



ESSA courier

No. 5 – January 2010

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

At the beginning of 2010, the ESSA president is proud of the way we did work together last year and all the projects and objectives we have for the new year. You will find a lot of information about it in this newsletter.

I would like to insist on the Leonardo da Vinci project. If you have in your stud just one employee who could be sent abroad and speaks English, French or German you are concerned by this free of charge project. It's also very good for ESSA, because all the costs would be supported by the EU, and it shows that we are already a functioning European network, giving us more arguments to apply for some other European project in the future.

In many European countries, France and Germany not excluded, some politicians or technocrats are criticizing the cost of state employees, the way state studs' services are going, or the fact that public money is used to support the horse industry. One of the best answers is of course to show that our involvement in genetics and biodiversity, training and teaching, tourism and cultural heritage is supported not only by the cities, departments and regions concerned, but also by the horse breeders, the horse owners, and the great public that visits our sites. One of ESSA's main objectives is to help you to argue or promote your activities, as the European network that we are!

Of course all my best wishes are going to the stud directors and teams, and to their families. For all of us I hope that 2010 will see more members affiliated to ESSA and that we receive concrete support by the services of the European Committee. I hope to see you during this year many times and especially at our General Assembly at Neustadt/Dosse from the 7th to the 9th of June.

A happy, healthy and successful New Year,

Bernard Maurel



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Review 2009

2009 was a busy year for the young European State Studs Association. A central ESSA office was established at MARBACH stud with a part-time staff coordinating the activities of the network. One of the main achievements was the official registration of ESSA as non-profit organisation.

One of the main ESSA objectives is the recognition of the European State Studs as European Heritage. Therefore, the office contributed to the EU-questionnaire for the new European Heritage Label (EHL). Contact was made to Mr. Gammel, General Direction of Education and Culture, in Brussels, responsible for the implementation of the label.

On behalf of ESSA Marbach stud filed an application for an annual operating grant by the European Union for the ESSA office. The EU culture programme running from 2007 to 2013 offers support for organisations active at European level in the field of culture. The operating grant would enable ESSA to work more efficiently with a full time staff at the ESSA office. The amount requested could also fund promotion activities and support our next General Assembly. The applications are currently evaluated, decisions are expected in March.

Many ESSA members participated in the General Assembly hosted by the national stud of TOPOL'ČIANKY, Slovakia, and signed the "Declaration on the Preservation of Traditional Brands". The ESSA board met in MARBACH (February), AVENCHES (April), TOPOL'ČIANKY (June), COMPIÈGNE (August) and PRAGUE (December).

To improve the communication among the members, the ESSA courier was established. In 2009 four issues were distributed online to 60 addresses in 15 countries. By the end of the year ESSA has 21 members from 11 countries (14 studs, 6 personal members and one institutional member).

Objectives 2010

To ensure the success of the association ESSA needs to communicate more efficiently inside and outside the network. More members and sponsors need to be found, supporting ESSA's aims. For 2010 a promotion strategy was developed. A new ESSA leaflet is in preparation to promote the state studs as European heritage. It will be available in different languages during the first months of 2010. Information about ESSA in form of leaflets,



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posters and a European map with the location of all member studs shall be available at all member studs. The ESSA homepage will be updated and linked to the websites of all member studs. The ESSA courier shall continue to appear every second month.

The ESSA office plans to apply for different European grants in 2010. A mobility-project is in preparation for the employees of the member studs wishing to share their knowledge and to gain European working experience. An application for European subsidies of the EU culture programme will be drafted for a multi-annual-cooperation-project running from 2011 to 2013. The project will focus on the the research, documentation and promotion of the European state studs' cultural heritage. Part of the project will be an ESSA-symposium in 2011 which needs to be prepared by a scientific board from 2010 on.

The ESSA office will continue contributing to the establishment of the European Heritage Label. The next meeting of the European working group is scheduled for April. ESSA's interests will be represented by Mr Dusan Kramberger of the Slovenian Ministry of Culture.

From the 7th to the 9th of June the 2010 ESSA General Assembly will take place at NEUSTADT-DOSSE, Germany. The members will be invited in January. Four board meetings are planned in April, June, September and December 2010.

