



# ESSA courier

No. 12 – July 2011

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## The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

This ESSA newsletter is going on, already with issue n°12! The continuity of our "courier" shows the development of our association. Much information is shared, a sign of successful communication and cooperation all across Europe. Who could have thought that we will so quickly be at number 12?

The main topic for this summer is the preparation of the "Days of European Stud Culture" at LIPICA from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of October. It's all about the heritage of the State Studs, about **our** heritage! May I refresh you about its content with two words?

- tangible (not only the buildings and cultural landscapes strongly connected to our history, but also the old carriages, the ancient books and registers, connected to our past),
- intangible (the knowledge and skills, including professions like farrier or saddler, but also the riders and drivers and their classical training methods, the ancient breeding skills with natural covering and the new ones with insemination, echography or embryo transfer).

We also have to answer the question "What can the state studs do that the private sector can't?" Of course, we aim to protect biodiversity with the preservation of endangered breeds. But our major objectives for the future will be to hand on our heritage to new generations, through teaching and training, to make it more accessible through research and innovation and finally to strengthen it in order to be independent from fashion and commercial pressure. This way, we will be able to keep up high standards of ethics in all our professional involvement around horses. That will also be part of our October symposium...

I hope to meet many of you at Lipica!

Bernard Maurel



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## Positive feedback at the 75<sup>th</sup> “Pfingstturnier” in Wiesbaden

From June 10th to 13th 2011 ESSA was present with an information stand at the 75<sup>th</sup> International "Pfingstturnier" in Wiesbaden, Germany. The organising "Wiesbadener Reit- und Fahrclub" generously donated the space for the ESSA stand including a nice pavilion, which was located at the main entrance close to the castle.

Top riders and horses competed in four disciplines: dressage, show jumping, eventing and vaulting. The competitions were traditionally opened by a show programme on Friday evening. Matthias Alexander Rath on TOTILAS (dressage), Ludger Beerbaum on CHAMAN (jumping) and Michael Jung on RIVER OF JOY (eventing) won the main classes.

The 75th jubilee of the event attracted 75.000 visitors. A good chance to raise awareness for the European state studs! The ESSA staff enjoyed presenting the objectives of ESSA to a wider audience a lot. The feedback was good, some very nice conversations, some additional supporting members and much activity on the website and on facebook following the event.

*Please find more information about the event at [www.pfingstturnier.org](http://www.pfingstturnier.org).*

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## Save the dates for the “Days of European Stud Culture”!

From October 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> the “Days of European Stud Culture” will be held at Lipica National Stud, Slovenia. The symposium that takes place on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> will be added the following day by a social programme including presentations of Lipica National Stud and visits to major attractions in close proximity to the stud.

The symposium will be the kick-off event for the application of the European State Studs for the “European Heritage Label”. The presentations will deal with the wide range of cultural aspects connected with the European state studs. The historic stud premises and cultural landscapes and the living heritage “horse” will be in the focus of attention as well as traditions and knowledge preserved



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and continued in the national studs over centuries. A special section will deal with ethical issues related to horses and society.

The symposium will be supported by the Slovenian Ministry of Culture. Representatives of the national and international heritage organisations and the responsible governmental bodies are expected. Experts from the fields of tangible, intangible and living heritage, as well as representatives of the ESSA partner studs will contribute to the presentations and discussions. All friends of European stud culture invited to join the activities!

*More information about the symposium, including the detailed programme and the registration document can be downloaded from [www.europeanstatestuds.org](http://www.europeanstatestuds.org).*

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## Agreement reached on a new European Heritage Label

Recently, national culture ministers in the EU-Council reached a political agreement on a new European Heritage Label. The Council's agreement is the result of negotiations with the European Parliament on the basis of a proposal by the Commission. The aim of this new label is to highlight sites that celebrate and symbolize the history of Europe, European values and the building of the European Union.

Ms. Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, said: "Our aim, through this Label, is to give European citizens, especially young people, new opportunities to learn about our common yet diverse cultural heritage, and about our common history. I am convinced that it will help European citizens understand the European Union and its benefits better. I am also sure that the Label will help to increase cultural tourism, and bring many economic benefits. I congratulate the Council and European Parliament on their constructive discussions."

The European Heritage Label will complement other existing initiatives in the field of cultural heritage such as the UNESCO World Heritage List. It will be awarded to sites on the basis of their European symbolic value and educational work rather than on their architectural qualities or beauty.



