



ESSA courier

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

We are already involved in a year full of activities for ESSA. You will find the dates in this newsletter and I hope that all members will be able to join us for the next General Assembly in Romania, answering positively to the invitation Dr Robert Bartha made last year during our Le Pin meeting.

In many countries our National Studs are in trouble. We hope to give you information about Flyinge where the breeding section has to be transferred to private management. In France the same solution for all breeding stations is in progress, but regarding Le Pin, heart of the famous breeding territory of Normandy, the President of the Orne department (former Finance Minister!) has just written to the Minister of Agriculture in order to keep the breeding activities managed by the state company France Haras. That illustrates clearly one of the objectives of our network: to exchange information in order to support in each country your public dedication.

But I have to tell you also about our involvement at the European level, at first through EHN at (European Horse Network). You will find my report about the working lunch of Brussels in this newsletter. We have to support our Polish colleagues who will organise an international conference at Warsaw at the end of September (more information below). Through Europa Nostra also: they fight for the European Cultural heritage. We are members and we will try to be active members, in order to support their involvement, following our successful symposium of LIPICA! Please read (if you have time...) and sign (anyway) their petition!

In a few weeks ESSA will have its next board meeting at Marbach and the board members will prepare this fruitful year. Don't hesitate to contact Alexandra at the office or any of us if you need some help or advice.

With my very best regards,

Bernard Maurel



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Announcement: General Assembly 2012 in Romania

From May 7th to 9th this year's ESSA General Assembly will take place in Romania. The event is hosted by the National Forest Administration Romsilva, managing the twelve national stud farms and four stallion depots of the country. Besides the conference a visit to Jegalia National Stud is scheduled, where the different breeds of the Romsilva stud system will be presented. A city tour to Bucharest with festive dinner will conclude the programme. Invitations with detailed information will be sent soon. Stud directors and personal ESSA members are asked to save the date!

Report: EHN/MEP horse group meeting at Brussels

Great success for the first EHN lunch with MEP (members of European parliament) on January 25th at Brussels. The subject of the meeting was "Horses and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)": were we want to go forward? Around 15 MEP attended, including the ones represented by their assistants.

The introduction was made by Julie Girling (MEP - GB): the present MEP are an informal "horse group", not a formal one, but they are all interested in horses. She knows the horse sector because of her own interest: the equine economy starts with permanent pastures, involves conservation landscapes, includes working horses, but also the fact that at the next Olympic Games, most horses are European bred, that means a huge number of jobs behind. Not to forget the help to restore ecological system by the grazing of native ponies. She explains that EU objective is "greening the CAP".

Stefan Johanson (chairman of EHN) presents this network which is not only concerned by CAP, but also concerned by horse welfare, consumer sales act, research & development, gambling, future of sport. Britta Reimers (MEP – GER – Schleswig Holstein, member of the Agricultural Committee) confirms that rural areas include horses. It's the right time to work on "paper". She needs arguments.

Then a lot of discussion took place during the lunch. About the state studs, the question raised by the polish member of EHN Marek Grzybowski mixed two problems:

1. Is the support of state studs considered as "not allowed" state aids by EU rules?



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I answered giving the example of the Bulgarian National Stud where a European expert helped to prove that it was of “public interest”.

2. Is the Polish government able to ask the EU to support a breeding development programme or is it right to refuse it?

I insisted on the fact that state studs are more a cultural heritage that could be preserved through many ways: rural development, landscapes, skills, endangered breeds, ethics, teaching, training and research, tourism and sport. The Estonian MEP Ivari Pradar (former president of National Equestrian Federation) resumed it as an example of “good practice”.

For ESSA, these meetings organised by and under the umbrella of EHN are potentially very fruitful, especially if each member who has problems wishes to get in touch with some of his national MEP. We can help!

For the horse industry, these contacts are a fantastic opportunity to find a way to give information on its economy and on the problem arising at the European level, but also a difficult exercise to manage. The challenge is to speak together about questions that individually most of us don't know very well and to be able to produce arguments and papers that can be accepted by the European working committees and used by the ones making laws at Brussels!

by Bernard Maurel

ESSA presence at European horse fair “Eurocheval”

From July 25th to 29th 2012 the European horse fair “Eurocheval” will be held at Offenburg in south-west Germany. The event takes place every second year since 1976 approaching a Europe without frontiers. The “Quadrille of Europe” is already a well-established tradition, headed by Marbach stud. This year horses and riders from Avenches, Celle, Dillenburg, Moritzburg, Topoľčianky and the French National Studs have announced to participate. Under the lead of Avenches a driving performance with different cold blood breeds is in preparation. Both performances and an information stand will raise awareness for ESSA and the objectives of our network.