From 2010 on, ESSA plans to be present at different European horse shows and events. In step one the board members take ESSA leaflets und posters to the events they visit. In step two ESSA could become involved with quadrille performances, exhibitions and info-stands. The first activities are planned at the international horse fair "Eurocheval" at Offenburg, Germany, from 21st to 25th of July 2010.

On 10th of November 2010 the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Brussels will host an event about Marbach within the network of European state studs. The event will be accompanied by an exhibition about the cultural heritage of the national and traditional studs of Europe.

Call of interest: Leonardo da Vinci-mobility project for stud employees

ESSA plans to set up a working abroad programme to strengthen the European identity of the state studs' employees and to stimulate the cooperation in between the network. The project is supposed to be financially supported by the European mobility programme "Leonardo da Vinci".

The programme offers funding for stays abroad for further qualification in the European labour market. Projects run for two years. At least partners from two different European



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countries need to be involved. Applications are to be made by the coordinating institution online and in paper form by the 5th of February 2010. Letters of intent need to be provided by all partner institutions. Activities can take place from the 1st of June 2010 to the 31st of May 2012.

A project draft was handed in at the German national agency by the ESSA office via MARBACH stud as coordinating institution in December 2009. Stud employees shall be enabled to spend up to four weeks of labour at a different ESSA partner stud. The additional qualification with European perspective shall focus on horse breeding, horse care, horse health and training of horse and rider.

The office will file the application by the end of January and submit it via Marbach stud as coordinating institution. **Studs wishing to participate in the project need to get in touch with the ESSA office by 20th of January.**

Summary of the ESSA board meeting in December 2009

The ESSA board met on 11th of December in PRAGUE to discuss the development of the association in 2009 and to define objectives for 2010. Two separate topics of this newsletter are dealing with these issues.

The board agreed to draft a mobility programme for stud employees and to apply for funding through the European programme for life-long-learning “Leonardo da Vinci”. The call of interest to participate was sent to the ESSA stud directors by mail and is part of this ESSA courier.

At the end of 2009, ESSA is lacking money. Membership invoices need to be sent in January with requests of early payments in order to maintain the office and to implement the projects started. For further development of the association ESSA needs subsidies, more members and sponsors.

ESSA's budget in 2010 depends on the decision about the operation grant applied for, which is expected in March. The actual budget will be discussed during the next board meeting in April. Until then, business will be continued as in 2009.

ESSA might become a member of the “Europa Nostra” cultural heritage network. The office will check conditions and costs until the next board meeting.



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In addition to the now existing ordinary members (studs, personal or institutional), it is proposed to accept supporting members (personal or institutional). A change of the statutes will be prepared for the General Assembly.

The design for a new ESSA-leaflet is proposed and approved by the board members. It will be presented at the General Assembly.

Different forms of ESSA-membership cards are proposed. As long as ESSA has only a small number of members the board prefers self-made cards which will be given to the members from 2010 on.

It is suggested to occupy a student with an analysis about the ESSA member studs. A questionnaire should be prepared according to the working groups defined at the General Assembly 2009. Additional points could include: financing, administration, legal form, protected buildings or horse breeds. The student could do an actual analysis during the first half of 2010 and present the results at the General Assembly. They could be used for promotion, website update, applications and further research.

Invitations for the General Assembly 2010 at NEUSTADT-DOSSE will be sent as early as possible in January. A draft of programme was worked out by the office and given to NEUSTADT's stud director Dr. Jürgen Müller for further development with his team.

The working title of the exhibition at the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg in BRUSSELS in November 2010 is "Das Haupt- und Landgestüt Marbach im Verbund mit den Europäischen Staatsgestüten". 50% of the content shall deal with MARBACH, 50% with ESSA. The exhibition should include a large poster with the map of Europe and the location of studs, which can be used also at other events in the future.

The directors of all ESSA partner studs will be invited to the opening event on the 10th of November. The presence of staff from different studs in uniforms would be desirable.

