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No. 11 – May 2011

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

After a successful General Assembly at the French national Stud of LE PIN, our association seems to be on the right way. Two years ago, some stud directors asked: "What use can ESSA have for us?" It was not always easy to find the right answers, because each stud in its country has its own special situation. Some studs are supported by a generous national or regional public body, some have difficulties to get subsidies (up to now, more on the second category), some have very good relationships with their breeding associations, some are seen like a competitive state company against private stallions owners, some have many activities besides horse breeding, such as agriculture, tourism, or event management, some have less space with a restricted field of activities.

Each stud has its individual way to deal with a network like ESSA. Some are convinced that it can be helpful to be supported by European colleagues in special cases, some think that local problems can only be solved on local level, some are able to see which benefits can arise from European lobbying for our members, some are not convinced because of the giant organisation we have to deal with, some are interested in exchange of knowledge or people, with benchmarking and cooperation, some say that there is a lack of time and money just to manage our sites, and that they don't have the opportunity to travel or to send stud employees to other places.

Now, the answer is clear, and you will find it in the protocol of the General Assembly, which is sent to the individual ESSA members and partner studs. It contains all the guidelines for our activities in the coming year. If for some of you questions are still open, the new board members are open to discuss them with you.

Two more points about this new ESSA board:

I want to thank Lenka Gotthardová a lot for her help in the past years when she was one of our board members. In December 2009 she organised our meeting in Prague, with a visit to KLADRUBY NAD LABEM, where since one and a half year she was not director any more. After that she gave us a tour at the Hippological Museum of SLATIŇANY, where she is now active as director. We learned a lot about horse breeding in the Czech Republic and we



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discovered the extraordinary collection of horse paintings. Lenka Gotthardová's great knowledge about the culture of horse breeding is very valuable for us and I am happy that she stays with ESSA as an individual member.

Welcome to Béla Müller, who represents the famous Hungarian Stud BÁBOLNA. Some years ago the informal group that was called "Permanent conference of the national and traditional studs" had to deal with the danger of some parts of this stud to be sold without preserving the horse activities and the economy of the whole complex. Now, we are very happy to see that BÁBOLNA has a new director who will dedicate some time to ESSA and help our network to become more efficient!

Bernard Maurel

Conference of the European State Studs at the „Versailles of Horses“

From May 2nd to 4th the members of the European State Studs Association e.V. (ESSA) met in the French National Stud LE PIN, one of the oldest French studs, alongside POMPADOUR and ROSIÉRES-AUX-SALINES. It was founded in 1715 by Louis XV and with its castle and the majestic stables this stud is considered to be the "Versailles of Horses".

During a guided tour the participants of the conference learned about the studs' diverse fields of activities. Besides horse breeding, the stud also focuses on education. The equestrian center offers riding and driving courses. Talented young riders are supported by scholarships and receive first class jumping training. Another area of the stud farm is dedicated to education and research in the field or reproduction. In the farriers' and saddlers' workshops, these old professions are taught based on the latest knowledge.

LE PIN offers guided tours for visitors, stallion shows, a very descriptive museum, shop, café and much more. All year round, top breeding and sport events take place. Even horse races on the stud owned track, whose historic stands also served as backdrop of the movie about



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the life of Coco Chanel. One should mark the calendar for 2014 when LE PIN will host the world championships in eventing.

The conference of the European stud directors was rounded off by a reception in the evening. Philippe de Guénin, general director of the French Institute of Horse and Riding (IFCE), Bertrand Maréchaux, prefect of the department, who is the local representative of the responsible ministry of Sport and Agriculture, and Hubert Christophe representing the General Council of the department of Orne, welcomed the international guests, as well as Laurence Meunier and Frédéric Chauvel, president and director of the French equine cluster. The presentation of Bernard Maurel, president of ESSA, was followed by a stallion performance in the impressive atmosphere of the central courtyard.

Besides the sires from LE PIN, introduced by stud director Franck Le Mestre, stallions from the National Stud of SAINT-LÔ, which is also located in Normandy, and stallions of private owners were presented. The presented group of horses ranged from established older sires like the famous jumpers JAGUAR MAIL and MILORD CARTHAGO to charming young ones. Promising and already successful sport horses impressed the spectators, as well as the representatives of special breeds and draft horses, such as a baroque Lipizzaner, an elegant Nonius, as well as compact Cob Normands and mighty Percherons.

