



EFTBA 22nd Annual General Meeting
Held in Etablissement des ventes Elie de Brignac,
Deauville, France Sunday 15 May 2016 at 9:30

Attendees:

Belgium Mr Max Hennau

Czech Republic Mr Marek Simak

Denmark Mr Nick Elsass

Finland Mrs Amélie Ehrnrooth

France Mr Loïc Malivet Mr Hubert Honoré Ms Camille Vercken Ms Astrid Engelsen Mr Patrice Renaudin Dr Guillaume Fortier Dr Paul-Marie Gadot

Germany Mr Andreas Tiedtke Mr Daniel Krüger

Great Britain Ms Kirsten Rausing Mr Julian Richmond- Watson Ms Louise Kemble Dr James Crowhurst

Hungary Mr Andras Klinger

Ireland Mr Derek Icton Mr Stephen Collins Dr Des Leadon Mr Shane O'Dwyer

Italy Mr Giovanni Caiani Ms Martina Caiani

Norway Mr Kim Fangen

Poland Mr Andrzej Michalski Ms Marie Michalski

Switzerland Switzerland Mr Remy Giger Dr Hanspeter Meier

Sweden Mr Bo Helander

Guests: Mr Louis Romanet (IFHA), Mr Brian Kavanagh (EMHF), Mr Paull Khan (EMHF), Mr Jason Morris (Horse Racing Ireland) and Dr Simon Sunderland (Zoetis).

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting started at 9.30am. The Chairman welcomed the delegates to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Isabella Copar (Austria), Jose Hormaeche (Spain), Levent Sarikaya (Turkey)



3. Chairman's report

"Dear Members,

Last year, we welcomed, for the first time, the Chairman of the Spanish TBA, Mr Jose Hormaeche, and we expressed our will to integrate new members in the EFTBA. This is why I am so delighted to welcome a new country this year again and warmly thank Mr and Mrs Michalski for being here to represent Polish breeders. The renewed presence of Poland in the EFTBA is very much appreciated, as they have been absent in recent years after having been nonetheless founding members of the Federation. Spanish representatives did not manage to attend the AGM this time but they sent us their apologies and expressed the will to be more participative in the next meetings.

A special thank also to Kim Fangen, who represents Norway for the first time in this assembly, and to Stephen Collins, future Chairman of the Irish TBA, who are honouring us with their presence today.

Over the years, the EFTBA has become increasingly operational in Brussels. First, thanks to our lobbyist Tim Morris - whose engagement will be renewed as it will be evoked later on this meeting – but also due to our convergence with the EHN. For this, I must congratulate both Nick Elsass and Tim Richardson, who unfortunately is not able to be with us today.

The second aim we have been trying to achieve is to develop communication, both within the EFTBA itself but also with stakeholders. For this purpose, we have entirely redesigned our website, using updated figures that are important to make our promotion. We also created an email group to circulate the information, and we are grateful to Des Leadon to play the role of a 'Watchman' for veterinary issues and to pass on information. I hope this tool will be more and more used in the future and that EFTBA members will get into the habit of being in a constant discussion.

The key word being communication, I hope this meeting, and the entire weekend, will be the opportunity for all countries here represented to express their needs and concerns, so they can get voiced at higher levels."

4. Approval of the 2015 AGM & Autumn meeting minutes

Both the AGM and Autumn Meeting minutes are approved.

5. Financial Matters. Report from the Treasurer

Shane O'Dwyer, the Treasurer, reported that the balance in 2015 is positive, with a surplus of €13,599.69. There is a forecast difference in the Meeting expenses because expenses for a trip to Brussels have been included, so it is slightly over budget. The creation of a new website explains the excess in the expenditure item 'Website, annual reports, publicity and subscriptions'. The incomes, due to Membership fees, reach €63,525. At the end of the year, some contributions were still to be due and are now paid off. The EFTBA is in a healthy situation, with €114.425 at the bank. ***The accounts for 2015 are approved.***



Regarding the budget for 2016, there is no real change in the expenditure. The projected income is €7.280. At the Autumn Meeting, it was decided that Austria should shift to an observer country. *The budget for 2016 is approved.*

6. Lobbying Strategy and European Matters

(a) Lobbying situation

The Chairman, Hubert Honoré, explained that the Board had negotiated with Tim Morris to renew his contract on different terms. Instead of a 6-months fee, an agreement has been decided for a year at a fixed amount of €20.000. PLMR could not accept those conditions, so the EFTBA is now dealing directly with Tim Morris' own company named Scientialis Ltd. The new agreement is focusing on four priority goals: 1) Animal Health Law and its tertiary regulations;

- 2) EU Welfare Strategy;
- 3) Cooperation with the work of the EHN;
- 4) Activities relevant to EU campaigning groups.

(b) Overview of EU developments

Astrid Engelsen gave a brief overview of the latest EU developments. The EFTBA can be pleased with the text of the Zootechnical Regulation that has been adopted last March. It reflects the work done both by the rapporteur Michel Dantin and the Horse industry to include exceptions that match the specificities of our sector. Among the major amendments made, should be noted the inclusion of geldings into the studbooks, the possibility to exclude artificial insemination and the keeping of a unique document for equines including both identification and zootechnical information. The next step - that will be conducted with the help of Tim Morris - is to monitor the setting up of tertiary regulations. Good news for the Horse industry is that Michel Dantin should be carrying great influence in the decision of the Parliament to accept or reject the text proposed by the European Commission.

Another issue that may need attention in the future is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Although it is not in the hot agenda of the European Commission, there is a current budget reform that could impact the CAP. In case of a budget cut, the CAP may be redefined as a food policy, with a risk for horses to be excluded.