The use of the "Equigarde®" teaching system for competence in horse breeding and horse care is proposed. The system was developed at AVENCHES and evolved to a BA study course. The licence for the basic course could be taken over by ESSA. The training concept could be given to the partner studs, translated and adapted for the respective countries. ESSA studs should occupy the field of competence instead of leaving it to other, possibly less qualified individuals or institutions. Teaching activities might strengthen the positions of endangered studs. The idea will be proposed at General Assembly.

Following the invitation of the North African State Studs (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco) to our General Assembly, it is accepted to propose that ESSA could be a partner of a project started with the consultant LDC to get some EU subsidies for Euro-Mediterranean



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cooperation. The ESSA board agrees to use our experience to give (but being of course paid for that) help and advice to the authorities of these countries in the fields of:

- Promotion of the cultural dimension of equine activities
- Protection of historic and traditional goods
- Communication about equine heritage

The next ESSA board meeting will take place on 16th of April in GENEVA.

Visit in the Czech Republic – report by Bernard Maurel

The ESSA board meeting in December 2009 took place in PRAGUE, easy to reach from any of the European airports, in order to organise a short visit to the Czech national stud KLADRUBY NAD LABEM with his annex at SLATIŇANY, where the Hippological Museum is located in a beautiful palace.

Due to the very recent change at the head of the stud, we just had a contact through the phone with the new director, Mr. Höck, but we were able to visit the site of Kladruby, its stables and surroundings. In order to maintain the famous breed of the Kladruber Horse, the selection of the mares and stallions is based on the traditional system. Kladrubers are mainly bred as carriage horses and nowadays benefit from the growing importance of driving competitions. We met the new national champion, working for the stud and training the best young stallions.

Kladruber Horses are bred in two colours: grey and black. Kladruby is home of the grey horses, the black ones are bred in Slatiňany. The use of one Frisian stallion some generations ago was perhaps useful, but to remain an exception, I had the feeling that it has to be done very seldom. In both stables, very good classical feeding, clean stalls and boxes, healthy and friendly mares and foals show the quality of the people involved in the every day grooming and training. We got a lot of information thanks to Mr. Wosar who presented us the different stables and stallions.

The palace of Slatiňany was especially opened for us by Lenka Gotthardová, presently in charge of the museum. We had the opportunity to see wonderful paintings and material coming from different palaces and noble houses of the country. The museum is frequently visited by school groups, students and families. It illustrates the importance of horses in the social life of the past centuries and helps people to understand why it is so important to keep special breeds like Kladruber Horses as part of the national and European heritage.



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Country in focus: GERMANY

Germany enjoys a high reputation as country of horse breeding and equestrian sports. The success of German horses is based on centuries of selection and systemised breeding. The Federal Republic of today is a patchwork of former smaller kingdoms and dukedoms. In times when the quality of horses was decisive for travel times and victories, the noble courts used to maintain studs in order to breed the best horses available. Especially the Prussian kings were dedicated and skilled horse enthusiasts. Under their leadership many important studs were founded in the northern and eastern parts of the country.

After World War II the studs of Eastern Prussia, including the famous stud of Trakehnen, were lost. As everywhere in Europe, during the second half of the 20th century, the horses, and thus the studs, lost their importance in the fields of transport, military and agriculture. Quite a few studs, such as Altefeld, Landshut, Traventhal or Wickrath were privatised or dissolved. With the growing popularity of the horse as partner for sports and leisure, private studs were established and for the traditional public studs new perspectives opened. Today, the remaining German state studs are under the authority of their respective federal Ministries of Agriculture.

In different German states four “principal” studs with herds of mares and offspring survive, and ten “federal” studs, serving as stallion depots:

- Principal and Federal Stud Marbach (Baden-Wuerttemberg)
- Principal and Federal Stud Neustadt-Dosse (Brandenburg)
- Principal and Federal Stud Schwaiganger (Bavaria)
- Principal Stud Graditz (Saxony)
- Federal Stud Moritzburg (Saxony)
- Federal Stud Celle (Lower Saxony)
- Federal Stud Dillenburg (Hesse)
- Federal Stud Prussendorf (Saxony-Anhalt)
- Federal Stud Redefin (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania)
- Federal Stud Warendorf (Westphalia)
- Federal Stud Zweibrücken (Rhineland-Palatinate)

The German studs are subsidised by public money but they are also asked by their Ministries to work economically. Thus, they can not focus on horse breeding only but need to engage in different fields of business. Many of the state studs are homes of federal riding and driving schools, they develop programmes for visitors and organise events such as shows and competitions.



