

Brussels, 2nd February 2011

EPMA elected at the Board of the European Horse Network in Brussels



The European Horse Network (EHN) held its Annual Meeting in Brussels on 1st February to plan 2011 activities and elect the new Board¹.

The Network, created after EQUUS 2009 conference, initiated by the Swedish European Presidency, already counts 14 members: National, European and International structures related to the horse sector and actively working on the promotion of equine industry.

In 2011, EHN welcomes 3 new members: The European State Studs Association, Confédération Belge du cheval (representing the Horse sector in Belgium), and Hipika Polska (representing 26 organisations for the horse sector in Poland).

This year, EHN members should focus on “developing the European Dimension in Sport”², on “the future of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)”³, transportation issues and animal welfare as well as financing issues⁴.

The overall aim is to be the competence centre of EU institutions on all horse related issues.

EPMA will actively participate to the promotion and action plan of the Network.

Many members of EPMA are involved in the equestrian sector, contributing to racing but also to the equestrian sport: more than €2 million from pari mutuel betting revenues directly support each year the Olympic Equestrian teams of 3 Nordic countries (Sweden, Finland and Norway). More specific partnerships of the pari mutuel operators with the national Equestrian Federations drives revenues directly to education and training of riding schools instructors, anti-doping measures in horse jumping competitions and for research and development in animal health. In France, the “Fonds Eperon” (revenues from the PMU) gives each year around €8 million to innovative regional and national projects linked to horses (co-financed projects of the French equestrian federation, regional riding schools equipments, improving horses knowledge in schools ...).

More on EHN website: www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

¹ Board members of EHN : Chairman - Stefan Johanson, Swedish Horse Council Foundation; Cathy McGlynn, EFTBA, European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders; Roly Owers, World Horse Welfare; Florence Gras, European Pari Mutuel Association; Frederic Chauvel, Pole Filiere Equine; Bo Helander, European Equestrian Federation.

² COM (2011)12 Developing the European Dimension in Sport – 18/01/2011

³ COM 2010 (672) The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future – 18/11/2010

⁴ Discussions on the contribution from gambling activities that should be launched by the future Green Paper of the European Commission (announced for March 2011)

Members of EPMA are present in 10 countries, traditionally active in developing horseracing and horse breeding (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom). They wish to share their common concerns about developing efficient regulations taking into account the promotion of the equine sector and consumer's fairness and protection.

AB Trav. Galopp (ATG), Sweden - Fintoto Oy, Finland, German Tote GmbH, Germany - Société de la Loterie de la Suisse Romande Suisse - Foundation Norsk Rikstoto, Norway - Pari Mutuel Urbain (P.M.U.), France - Horserace Totalisator Board, Great Britain - Tote Ireland Limited, Ireland - Unione Nazionale Incremento Razze Equine (U.N.I.R.E.), Italy, Wiener Trabrennverein, Austria, WinRace, Germany.



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