



ESSA courier

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

Every year some of us prepare in autumn the next breeding season. At the ESSA board, we try to prepare the next year with more efficiency of our network. But our actions are just as efficient as the energy given by our members. I would be very happy to see more proposals and some more people available to promote it. At the moment, I have to thank Alexandra Lotz who succeeded to send an acceptable EU application with some hope to get financial help at this level. If it's not successful, we still have a good relationship with the European Horse Network and we represent the heritage and culture specialist within such a horsey association. For the future, it's also all the States and Regions where the national studs are based who could support ESSA actions through some specific support of your sites, like the Ministry of Agriculture of Baden-Württemberg did two years ago in order to be present at Brussels. Since this time ESSA is well known and supposed to have some power to support its members... We are ready to go ahead that way in the future!

With my very best regards,

Bernard Maurel

Review: Redefin jubilee stallion parades with guests

As many German State Studs at this time of the year, Redefin celebrated its stallion parades during the last weeks. For the studs 200th anniversary different guest studs and initiatives were involved in the shows. Besides the classic Redefin performances such as the great dressage quadrille, the historic carriages, the jumping quadrille and the 16-in-hand driving, 10 visiting institutions contributed to the programme. Among them were the ESSA partner studs Dillenburg, Neustadt-Dosse and Flyinge, which impressed the audience with a quadrille at long reins. A special highlight was the additional illustration of the stud history in an exhibition.



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Review: Finnhorse Days at Ypäjä

From August 30th to September 2nd September the National Finnhorse Breeders Competition took place at Ypäjä Stud. There were different classes: championships for 3-, 4- and 5 year old horses, the breeder's price for 6 year old horses, as well as the dressage championships. 500 horses took part in the event which attracted 5000 spectators. Horses and riders of Ypäjä were very successful. The highlight was Silver in the Dressage Championship for rider Laura Porthan, one of the Riding Instructors of the Equine College, and the gelding ROSOMO of Ypäjä Stud breeding. Congratulations!

Review: EAAP congress in Bratislava

Genomic research in horses is unraveling genetic causes of diseases, color patterns, locomotion, performance traits etc., opening new possibilities for horse breeding and selection. Papers on the use of genetic markers to identify and define genomic segments, and ultimately discover, genes and alleles, that are associated with traits and particular interest in breeds or population, the use of genetic markers to characterize and manage breed diversity were presented at the annual meeting of EAAP in Bratislava in August 2012.

Additionally a workshop with the title "Genomics and horse production: from science to practice" was organized in cooperation with ESSA. Genomic research is actually the overwhelming topic in the horse breeding industry. Important and successful efforts of competitive scientists meet challenged but also interested officials of breeding federations as well as frightened breeders in the context of a financially difficult and emotional market. Despite the high potential and opening of new possibilities of genomic research, especially for performance and health selection, as main challenges and concerns show up the lack of communication between science and practice as well as the fact, that phenotype often considerably differs from genotype. In addition, a common sense of breeding priorities has not yet been found, creating an emotional debate.

Various speakers representing the practical field of horse breeding were involved in this very interesting and successful event that highlighted/ focused on objectives, problems, use of genomic research and expectations of modern breeders. A general discussion between practitioners and scientists followed the round table. The protocol of the meeting will follow in the next ESSA courier.



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REVIEW: Annual meeting of the European Horse Network

The annual meeting of European Horse Network (EHN) at Brussels took place on October 17th 2012 in the office of the Belgian Confederation of Horses (Confédération Belge du Cheval). Founded in 2009 based on a Swedish initiative, this network has a non-lucrative objective. Today, it is composed of 17 members representing all sectors of the horse industry, all of European size and actors in the horse sector including particularly:

- Breeding
- Sport / Races / Leisure / Work
- Science / Education / Culture
- Protection / Transport / Veterinary
- European Regions

The European State Studs Association (ESSA) is member of this network since 2 years, and represents there some expertise about culture and heritage. It benefits from the contact with all organizations of the horse industry represented at the European level by EHN and its lobbying actions. ESSA follows the evolution of the EU project “European Heritage Label” and informs EHN about it.

One of the main actions of EHN is to meet Members of the European Parliament (MEP), the next date will be focused on health and research and will take place on November 27th. These meetings are also an opportunity to inform the MEP in each country about the questions related to the horse industry. Within the points to notice, there also is interest of a collaboration with the network of the National Riding Schools (EEN = European Educational Network) and contact will be made with the president Markus Schurman. The synergy with the Horse committee of EAAP (European Association for Animal Production) is also mentioned.

The EHN board member Frédéric Chauvel, who represented the French cluster “Pôle de Compétitivité Cheval de la Région Basse-Normandie” now named HIPPOLIA, is replaced by the Danish representative of the European Association of equine veterinaries. At this meeting two representatives of the EU direction SANCO were invited to speak about breeding rules and animal protection rules. The report of the president Stefan Johanson followed the activities of year 2012 marked by 2 meetings with the informal “MEP horse group” and the development of lobbying actions. The financial report is positive, which is logical because the EHN members cover themselves



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the participation costs. The action plan for 2013 was adopted at the meeting. The question of the agricultural status of breeding or working horses, compared to the status of sport or leisure horses at European level needs to be studied. Also, the role of the horse committee of COPA will have to be clarified. One of the themes of future MEP meetings will be “horse and environment”. On that topic a contribution of ESSA and of IFCE could be required.