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Due to the changes in the fields of horse breeding and politics, the studs intend to work closer together. Alliances were formed, such as “Die Süddeutschen”, even with private stallion-owners. A first meeting of all German state stud directors took place in 2009.

Three German principal and federal studs joined ESSA in 2009 and shall be shortly introduced here:

Principal and Federal Stud Marbach (Baden-Wuerttemberg)

With its farms at Marbach, Offenhausen and St. Johann the stud is situated idyllically in the highlands of the Swabian Alb. Looking back on more than 500 years of history in horse breeding, Marbach is the oldest German state stud and at the same time the country's largest education facility for equine professionals. 87 employees and 37 trainees are occupied by the stud. One thousand hectares of pasture and crop land are used as feed supply for the roughly 550 horses.

Horse breeding at Marbach goes back to the middle ages, when Graf Eberhard V established his own private stud on the site between 1477 and 1480. The ruling Dukes soon realised the need to improve the quality of the local horse breeds, and in 1573 Marbach was elevated to the status of a court and state stud. This, in effect, means that Marbach is Germany's oldest state stud. The 18th and 19th centuries saw intense breeding, using Mecklenburger, Holsteiner, English half-breds and Norman horses, to improve the quality of the local working horses. From about 1896 to 1950 breeding was concentrated on producing a standard Wuerttemberger horse – a multi-purpose animal capable of working the land as well as being suitable for leisure purposes. From the mid-1950s it was decided to attempt to breed a lighter, more athletic, modern riding horse. The Trakehner stallion Julmond was used as the foundation stallion, and despite being 22 years old when he arrived at Marbach, he helped establish the modern Wuerttemberger warmblood.

Cross-breeding with other warmblood breeds, such as the Hanovarian, Oldenburger, Holsteiner, Trakehner and English Thoroughbred, has refined the breed, and today the modern Wuerttemberger is highly regarded as a competition horse, as well as a good family all-rounder and carriage horse.

Marbach is also well known as the home of the Weil-Marbach Arabians. Between 1814 and 1819 King Wilhelm I of Wuerttemberg imported a number of Arabian stallions and mares from the Middle East and established his own private stud at Weil (near Stuttgart). When he died in 1864 the Weil Arabians were considered to be the best in Europe. However, the stud went into decline between 1890 and 1932, and at the height of economic and financial crisis



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in 1932, Princess Pauline zu Wied decided to sign the entire breeding stock over to Marbach, as the last will and testament of King Wilhelm I forbade the disbandment of the herd. The post-war years saw the Weil-Marbach Arabians at another low-point – the original 17 horses to come from Weil in 1932 carried only one bloodline and another out-cross was urgently required to safeguard the future of these special horses. The saviour was a desert-bred stallion called Hadban Enzahi, imported from the El Zahraa Stud in Egypt in 1955 as a three-year old. He was perhaps the most enigmatic of stallions, responsible for the foundation of an exceptional family of mares.

Today, Marbach is home to the German Warmblood, Black Forest draft horses and pure bred Arabian stallions. As principal stud Marbach owns two stud herds with 40 Warmblood and 20 pure bred Arabian mares. The internationally renowned EU insemination and embryo-transfer facility is located in Offenhausen. In the performance testing station for mares and stallions annually up to 80 horses are tested regarding their temperament and performance. Marbach provides excellent conditions for boarding young horses. They grow up together in groups with the stud's own offspring. Old Horses can enjoy their well deserved retirement at the "Schafhaus" facility at St. Johann.

The annual attractions at Marbach include the stallion presentation and the auction of young riding horses in spring and the famous stallion parades which attract 30.000 visitors in autumn. Throughout the year numerous high profile equestrian events take place at Marbach, such as the FEI World Cup qualifier eventing in May, concerts with equestrian presentations, "Marbach Classics", in July and the Marbach Dressage Festival up to Grand Prix level in August. About 600 people per year attend the courses of the state riding and driving schools at Marbach. Courses are offered for novice or advanced riders and drivers, for trainers and instructors.