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The original European Commission proposal for the European Heritage Label was adopted on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. It was then sent to the European Parliament and Council to negotiate the final version of the text. Following today's confirmation of the Council's political agreement, the Decision establishing a European Heritage Label should now be officially adopted first by the Council in July and secondly by the Parliament in September 2011. Preparatory work to set up the Label will be carried out in 2011 and 2012 and the first selection procedure will take place in 2013, with the first sites expected to be awarded the Label in early 2014.

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news3267\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news3267_en.htm)

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## **“We are more” campaign for increased EU culture budget**

During the European Heritage Congress 2011 in Amsterdam, organized by Europa Nostra, the Europa Nostra Council decided to join the “we are more!” campaign. This Europe-wide advocacy campaign, developed in partnership with European Cultural Foundation, calls for an increased support to culture in the next EU budget (for the period 2014-2020). So far, the “we are more!” manifesto has been signed by almost 14,000 supporters from all over Europe.

Europa Nostra actively encourages its members and supporters and the public at large to sign this manifesto, thus collecting as many citizens' signatures as possible. A manifesto “signature box” is now available also on the website of Europa Nostra [www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org). An increased budget for culture is relevant for ESSA because the network will apply for funding from the EU culture program in the period 2014-2020). Therefore we ask all ESSA partners and friends to support the campaign.

Europa Nostra's President, Maestro Plácido Domingo, stressed “Recently, cultural organizations in Europe started a campaign with a symbolic title: We are more! We are indeed more than the sum of our parts. More than a mere sum of historic monuments and sites of Europe. More than the sum of jobs created in the cultural field. More than the sum of cultural “consumers” or heritage volunteers. We are the soul and the spirit of Our Europe!”

“Europa Nostra supports the ‘we are more!’ campaign since we believe that culture should become a stronger priority for the European Union, both in terms of funding and in terms of policy-making”,



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stressed Snenska Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic, Secretary General of Europa Nostra. “Cultural Heritage, just as the arts and other fields of culture, constitutes a huge resource for the cohesion of our society, for the prosperity of our economy and for the sustainable future of our living environment. Let us also recall that article 3.3. of the new treaty of the European Union, imposes on the EU the obligation to ensure that Europe’s cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.”

*You can find more information and join the campaign at [www.wearemore.eu/](http://www.wearemore.eu/)*

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## **The European Horse Network creates a Horse Group in the European Parliament**

In June a new group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) interested in horses has been launched by Julie Girling during an inaugural meeting together with members of the European Horse Network. The purpose of the meeting was:

- to discuss current or forthcoming horse issues of interest to European Parliamentarians,
- to share thoughts and strategies on how collective help maximises the horse sector’s impact in Europe.

MEPs attending (UK, France, Spain, Germany, Ireland): Julie Girling, Vicky Ford, Roger Helmer, Emma McClarkin, Britta Reimers, Inigo Mendez de Vigo, Florence Rangeon, representing Sophie Auconie, Noreen Glavey, representing Jim Higgins.

More than 20 MEPs showed interest in the subject and asked for information.

Julie Girling confirmed the launch of a Horse Network in the Parliament, suggested that EHN representatives provide various input on the urgent (CAP reform, VAT, gambling) and less urgent (transport, research) subjects under discussion and announces a new meeting in November 2011 focusing on the agriculture reform.

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## **New association: Equestrian Educational Network (EEN)**

The recently established Equestrian Educational Network (EEN) aims to improve the education of horses and riders in Europe by exchanging experiences and information about new developments.



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The network also offer direct exchange opportunities to the trainers and students of the participating institutions.

Among the founding members of the network are the Ecole Nationale d'Equitation (Saumur/France), the German Riding School (Warendorf, Germany), the Escola Nacional de Equitação (Lisbon/Portugal), Helicon Opleidingen NHB Deurne ('s-Hertogenbosch/Netherlands), Norsk Hestesenter (Starum/Norway), University of Limerick (Ireland), Ypäjä Equine College (Finland), Hartpury College and Warwickshire College (Great Britain), as well as Ridskolan Strömsholm and the National Riding School of Flyinge (Sweden).

Markus Scharmunn (Warendorf, Germany) was elected to be the first EEN-president. Vice-president is Sophie Lemaire (Saumur/France), Päivi Laine (Ypäjä/Finland) will manage the network. The next steps are the official registration of EEN in Germany and the application to become an FEI member association.

