



ESSA courier

No. 2 – June 2009

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The President's Editorial

See you at Topolcianky!

Next month we will meet at Topolcianky; I hope we will be as many as possible. For those who need to convince some authorities, or who are not sure if it is worth coming, may I remind you of the ESSA achievements so far?

Already engaged:

- permanent conference (one meeting per year since 2005)
- online presence (ESSA website is in operation since 2007)
- presentations of ESSA studs at different European horse shows and equestrian fairs

Actually started (1st report at our meeting in June 2009):

- activities at the European Committee to have the European State studs recognised as European Cultural Heritage
- intention to apply for European subsidies for ESSA network



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Already existing and planned to be further developed in the future:

- Collaboration and exchange projects between studs with focus on
 - o professional teaching of horses and people
 - o genetics for sport stallions or for endangered breeds
 - o tourism and communication
 - o modernisation of the studs' organisation
 - o research in horse health, well-being and breeding

More activities are to come as soon as ESSA will have enough members. At the moment we count 12 European countries and 30 potential member studs.

I hope these explanations give you enough arguments to justify your travel. We are looking forward to meeting you in Slovakia!

On behalf of the ESSA board

Bernard Maurel
(ESSA president)

ESSA board meeting at Avenches National Stud

On April 7th the ESSA board met in Avenches, Switzerland, to discuss the future development of the organisation and to prepare for the General Assembly at Topolcianky, Slovakia, 9th and 10th of June.

After the meeting Dr. Dominik Burger gave a guided tour at the stud and equestrian centre of Avenches. The board members were impressed by the infrastructure and the interesting research projects of the stud.

During the second half of 2009 ESSA board meetings are planned in Compiègne (August) and in Slatiňany (December).

Lenka Gotthardová in new position at Equestrian Museum Slatiňany

Lenka Gotthardová sent us the following lines:

“After my discharge as director of the Czech national stud Kladruby nad Labem I received different interesting employment offers – first of all from some of my earlier employers, the Equus Kinski stud, from the horse magazine Jezdectví and from the University of Agriculture in Prague. Furthermore, I received offers from the Kladruby Riding School and from different



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studs within and outside the Czech Republic. After about 25 years, a contest for the directorship of the Equestrian Museum and the Castle in Slatiňany was written out. Shortly before the end of the deadline, I decided to hand in my application with the documents required and a concept for the museum. Thirty applicants took part in the contest.

Since February 2009 I am director of the Equestrian Museum in Slatiňany. The castle and the museum are extraordinarily beautiful and the collections are large and diverse with very elaborate pieces. I work with a team of 15 employees. We care for the museum and the castle as well as the park of 16 hectares with a nursery and three horses. The people are very dedicated and working with them is a pleasure. The castle and the collections belong to the national department for the preservation of monuments. The museum is open for visitors from May to the end of September, every day except Mondays. Besides many interesting pieces, wonderful horse paintings are on display. You can find more information at www.hippologickemuzeumslatinany.cz or www.zamek-slatinany.cz. We are looking forward to welcome you at Slatiňany!”

Changes in Lipica National Stud, Slovenia

Last January, the assistant director, in charge of the breeding sector of Lipica State Stud Marko Marc has resigned of his position. The director and general manager Matjaz Pust , member of ESSA board, has informed us that he was replaced by Dr Irena Marc (same name but no family link) since two months.

Changes in the French State Companies

The national Riding School of SAUMUR, well known with its famous Cadre Noir is a State organisation, is managed under the authority of the Ministry of Sports. The national Studs, with their 20 sites in France (former stallion depots) and the 87 technical centres (former breeding stations) are also state organisations, managed under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Since June 2008, the government has asked these two institutions to work more closely together. With the beginning of 2010 they are supposed to be part of a new State institution helping the horse industry in the fields of breeding and riding. For a better service to the horse owners, professionals and amateurs, at regional, national and international level, this change can open new perspectives for the French horse industry.



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New director at German stud farm Redefin

Germany's North-Eastern state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has chosen a new director for its state stud farm: Antje Kerber, former long-term manager at the Westphalian Riding School Muenster, has taken over the management of the Landgestuet Redefin in February. Having studied agricultural economy and being a three day event rider and trainer, Antje Kerber has a lot of experience.

Redefin was founded 1812 by Duke Friedrich Franz I. of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Today, Redefin provides the breeders with 58 stallions at seven breeding and insemination stations all over the country. Redefin runs a performance test station for horses and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's official riding and driving school and educates young professionals. Redefin's stallion parades are famous. Many tourists visit the historic site.

ESSA action for the preservation of traditional brands

According to the EU regulation No. 504/2008 from 1st of July 2009 on foals need to be equipped with a microchip for identification. A lively discussion among horse breeders across Europe is going on about the benefits and disadvantages of the new identification method.

Apart from the opportunities the chipping system offers, many studs and breeding associations are concerned about the survival of their traditional brands. Sooner or later the new method might fully replace the traditional way of horse identification.

Most European State Studs have own traditional stud brands which serve as a trademark and are part of the studs' culture. Therefore, the preservation of the traditional stud brands is highly desirable.

At the ESSA General Assembly in June a declaration will be signed to raise awareness about the importance of the traditional brands and communicate the position of ESSA.

Please feel free to send your comment to the ongoing discussion and to contribute to the development of the declaration.