More and more, education attracts public interest. Marbach is the seat of the "Competence Centre for Horse Breeding, Keeping and Health in Baden-Wuerttemberg" (KOPF). The stud works closely together with vocational schools and universities, and it works in different national and international networks concerning applied science and education.

Tourism plays an important role in the life of Marbach, visitor programmes have been established and will be enlarged. Guided tours for families and groups as well as different carriage-trips and exclusive programmes are on offer. Facilities are available for corporate events, wedding receptions, exhibitions and other similar functions. The "treffpunkt marbach" is a focal point for visitors, providing a small shop where souvenir articles can be purchased, visual displays and films about the stud can be viewed.



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The stud's museum at Offenhausen, located in the former cloister church dating back to the 14th century, illustrates the history of the principal and state stud of Marbach and of horse breeding in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

For the next years a construction programme is in preparation, including a visitor and seminar centre, different indoor and outdoor riding arenas as well as additional accommodation for horses and riders.

Principal and Federal Stud Neustadt-Dosse (Brandenburg)

The principal and federal studs of NEUSTADT-DOSSE, located in the state of Brandenburg not far from Berlin, can proudly look back on 220 years of tradition in horse breeding and horse training. The two neighbouring institutions are regarded as jewels for both, horse enthusiasts and admirers of Prussian architecture and stud management. Their heritage is of unique value.

The studs are located on a wide reaching vicinity of approx. 400 ha with ample fields and tree-lined roads which offer - together with the classicist stud buildings - excellent breeding facilities. Forty elite and state premium mares build the breeding basis. In 2001 the studs became a foundation under public law to be protected from privatisation.

The Brandenburg principal and federal studs are regarded as centre of sustainable countryside development and are as such of regional and interregional importance. The great cultural heritage of the stud buildings, which were founded by King Friedrich Wilhelm II in 1788, is an excellent setting for the activities of the stud.

Special attention is paid to the preservation of the stud's tradition and cultural heritage and the preservation of the stud buildings listed as monuments. In addition to the breeding, main activities of the stud include the education by the riding and driving school and the driving sport centre as well as the project "riding in schools" (horse riding has become a compulsory subject from the 7th to 13th year in conjunction with the Neustadt schools) and tourism. All are regarded as building blocks of regional development.

Each year, from 1st of March to 15th of July stallions and staff members are sent to 15 to 20 service stations in the states of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt. Two of them are EU insemination facilities.

The studs at Neustadt offer numerous events, such as horse auctions, licensing and performance tests for mares and stallions. In cooperation with the riding and driving club the Neustadt studs organise sport events, such as show jumping competitions as well as driving tournaments. For a broad audience events such as the "foal spring" in May are organised, where the youngest horses are being presented to the public at the annual court party which is in essence a nice and interesting day out for the whole family. Every year in September



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numerous horse lovers visit the popular stallion parades. The events taking place at the studs provide new impulses for the city of Neustadt and the surrounding area.

Visitor programmes, from a short tour to a multiple-day experience, can be organised. The studs also offer facilities for all kinds of events, such as weddings, seminars and conferences. The ESSA General Assembly 2010 will take place here.

Federal Stud Dillenburg (Hesse)

The stud of DILLENBURG is located in the German federal state of Hesse between Siegen and Gießen, about 70 kilometers north from Frankfurt/Main. The stud is home to 80 horses, 20 of them being breeding stallions. Thirty people are employed, eight of them in the administration and management of the stud and its premises.

The stud is located in the centre of Dillenburg town. The baroque buildings were created in 1769 and used to be residence of a collateral line of the royal court of the Netherlands. The Princes of Orange inhabited the building which today serves as administration building of the stud. Today's "Stable 1" was the "Royal Stable" of the Orange family, the royal horses, the "swollen noses of Dillenburg", used to be trained in the old riding-house. In 1869 the stud of Dillenburg became state stud of the federal state of Hesse. Stallions from the former studs in Kassel and Weilburg were concentrated in Dillenburg. During the 1920s, the main time of breeding draft horses, the stud housed around 150 horses. In 1958 the stallions of the dissolved state stud at Darmstadt came to Dillenburg.