The conference received strong media interest. Two French TV stations reported about this event in the news. You can see images of the conference at www.europeanstatestuds.org. The next General Assembly will take place in June 2012 in Romania.

ESSA is present at the 75th “Pfungstturnier” in Wiesbaden, Germany

From June 10th to 13th 2011 ESSA will be present with an information stand at the 75th International “Pfungstturnier” in Wiesbaden, Germany. Top riders and horses are expected to compete in four disciplines: dressage, show jumping, eventing and vaulting. The competitions are opened by a show programme on Friday evening. The four day event attracts around 60.000 spectators each year. A good chance to raise awareness for the European State Studs!

Please find more information about the event at www.pfungstturnier.org.



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France is partner country of the Marbach stallion parades 2011

On September 25th, October 2nd and 3rd MARBACH will celebrate a German-French horse festival. The stud's stallion parades will be enriched by performances of guests from France. The MARBACH director Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck about the choice of the visiting country: "France has a centuries-old tradition in horse-breeding and riding. We are happy about the good cooperation with our French ESSA partner studs and look forward to welcome their horses and riders on the Swabian Alb."

As in every year the classic MARBACH show numbers will fascinate with riding and driving abilities on top level. The different breeds, from noble Pure Bred Arabians to sportive Warmbloods and charming Black Forest Chesnuts show the diversity of horse breeding at MARBACH. The free running herd of Arab mares, the roman chariots and the performances of the stud's stallions under the saddle and in front of carriages provide unforgettable memories for horse lovers, families, breeders and riders.

The stallion parades at MARBACH attract around 30.000 spectators per year. In the past years the shows were enriched by performances of the Hungary and Switzerland.

For more information see www.hengstparade-marbach.de

Winners of 2011 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards announced

In April the 27 winners of the 2011 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards were announced by the European Commission and Europa Nostra. The awards will be presented on June 10th during a ceremony at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam in the presence of Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, and Plácido Domingo, the world-renowned tenor and president of Europa Nostra.

The 27 winners were selected from nearly 140 submitted projects in 31 countries. The final choice was made by juries composed of independent experts from across Europe. The six 'grand prix' winners each receive €10,000 and a plaque for the winning building or a trophy for projects.



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Cultural heritage brings a significant – and often underrated – contribution to growth and job creation. The sector represents an important part of the cultural and creative industries, which provide jobs for 8.5 million people in the EU and contribute 4.5% to Europe's GDP. Spending on conservation of cultural heritage by public and private bodies is worth an estimated €5 billion a year. Figures published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) show that 40% of worldwide international tourism has a cultural dimension. Cultural heritage is also a key resource for sustainable development and social cohesion.

The awards are supported by the Culture programme of the European Union, which has invested €26 million in co-financing heritage projects since 2007. Other EU-funded programmes also provide support in this area: the European Regional Development Fund allocates €3 billion for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, €2.2 billion for the development of cultural infrastructure and €775 million to support cultural services for 2007-2013; a further €89 million has been made available through EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development since 1998.

ESSA is member of Europa Nostra, the voice of European cultural heritage. It brings together and represents 250 non-governmental organisations, 150 associate organisations and 1500 individual members from more than 50 countries which are committed to safeguarding Europe's cultural heritage and landscapes. It provides a network for dialogue, celebrates the best heritage achievements, campaigns against threats to vulnerable heritage buildings, sites and landscapes and campaigns for sustainable policies and high quality standards in heritage.

The awards ceremony in Amsterdam forms part of Europa Nostra's annual European Heritage Congress. The deadline to apply for the next awards is 1 October 2011. The awards ceremony will be held in Lisbon in June 2012. All ESSA partner studs are encouraged to think about projects of their institution which are suitable to file an application.

More information and a list of the 2011 Award Winners is provided at www.europanostra.org



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News from the European Horse Network

In their latest meeting the board members of the European Horse Network drafted an action plan to increase the visibility of the network. Priority is given to the following points:

- The network wants to follow the priorities of the Commission and position the Network on agriculture, education, welfare, internal market and sport issues
- Disseminate EHN economic and social documents – Meet relevant Members of the Parliament and EU Commission
- Organise the EHN Annual Meeting in Brussels in February (Executive Board members election) – accept new members to increase representativeness
- Work with Hungarian and Polish (future) EU Presidencies for next EQUUS conference – Work with Denmark, Cyprus and Ireland – for future events
- Next Annual meeting in October – 26 October 2011 in Brussels

ESSA is part of the European Horse Network since February 2011. EHN is a non-profit network of stakeholders acting at a World, European, National or Regional level within the European horse sector.