For more information see <http://www.eurocheval.de/>



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Redefin celebrates 200 years

“Leistung aus Tradition – performance out of tradition”, this is the motto of the State Stud Redefin, located in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in the north east of Germany. It is a tradition that celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. Compared with many other members of ESSA this seems to be relatively young. Horse breeding in Redefin has actually started more than 100 years before 1812, but it was in this year that Duke Herzog Friedrich Franz I. finally gave the orders to build the stud ensemble in its unique classical style as we still know it today. The white colour, columns of different sizes at all buildings, the symmetry of the whole place and the grand portal of the indoor riding arena at the far end of the main entrance are its symbols. The portal with its two grand columns at the big door and the horse statue on top of it is the well-known landmark of the Redefin Stud for many decades already. If the Duke didn't already have some, he deserved a monument for this order.

Redefin has faced countless difficulties in its existence, not only mentioning wars, reparation payments, technical development in transport and agriculture and economic problems. Especially the years of centralisation and standardisation of all and everything during the German Democratic Republic let to a variety of difficulties. Orders were sent from members of the ministries in Berlin who were just not able to always see the needs of horse breeding in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Horses were produced for export, and export was centralised in the State Stud Neustadt/Dosse just 120 km southeast from Redefin.

It was the excellent performance in education of horses and riders and the tourism which kept Redefin alive in these years and it is most interesting that these are the aspects that nowadays give Redefin a future again. Thanks to the many enthusiastic regional horse breeders and friends of the State Stud, who spent a lot of effort to support their stud, Redefin survived and 1993 after the political change was taken over as a State Stud of the still young state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

But the lack of investments was and still is most visible in Redefin. Money has been too short for even the most needed investments and many of the impressing old buildings that are completely listed as heritage today are empty and urgently need reconstruction. 2008 the government decided to invest again and we are now finally in a phase of construction and rebuilding in order to get the State Stud ready for the future. New stables and indoor arenas are being built for the Riding and



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Driving School and the capacities for touristic and cultural events are expanded in quality and quantity.

No doubt that we, as most other ESSA members, are in the focus of politics and the public. Any Euro that is spent for the maintenance and modernisation of the stud seems to be a matter of controversial public discussion. We will have to learn to live with that as society is changing and the interest in horses is diminishing. Still, the importance of the State Studs and the horse itself as our cultural heritage is slowly but surely recognised. Institutions like ESSA or the joint activities of all ten German state studs, that have started their national image campaign last year, help rising the public understanding for our needs. We urgently need support from outside the horse world in order to stay on sound feet.

In this year of its anniversary 20 different events will be held in Redefin. Stallions, international horse sport, classic music, trade fairs, summer and Christmas markets and last but not least the Stallion Parades in September will all be held under the motto “performance out of tradition – 200 years State Stud Redefin”. The three Stallion Parades at September 9th, 16th, and 23rd will doubtlessly be the ultimate highlights. We expect guests from friendly studs and institutions who will bring us their congratulations in form of show acts. We kindly invite you to be part of this and are looking forward to welcome you in Redefin 2012!

by Antje Kerber

News from Flyinge

Despite being one of the most renowned horse breeding institutions of Europe with long tradition and modern concepts focusing on education and sport, the Swedish National Stud Flyinge recently faced major difficulties, when the cost-effectiveness of the stud was questioned. ESSA tried to help with a letter to the Swedish Ministry to Agriculture raising awareness for the cultural significance of the stud, as it was done for other partners in crisis before.

Meanwhile, cooperations with different investing partners are in preparation, one of them being the most influential German breeder and stallion owner Paul Schockemöhle who will place some of his



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top-sires at Flyinge. We are looking forward to more detailed information about the new business concept of Flyinge in the next ESSA courier.

Avenches exports two Franches-Montagnes sires to Hungary in order to preserve Mur-Island breed

In January the Suisse National Stud SNG has exported the two Franches-Montagnes breeding stallions VERSACE (2002, Vulcain/Romarin) and LORAMBO (1992, (Lorrado/Lord) to Hungary. The responsible persons of the Hungarian Coldblood Breeding Association and the Danubian Countries Alliance for Conservation of Genes in Animal Species (DAGENE) decided to cross one of their endemic species – the Mur-Island-Horse – with the Franches-Montagnes breed. The breeding assignment of the stallions in Örségi-Nemzeti National Park is supposed to contribute to the preservation of one of Europe's last light draught horse breeds.

First contacts between the project-partners involved date back to 2009, when a Hungarian delegation visited Switzerland to find out more about the diversity of Franches-Montagnes breed. We reported about the initiative in our ESSA courier No. 3 in September 2009.

The population of the existing Mur Island Horses contains 45 to 55 horses, three of them being breeding stallions. This small number of animals available for breeding, as well as the close relationship within the population forced the Hungarian breeders to search for suitable crossing-partners. The Franches-Montagnes horse, one of the last light draught horses of West-Europe, was examined for this purpose in detail. The large similarity in the phenotype as well as the high qualities regarding character and robustness make the Franches-Montagnes an ideal pendant to the Mur-Islanders.

