Swedish MEP**, stressed his involvement in the future directive on consumer sales. He wants to exclude live animals from this text and provide for adapted rules.

Another major uncertainty for the industry is the impact of Brexit because of the thousands of horses that are traded with the UK each year.

James Murphy, Irish horse breeder and chairman of the horse working party at COPA, EU agriculture lobby, listed the issues that will be impacted such as trade, employment as well as the future CAP financing (Common Agricultural Policy)¹.

Paul-Marie Gadot, Chief Veterinarian of France Galop and representing the International Horseracing Authorities, reported on the importance of the Tripartite Agreement facilitating the movement of race

and sport horses traveling from/to events between the United Kingdom, Ireland and France. The agreement was essential to maintain the fast and dynamic pace of the horse industry. How would Brexit affect this agreement? **Tom Tynan**, member of Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan's Cabinet, cannot yet provide answers but wanted to reassure the Commission's understanding of these agreements. He gave a preview of the content of the EU Communication on the post-2020 CAP, which will be published on 29 November.

Jean Arthuis asks for clarity in December on taxation issues and for the negotiations on Brexit to start. He suggests the industry to make an inventory of all barriers on which to work in the coming months to support Equine industry development.

MEP Horse Group, through several meetings throughout the year, wants to increase the visibility of the sector's successes (breeding, horse racing, equestrian competitions) and show the significant economic and social impact at the regional and national level. and Europe. The parliamentarians involved intend to convey positive messages and remain vigilant when adopting penalizing regulations for this economic sector of interest.

The European Horse Network has collected the numbers from different studies to give an estimate of the horse industry in Europe: • 100 billion by the economic impact • 400 000 full-time equivalent jobs provided by the sector • 7 million horses in Europe • 6 million hectares of permanent pastures devoted to pasture • A growing sector by the number of riders

More than 20 000 sporting events are organised every year in Europe

More information about EHN: www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

EHN members: European and International Associations linked to horses (Breeders, Sport, betting, welfare)

CBC - Belgian horse Confederation EFTBA - European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders Associations, FEI - International Equestrian Federation, EEF - European Equestrian Federation, EPMA - European Pari Mutuel Association, Hippolia - Pole Filiere Equine (Normandy), FEIF - Icelandic Horses, WBFSH - World federation of Sport horses Breeders, HNS - Swedish Horse Council Foundation, EMHF - European, Mediterranean Federation of Horseracing Authorities, UET - European Trotting Union, WHW - World Horse Welfare, FECTU - European Draught Horse Federation, FNRS - Equestrian Centres in Netherlands , GESCA - French equine professionals, ETF - European Trainers Federation, FITE – Equestrian Tourism, BETA - British Equestrian Trade Association, EEN - Equestrian Educational Network, ESSA- European State Studs Association, FEEVA - Federation of European Equine Veterinary, IFCE - French Institute for equestrian sport, Hippolis - The National Equine Competence Association of Finland.

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ⁱ UK made an estimated contribution of €7,6 billion in 2015 in an overall CAP budget of €55billion and has received €3.88 billion