You can find more information at www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

Equus conference in Poland

Together with HIPIKA POLSKA and other Polish organisations the European Horse Network (EHN) is preparing an “Equus” conference in December 2011. The event is supposed to take place in connection with “Cavaliada 2011”, the international jumping show and horse fair held in Poznań on December 8th to 11th. We will provide you with more detailed information about practical details, objectives and programme of the conference as soon as we know more.



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Future horse professionals from four European countries met in Germany

From April 12th to 16th the participants of the EU funded project “Extending qualifications for horse professionals on the European labour market” met at the Vocational School Münsingen, close to MARBACH State Stud in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. It was the last meeting of the project, which involved partner schools from Hungary (BÁBOLNA), Slovenia (Novo mesto, close to LIPICA National Stud), France (Montmorillon, close to POMPADOUR National Stud) and the Czech Republic (KLADRUBY NAD LABEM). The partnership exists since two years and is funded by the EU programme for lifelong learning “Leonardo da Vinci”.

In every project meeting a typical or even endangered breed was in the focus of attention. In Germany the students dealt with Black Forest Chesnuts, a small cold blood breed typical for Baden-Wuerttemberg. Breeding objectives, breeding programme, history, contemporary use and marketing of this special horse breed were in the focus of attention.

In cooperation with MARBACH State Stud and the Horse Breeding Association of Baden-Wuerttemberg a diverse programme had been set up for the students. After the official welcome of director Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, the MARBACH trainees presented the stud’s different breeds in a colorful show programme. After that the stallions “Feldsee”, “Maximus” and “Ravelsberg” were presented for examination. The use of Black Forest Chesnuts as working horses in the woods was impressively demonstrated in Machtolsheim by Christel Erz and her horses “Raisa” and “Domino”.

Manfred Weber, breeding director of ponies and cold bloods spoke about „The care for local and endangered breeds using the example of Black Forest Chesnuts”. He explained the criteria for stud book listing, which was part of the later programme at St. Märgen.

During an excursion to the Black Forest the students could observe how the breeding stallions are used as carriage or sleigh horses for visitors. In St. Märgen, the “Capital of Black Forest Chesnuts” MARBACH runs a service station. Dr. Raue, vice director of the stud and Karl-Heinz Bleher, head of the service station, introduced the stallions and the visitors could observe a natural covering.



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The learning-activities were accomplished by a cultural programme including a visit to the MARBACH stud museum, the clock museum at St. Märgen and the museum village „Vogtsbauernhöfe“ in Gutach. The invitation to original “Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte” (Black Forest Cherry Tart) at the 3-star hotel “Traube – Tonbach” was for sure a highlight.

For more information see: <http://www.horsebreeding-partnership.eu/>

Country in focus: France

Today, ESSA counts 29 partner studs in 13 countries, including the French National Studs LE LION D'ANGERS, LE PIN, POMPADOUR, ROSIÈRES-AUX-SALINES, SAINT-LÔ, TARBES, RODEZ, UZÈS and PAU-GELOS. With nine partner studs France is the most represented country in the ESSA network. Reason enough to dedicate this country focus to France.

Colbert founded the Stud institution in 1665, so as to have good stallions and encourage the production of horses for his cavalry. In 1815, the “Cadre Noir” troop was created, so that master riders could teach French cavalry instructors. In 2010, the two institutions merged to form the French Horse and Riding Institute.

Figures:

- 1500 horses, including 870 stallions and 200 dedicated to training
- 1047 people
- €48 m in subsidies and €26 m of generated profit
- 88 500 spectators at the Cadre Noir's galas

This publicly administered institution has been placed under the supervision of the ministries of sport and agriculture. It carries out its activities on behalf of the equine sector, local authorities, the State and all members of the public who are involved with horses and horse riding. These are rolled out all over the country, thanks to a network of prestigious sites, including the National Horse Riding School in Saumur and 20 National Studs in the regions. The institution works in partnership with France Haras to promote quality breeding.



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The French Riding School: Saumur's Cadre Noir

With the benefit of a prestigious heritage, the National Horse Riding School was formed on the basis of the Cadre Noir in 1972. The Master Riders of Saumur's Cadre Noir, the School's professional teaching team, have broadened their original mission within the School, improving senior managers' skills in the equestrian field. As the headquarters of the French Equestrian Centre and of the "Pôle Espoir" sports academy, the School hosts numerous training courses for teachers and competitors from France and abroad. Both horses and riders develop their knowledge, especially through competitions. Some are organised on the Terrefort and Verrie sites, thanks to the institution's outstanding facilities.