The Mur-Insulaner's cradle is in the Croatian region of Medimurje. The breed developed during the 19th century when Noriker, Percheron, Ardenner and Brabanter horses were crossed. The horses are used primarily in agriculture and forestry. The Mur-Insulaner – or Croatian "Medjimurski" - is the last representative of light draught horses of East-Europe. As the Franches-Montagnes the Mur-Insulaners are part of the international programme for the preservation of endangered breeds.



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Symposium: Horses, Tourism and Leisure: continuities, transformations and change

From May 9th to 11th 2012 the international symposium “Horses, Tourism and Leisure: continuities, transformations and change” will be held at Saumur in France, organised by the University of Angers and the Institut Français du Cheval et de l’Equitation (IFCE) in partnership with the Conseil des Equidés and the Region Pays de La Loire. The objective of this symposium is to stimulate debate at an international level between researchers specialising in the different spheres of social and human sciences and the public and private stakeholders concerned with the development of equestrian-based tourism and leisure. The intention is to:

- identify the interests and challenges for local development,
- create a better knowledge and understanding of the business practises and the requirements of all stakeholders involved,
- conduct an analysis of the jobs, roles and the development of the various professional bodies involved in the field of horse riding.

In this context the goal of the symposium is to create a forum for debate and exchange of ideas between academics, political representatives and representatives of the institutions, associations and private companies involved in the equestrian industry, both nationally and internationally.

The following proposal by Bernard Maurel and Alexandra Lotz was accepted by the scientific committee and will be presented during the symposium:

The national and traditional studs as sites of touristic attraction for local and socio-economic development



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The national and traditional studs of Europe are places of outstanding cultural significance. They derive from a time when horses played a vital role in transport, agriculture, military and representation. After the motorisation of transport, agriculture and war the amount of horses and with them the number of breeding institutions declined. Today, we count around 60 national and traditional studs in Europe. Most of them are under the authority of the state, some have been turned into foundations or run as private enterprises.

Many of the surviving state studs look back on some hundred years of history. The German state stud of Marbach for instance was first mentioned in 1514, while Kladruby nad Labem was founded as a National Stud in 1579, Lipica followed in 1580. Those institutions are not only places of animal production, they are living heritage sites.

Today, the state studs are in a period of new orientation and re-structuring. They need to shift their focus and develop new business areas preparing them for the future. Service around the horse, education, culture and tourism are key words in this context. Studs depending on public funding are required to open their gates and to be accessible by the public. They need to demonstrate the role they can play not only for horse breeders and riders, but for everyone as places of recreation where people can connect to nature and history.

Some institutions already have a tradition as tourism sites others just start to implement this field of business. The offers for visitors range from guided and carriage tours, to visitor centres, collections and museums. Some studs run hotels and restaurants or special programmes for children. Show programmes, such as the "stallion parades" at the German state studs attract thousands of visitors every year. Additionally, music festivals, trade fairs and other less horsey activities are introduced to the historic stud premises attracting a different type of visitor.

Introducing tourism and new events to a working stud poses challenges and requires sustainable management. The studs are often located in rural regions with little economic power. Especially in such locations the studs can have an enormous impact on local development, when they operate successfully.

At the present time, the European State studs are all changing under the pressure either of the horse industry or of their political authorities. As long as they can make the management of their historic environments composed of physical attributes, inanimate and living objects and intangible traditions



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sustainable, they will be able to preserve their sites and activities, in order to present it to the public. That's why the development of tourism around horses is a strategic key for the future of the national and traditional studs.

European Heritage Congress 2012 in Lisbon

The Europa Nostra “2012 European Heritage Congress” will take place in Lisbon from May 30th through June 2nd. This event, jointly organised by Europa Nostra and its Portuguese member organisation “Centro Nacional de Cultura”, will bring together many of our members and other European heritage professionals and volunteers, as well as the proud laureates of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards.

The public highlight of the Congress - the European Heritage Awards Ceremony - will be held on June 1st at the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Jerónimos Monastery, in the presence of H.E. Aníbal Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal. Europa Nostra's President, Maestro Plácido Domingo and the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth, Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, will jointly present the 2012 Awards to the laureates, who will come to Lisbon from all over Europe. The day before (May 31st), participants will have the opportunity to learn more about these award-winning achievements and interact with the laureates at the Museu do Oriente.