As every state stud, Dillenburg nowadays undergoes significant changes. Until 2003 the stud provided service for breeders throughout the state of Hesse at several service stations with two or three stallions and one or two employees. Following a cost-profit-analysis, these branches were closed due to economic reasons. The number of stallions was reduced as well. They are now staying in the central insemination station of Dillenburg. The federal stud cooperates with private studs and veterinarians, who inseminate the mares of the breeders in Hesse. Several of the Dillenburg stallions are actually owned by private European studs. The future position of the stud is seen as competence centre in horse breeding and education.

An important field of business is the Hessian federal school of riding and driving, founded in 1936. Originally, the school taught the children of Hessian farmers and horse breeders. Today, the institution attracts people interested in horse sports from all over Europe. The school offers a variety of courses, from preparation classes for sport certificates, general riding and driving courses up to higher dressage-lessons and working at hand with stud stallions or private horses. The participants are accommodated in the stud's boarding school. The reputation of the school is very good. Due to the high demand it is planned to extend its business.



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Dillenburg also offers services for young horses. Since the closure of the branches, the stud-employees stay in Dillenburg the whole year. They train young horses in commission of clients and horses coming from the studs raising institution. When these horses are in good condition, they are sold on auctions to sport and leisure clients.

In cooperation with a marketing and event agency, Dillenburg recently entered the field of hosting cultural events. The architectural layout of the stud premises allows separating the centre of the stud as a scene for cultural events. Festive occasions such as balls and concerts have been organised in the historic riding house with great success.

The stud also opens its doors to visitor groups who can enjoy guided tours and coffee-breaks in the former garden of the stud manager or the orangery-building, which was turned into a carriage museum. The tourism programme promotes the stud as a living museum displaying the cultural importance of horses. A small dedicated team is responsible for the tourist activities, generating additional income and a positive image for the stud.

If you would like to see your country in the focus of one of the next ESSA couriers you are welcome to send information about its studs and the way horse breeding is organised !

European day of biodiversity: Presentation of draught and rare horses at the European Parliament in STRASBOURG

On 28th of April 2010 the INGOs of the European Council propose to organise the first international getting together of European endangered equine breeds, together with scientific seminars where high level experts will meet.

OBJECTIVE

Raising awareness of the national parliaments, the local authorities and the European citizens represented at the European Council for the urgency of supporting this part of fauna that is vital for human beings and the environment.

ACTIVITES

A scientific conference at world level about biodiversity will take place at the Palais de l'Europe. One of its topics is dedicated to the place of the horse in ecological systems, in animal reign, in culture and human society.



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At different places in Strasbourg city, especially in the prestigious Parc de l'Orangerie, the horses will be presented and their cultural, social and economical value will be demonstrated by "horsemancrafts" (the City of Strasbourg uses draught horses for some tasks).

Climax of the event will be a parade of the different breeds through the city. Carriage tours will be offered between the European Council and the European Parliament.

Selected endangered breeds: Ardennais, Auxois, Cheval d'Auvergne, Boulonnais, Cob Normand, Comtois, Percheron, Poitevin Mulassier, Trait Breton, Trait du Nord

Selected rare breeds: Tarpan, Mérens, Pottock, Khabardine

Other special European breeds: Trait Belge, Franche Montagne, Brabançon, Trait Lourd de Rhénanie, Shire Horses, Black Forest Coldbloods and other regional breeds

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ESSA dates 2010

- 5th of February: Deadline for "Leonardo da Vinci" project application
- 15th to 16th of April: Board meeting in GENEVA, Switzerland
- 28th of April: Presentation of draught and rare horses at the European Parliament in STRASBOURG, France
- 7th of June: Board meeting at BERLIN
7th to 9th of June: General Assembly at NEUSTADT-DOSSE, Germany
- 21st to 25th of July: Fair "Eurocheval" with ESSA presence in OFFENBURG, Germany
- 30th of September: Deadline for application for EU multi-annual-cooperation-project
- 10th of November: Event at the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg in BRUSSELS, Belgium