An EQUUS symposium (stakeholders of the horse industry at the European level) is planned during the time of the WEG 2014. The diversity of the members of this network and the permanent presence at Brussels of some of its representatives make it a natural lobby of the horse industry (breeding, sport, races and leisure) at the European level. Their role as a competence center for networking of the stakeholders is also growing. The participation of ESSA is essential because of the large number of its members in many countries of Europe and because of the cultural heritage of their sites.

Some changes at IFCE

The French Institute for Horse and Riding (Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Équitation = IFCE) had a lot of news to communicate during the month of October. First of all, a symposium organized in close partnership with INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique = National Institute for Agronomical Research) was organized on 1st and 2nd of October. The aim was to describe the possible evolution of the horse industry in France in 2030. Four scenarios were presented and the future will tell us which one will be right. Of course it should be a mix of the different possibilities presented by the associated researchers.

We also have to inform our colleagues that IFCE has a new general director, and will have soon a new president of the board. Christian Vanier has taken the responsibility after Philippe de Guenin. Like him, he is not a horse person, but has had high positions in the French Ministry of Agriculture. He is already at work and visiting the 20 sites of the public company. His first contact with some of the engineers and technicians of IFCE was a 2 1/2 days seminar from 22nd to 24th of October, with around 150 people, to prepare the next 3 years and the transition to the future activities without the stallions' ownership. Plenty of proposals were in debate in a very open atmosphere. The new general director is ready to take the lead and continue the work after Philippe de Guenin. He is determined



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to make a success out of the big cultural change which was the merge of the French National Studs and the National Riding School of Saumur in one State company. We will soon know more about the new organization, but it seems that the future is quite positive: teaching and research, services to the horse industry, organization of breeding and equestrian shows, tourism, culture and (of course) heritage...

Changes at Lipica National Stud

Another personal change needs to be communicated here: Dr. Tomi Rumpf, director of the Slovenian National Stud Lipica was replaced by Mag. Boštjan Bizjak, whom we wish all the best in his new position. We are looking forward to get in touch personally at the next ESSA General Assembly.

As Béla Müller, who lost his position at Bábolna National Stud in Hungary earlier this year, Tomi Rumpf was part of the ESSA board. According to the ESSA statutes, the board is elected for a period of five years and needs to consist of five persons (preferably stud directors) from five different countries. At the next General Assembly in April 2013 at Bábolna new board elections will take place. All ESSA partner stud representatives are asked to think about a candidature and to express their interest to the ESSA office or the remaining board members Bernard Maurel, Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck and Dr. Dominik Burger.

New location and horse breeding director for Romsilva

Our Romanian partners informed us that from November 1st Mr. Gheorghe Dima is the new director of *The Horse Breeding and Husbandry Department* – division that coordinates the state stud farms and stallion depots in the National Forestry Administration – Romsilva. We send a warm welcome to Mr. Dima and hope to meet him at the next ESSA General Assembly.

The department is also operating from a new location at:

REGIA NAȚIONALĂ A PĂDURILOR – ROMSILVA

Str. Petricani, nr. 9A, Sector 2, Bucharest, postcode 023841

Tel: 00 40 21 317 10 05, Fax: 00 40 21 316 84 28, e-mail: office@rnp.rosilva.ro



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Culture Action Europe Conference and General Assembly

The world is changing at a fast pace and we are currently facing one of the biggest cultural crises that the modern, Western socio-economic model has ever been through. Just giving voice to the demands of the arts and culture sector will not achieve to promote societies that treasure culture.

While continuing to advocate for an improved EU Cultural Policy, cultural operators, activists and campaigners must progressively engage in all aspects of Policies that impact on Societal Cultural Development from local to European level. Economic and social developments, education, external relations, youth, innovation, welfare and labour, environment, ... all of the above include components that directly impact on our cultural life, on societal development as well as, naturally, on the conditions that cultural operators work within.

Advocating for an improved Cultural Policy at EU level remains essential, but it is now time to foster and facilitate the establishment of a long lasting pan-European cross-sectoral civil society movement engaged in advocating for culture as a necessary element of any strategy for sustainable societies.

On November 9th to 11th the Culture Action Europe's Conference and General Assembly "Act for culture, act for Europe" in Brussels, Belgium, took the first necessary steps to ignite and foster the changes and the broader civic engagement needed. The conference programme represented one of the organisation's steps towards a more participatory approach to its life and planning, open to the contributions of those from other sectors similarly engaged in fostering the necessary change in Europe and beyond.

The 2012 Conference and General Assembly was therefore conceived to allow its participants to learn, discuss, network, and reach common initial agreements on *what* to do, *how* to do it and *when* to do it. The programme modules themselves consisted of a mix between inspirational speeches and panel debates and intensive informal table discussions. The aim of the table discussions was to facilitate and multiply the exchange of views and experiences as well as to foster the setting up of common initiatives.

For more information please visit www.cultureactioneuropeconference.eu



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ESSA dates 2013

March 16 th to 24 th	EQUITANA fair at ESSEN, Germany
April 15 th to 17 th	General Assembly 2013 at National Stud BÁBOLNA, Hungary
August 28 th to September 1 st	FEI World Driving Championship Pairs at TOPOL'ČIANKY, Slovakia