On the morning of June 1st an important Forum on “Saving Europe's Endangered Heritage” will be organised at the premises of the prestigious “Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation”, a main partner of our Congress. As usual, the forum will be open to the interested public. The General Assembly will take place on June 2nd in the historic setting of the Mafra Palace and Monastery, located north of Lisbon, under the presidency of Maestro Plácido Domingo. The Board and the Council will also hold their meetings on May 29th and 30th. Finally, the programme includes a heritage visit in Lisbon (May 30th), an excursion for those delegates who are particularly interested in industrial heritage sites (June 2nd) and a day trip to visit World Heritage Monasteries outside Lisbon (June 3rd). A very attractive four days post-congress tour to northern Portugal concludes the Congress.

For more information see www.europanostra.org



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HORIZON 2020 & cultural heritage research: EUROPA NOSTRA calls for urgent lobbying action

Europa Nostra urges all heritage stakeholders in Europe to support the campaign for the inclusion of cultural heritage research in the future EU 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation: Horizon 2020. Running from 2014 to 2020 with an €80 billion budget, the EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. Regretfully, cultural and natural heritage is not mentioned explicitly in the European Commission proposal, leaving room for serious fears of a possible complete omission of this subject area from future EU funding and related calls for project proposals.

Against this background, members of the Focus Areas Cultural Heritage (FACH) of the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) have taken action for an online petition to be addressed to the European Parliament and the European Council. Europa Nostra strongly supports this petition which aims to ensure further commitment and investment by the European Union in European cooperation in the field of cultural heritage related research. We therefore urge all our members, partners and contacts to sign this petition and to disseminate it further as widely as possible. By signing and widely disseminating this petition, you will contribute to our joint effort to get the EU Institutions to fully acknowledge their responsibilities towards the safeguard of Europe's cultural heritage, as stipulated in article 3.3 of the Lisbon Treaty.

To sign the petition:

http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/cultural-heritage-research_8th-framework-programme/

Announcement: European Federation of Animal Science conference

The European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) represents the professional interests of scientists, academics, professionals and producers, technicians, extension officers, government departments and farmer organisations. Their 63th Annual Meeting will be held from August 27th to 31st, 2012 at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava.

The congress is one of the worldwide most important scientific meetings of professionals working in the area of animal production. One of the main objectives of the meeting is to focus on sustainability



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and efficiency of the livestock sector. The programme will cover all aspects of scientific achievements within animal science dealing with genetics, animal breeding, farm management and technology, product quality, nutrition, physiology, health, animal welfare and other related topics.

Dr. Michal Horný, director of Topolčianky National Stud and ESSA member, is part of the organising committee. On the final day different technical tours are offered to complete the scientific presentations and discussions. The tour dedicated to horse breeding has the destination Topolčianky National Stud as one of the most important horse-breeding sites of Europe, where Arab, Lipizzan, Hucul and Slovak Warm-blood horses are bred.

Besides Dr. Michal Horný, ESSA will be represented by Dr. Dominik Burger (Avenches National Stud, Switzerland) and Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck (Marbach State Stud, Germany). The deadline for submission of abstracts is March 1st, 2012.

For detailed information including the call for abstracts see www.eaap2012.org

Announcement: Conference EQUUS- New Horse Industry Prospects in United Europe

From September 28th to 30th 2012 the International Conference “EQUUS- New Horse Industry Prospects in United Europe”, organised by the European Horse Network (EHN), will take place at the Olympic Sport Center of Warsaw, Poland. The event will be accompanied by a visit to Warsaw racecourse, where the biggest international flat race in Poland is scheduled for September 30th.

The conference aims to continue the success of the first Equus conference held in Uppsala 2009 in order to further promote horse industry as an important factor for:

- a) national & regional economic development
- b) generating new jobs, in particular in rural and suburban areas
- c) international cooperation & exchange

The objectives of the conference are

- to extend horse industry cooperation to the Baltics, Central European EU countries and Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan



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- to identify major legal, political and social obstacles for development of horse industry in Europe, international exchange, and to discuss ways to overcome these
- to share experience of effective marketing in order to promote horse breeding, riding and racing on the national markets and enhance international exchange
- to allow conference participants to get acquainted with the project of revitalisation of horse racing in Poland
- to allow new EHN members to present their horse industry and proposals for cooperation
- to encourage direct personal contacts between horse industry institutions and officials

As EHN-member institution ESSA will be represented by a presentation about the cultural heritage and contemporary role of the European National Studs.

More information will be available on the EHN-website www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu soon.

ESSA dates 2012

May 7 th to 9 th	ESSA General Assembly at BUCHAREST, Romania
May 9 th to 11 th	International symposium "Horses, Tourism and Leisure: continuities, transformations and change" at SAUMUR, France
May 30 th to June 2 nd	European Heritage Congress 2012 in Lisbon
July 25 th to 29 th	European horse fair "Eurocheval" at OFFENBURG, Germany
August 27 th to 31 st	EAAP annual congress at BRATISLAVA, Slovakia
September 28 th to 30 th	International Conference "EQUUS- New Horse Industry Prospects in United Europe"