Bernard Maurel presented ESSA at the General Assembly of EEN at SAUMUR on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Future collaborations are anticipated.

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## News from France

As reported in the previous issue the former National Studs were merged with the National Riding School at Saumur and now form the Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Equitation (IFCE). Another state company named "France Haras" is now in charge of the French breeding activities, including breeding, identification and the covering stations.

The objective of this new company is to work without state subsidies within the next five years. They will manage both state stallions and private ones, the state support going just to some perhaps endangered breeds. The covering stations shall be run by regional or local partners, such as private stallion owners, breeding associations, towns or departments within the next three years. Therefore, new cooperation systems need to be established.



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## News from Switzerland

After the end of the discussions to dissolve the Swiss National Stud of Avenches, the Swiss Parliament recently decided to add the legislation of agriculture by the obligation of the state to keep a state stud operating. Within the agriculture research department «agroscope» a new department was founded for horses and bees. Its chief is Stephan Rieder.

The horse clinic of Avenches is merging with Bern University, which creates a lot of synergies and competence. Avenches will remain a state stud. The university is influential and has interest in horses to be there. The cooperation with education and research institutions might be a chance also for other endangered state studs.

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## Topol'čianky National Stud celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> jubilee

On August 6<sup>th</sup> the Slovakian National Stud Topol'čianky celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> jubilee with a stud parade. Guests from the National Studs of Bábolna, Hortobágy, Kladruby nad Labem, Lipica and Szilvásvárad will join the show programme.

Topol'čianky's director Ing. Michal Horný PhD was involved in the ESSA activities from early on . In 2009 the stud hosted our networks' General Assembly. ESSA wishes best of luck for the next 90 years!

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## Country in focus: Slovakia

The 90<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Topol'čianky National Stud gives reason to dedicate this country focus to the only state stud in Slovakia.

The National Stud of Topol'čianky is known as being one of the most important European horse breeding centers. It is the national center for the breeding and cultivation of horses in Slovakia. It has been approved as a center for recording the breeding books of the Lippizaner, Hucul and Arabian breeds. The center maintains the central records of horses in Slovakia and is the only institution





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allowed to issue certificates on the provenance of all accepted horse breeds in Slovakia. The National Stud is an active member of all major European and international breeding organisations and was involved in the ESSA activities from the very start of our association.

The creation of Czechoslovakia was an historic milestone for horse breeding in Slovakia. As one of the successor states of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, Czechoslovakia claimed and received a certain part of the monarchy's cultural heritage in the form of thoroughbred horses. The Czechoslovak Ministry of Agriculture evaluated the local soil, climatic and wind conditions of the region and on October 15<sup>th</sup> 1921 Topolčianky State Stud was established. Its purpose was to breed and produce for the domestic market breeding stallions of the Arabian, Lippizan, Nonius, English Half-blood and Hucul breeds.

After its establishment, the stud took over the formerly Habsburg properties of the riding school building, which was the center for horse breeding. Gradually, other buildings for breeding were added - Breziny, Rybník, Krásny majer and Hostie. Thanks to the devotion of horse lovers breeding at the stud has been maintained until today.

Today, the stud farm is not only a cultural treasure in Slovakia, but also a European rarity. No other city on the old continent has a place for the cultivation of four different breeds of horses the way they do in Topolčianky.

*For more information click <http://sk.nztopolcianky.sk/index.php/en/>*

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## **EQUUS conference in Poland postponed**

The EQUUS conference which was announced in the previous issue of our ESSA courier can't be organised this year in Poland because of the national elections in October. The government in position is not able to agree on the required funding. However, the organising European Horse Network members agreed to keep the event in Poland but to see if it could be organised during spring 2012. We will keep you informed as soon as new information is available.



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## ESSA dates 2011 and 2012

August 6 <sup>th</sup>	TOPOL' ČIANKY 90 <sup>th</sup> jubilee, Slovakia
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	MARBACH Stallion Parade with partner country France
October 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>	MARBACH Stallion Parades with partner country France
October 12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>	Days of European Stud Culture at LIPICA, Slovenia
November 16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	ESSA presence at the Europa Nostra information stand at the International Heritage Fair EXPONATEC in Cologne
May 7 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>	General Assembly at BUCHAREST, Romania