Research and documentation enable teaching to be improved and diversified in both technical and educational areas. Saumur's Cadre Noir continues to pursue its missions through public demonstrations and galas, in France as well as abroad, through its results in competitions and also through its teaching. It thus contributes to the international reputation of the French Riding School and to spread that of French horse riding in general.

- Figures: 100 events
- 31 068 visits a year to the Saumur site
 - 18 300 spectators a year at the Cadre Noir's public galas

The National Studs

The French Horse and Riding Institute relies on a network of 20 National Studs spread all over France. The National Studs are often set up in places which have a rich heritage and history, and their partners organise equestrian competitions and cultural events. They develop services dedicated to key players in the local equine sector and offer their expertise to develop projects associated with horses. The National Studs are open to visitors and enable general public to enter the world of horses.

- Figures:
- 17 000 coverings each year, that is 20% of the French mare stock
 - 88 000 identification documents for equestrian breeds published every year
 - 890 event days
 - 451 000 visitors a year to the National Stud sites



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Sale of semen and genetics

In partnership with France Haras, the French Horse and Riding Institute distributes semen from French stallions. If you require any information, please consult the Export Catalogue.

Training to strengthen skills

The French Horse and Riding Institute offers training for horse and sport-related professions, along with those involving the equestrian arts. It organises training sessions: reproduction, breeding, horse riding, harnessing, using horse-drawn vehicles, blacksmithing, saddling, etc. In France, the training is delivered by acknowledged experts on our own sites, especially the two benchmark sites at the National Horse Riding School and the Le Pin National Stud. Depending on the training programme developed, our specialist technicians can also put on training courses abroad.

Figures:

- 18 332 days of vocational training at the National Horse Riding School
- 7 530 days of training at the National Stud's Vocational Training School
- 1 employment-training department dedicated to the equine sector, "equi-resources"

Information systems expertise

The information listed in the SIRE database enables the Institute to identify all equestrian breeds, monitor owners and keepers, carry out the material management of genealogical books, register horses' performances, in association with the Fédération Equestre Française [French Equestrian Federation] and the Société Hippique Française [French Horse Society], and to contribute to optimising health monitoring. The Institute is also involved in the transmission of rich, reliable and varied information about the world of horses by developing tools suited to the largest number of people. The IFCE experts are at your disposal to develop your own information system.

Figures:

- 27 research projects and 6 doctoral theses jointly financed by the Institute
- 1 experimental station for equine research
- 42 000 bibliographical references in the 3 media libraries in Saumur, Le Pin and Paris



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Engineering for equestrian buildings and surfaces

The French Horse and Riding Institute offers its consultancy service for defining, designing, assessing or supporting projects which include an equestrian element, in the traditional sectors of racing, horse riding, breeding or innovation, highlighting the value of horses as key players in tourism and as social or ecological mediators. It relies on the skills of both its general and specialist engineers, along with those of its architects and designers or technicians.

IFCE offers

- Training courses for horse-related and equestrian professions horse riding, breeding (breeding techniques, artificial insemination, genetics, behaviour, etc.), harnessing, saddling, blacksmithing.
- Top level cultural and equestrian events Saumur (Dressage, Eventing, Cadre Noir), Saint-Lô (Show Jumping, Horseball), Le Pin (Harnessing, Eventing), Lion d'Angers (World Eventing Championship for Young Horses, Races), Uzès (Endurance), Pompadour (Eventing, Races), Compiègne (World Endurance Championship for Young Horses).
- A centralised database, the SIRE, (Information System Relating to Equestrian Breeds), compiling all the technical and commercial information on the equine sector.
- International services (genetics, advice and expertise, management system for breeding, e-sire, etc.).

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Please find more information about the French ESSA members on www.haras-nationaux.fr



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ESSA dates 2011

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| June 10 th to 13 th | International “Pfungstturnier” in Wiesbaden, Germany |
| August 5 th and 6 th | TOPOL’ČIANKY 90 th jubilee, Slovakia |
| September 25 th | MARBACH Stallion Parade with partner country France |
| October 2 nd and 3 rd | MARBACH Stallion Parades with partner country France |
| October 12 th to 14 th | Days of European Stud Culture at LIPICA, Slovenia |