(c) Report on EHN work and action plan

Nick Elsass, Vice-Chairman, explained that Tim Richardson, Astrid Engelsen and himself managed to attend all the European Horse Network (EHN) meetings this year thanks to a good team work. Bo Helander is also in the Board of the EHN as representative of the European Equestrian Federation (EEF). It is important for the EFTBA to be represented and to participate in these discussions because a lot of things are going on both in Brussels and within the EHN. Nick Elsass reported that Tim Richardson and himself insisted very strongly to have some follow-up to what the EHN is achieving on a political



matter. The characteristic of organizations like ours is that they are people driven and there is a need for someone in the EHN to carry out the issues addressed by its members. The EHN has been very good in organizing meetings, lunches with MEPs and conferences in Brussels but the question is now to determine how could we measure the results of our actions, and how could we ensure that we are reaching our goals?

(d) Creation of a MEP Horse Group by French MEP Jean Arthuis

Astrid Engelsen invited all members to participate to the conference given by MEP Jean Arthuis next September at the European Parliament, and to circulate the information among their MEPs. Jean Arthuis is willing to create a Horse parliamentary friendship group. Such an initiative could be very helpful, all the more if this group is going to work closely with the EHN. Jean Arthuis being the Chairman of the budget commission at the European parliament, the first issues addressed will concern the financing of the Horse industry.

7. Veterinary Matters

(a) Veterinary Committee Report and Overview

Des Leadon, Chairman of the Veterinary Committee, drew up a report of the meeting that was held the day before. He transmitted the apologies of Tim Richardson for not being present this weekend.

The Veterinary Committee focused on infectious disease outbreaks. The first item of the agenda was the Equine Herpes Virus infection that occurred in Newmarket this spring. It was the first multiple abortion situation that had occurred in many years. The conduct of the farm had been exemplary, and the Codes of Practice respected in every aspect, but this did not prevent the spread of the virus. The mares concerned were in closed population and had all been vaccinated with the equip vaccine. It is not known at present whether the primary cause of the outbreak was a spontaneous emergence of the virus, a vaccine failure or perhaps a serial excreting mare that had not been identified. Three mares were found to be PCR positive after the outbreak was cleared over, while being in isolation on the stallion farm they had been sent to, one was found positive again subsequently. This highlights the fact that there is no reference to the management of a potential serial infection in the Codes of Practice, and this is why this issue is to be put in the agenda for the Codes of Practice Committee in September this year.

The second disease discussed at the meeting was the African Horse Sickness (AHS). A recent outbreak had been reported recently to all Veterinary Committee members and to the Board. South Africans had been particularly unfortunate because this outbreak has occurred at the end of the 2-years period imposed by the EU inspectors for the area to be re-approved for exports, after the outbreaks in 2014. The risk of spread of the AHS is very important, in particular to other areas in Africa, for example in Dakar where exported horses transit and where there is a risk of insects entry into the airport. The Veterinary Committee however noted the important efforts made in South Africa to enter the world



stage of breeding and racing by investments in epidemiology, improved diagnostics and a new vaccine. Concerns were expressed regarding the available stock of vaccine and the insurance of sufficient supply in the event of an outbreak outside Africa. A recent circulation of the OIE demonstrates a willingness to improve research on vaccine and diagnostic. Such an initiative appears to be directed to EU national governments and through them to national Thoroughbred Breeders Associations to collect views on the vaccine, the diagnostic and potential for South African entry into the world stage.

The Veterinary Committee recommended therefore that the EFTBA Board should write to the EU authorities to ensure that a pan-European response can be issued, based on recent and future developments.

Another issue evoked by Des Leadon was the availability of vaccine and medicines. Series of efforts have been made to establish strong relationship with Zoetis, unique supplier of Equine Herpes Virus vaccine and other essential products. The Veterinary Committee was very grateful for Simon Sunderland to be here at the Annual General Meeting to represent Zoetis. It is not a criticism but a statement of fact that there have been several failures of supply in recent years that caused problems both in the breeding and racing industry. It must be reminded that, for example, the Herpes virus vaccine is a legal requirement for mares that are bred in Germany.

The Committee recommended that the Board should seek provision for an emergency import of vaccines from the United States or Japon for example, to balance potential new problems in the manufacturing of vaccines in Europe.

Des Leadon also reported on the work of the Genomics Monitoring group initiated during the ITBF congress last year. This topic has been given recent publicity when a DNA test of 2,000 Guineas winner Galileo Gold revealed the distance of the Epsom Derby would not suit him. The Committee and his advisers advise the Assembly that there is insufficient data to justify this use at present. The group will continue its work and give a presentation during the next ITBF Congress in South Africa.

However, Des Leadon informed the Board that to keep this Advisory Committee in place would require some sponsorship for this work.

Finally, the Veterinary Committee explored the possibility of an interface between the Thoroughbred industry and the insurance industry. There would be a benefit in including a session on this topic at the ITBF in 2017, but this would also depend on the level of sponsorship that can be obtained. Videoconferencing might be a way of setting this up without huge cost.

Loïc Malivet proposed to allocate more funds to the EFTBA Veterinary Committee to carry on its work using the money kept in the savings account.

(b) Discussion with Dr Simon Sunderland, Senior Director at Zoetis



Simon Sunderland, representative of Zoetis, made a presentation of his company's strategy to meet the challenge of the shortage of EHV-1 vaccines. He insisted on the fact that Zoetis had recognized the needs of the breeders and understood the unacceptable risks caused by such a shortage. The company therefore set up a 3 points strategy to resolve this issue. The first step is to work with national authorities in terms of securing the importation of new products from the United States. In this respect, he reported that import licenses are difficult to acquire from national governments and therefore thanked the professionals for their contribution in supporting them. The second step includes both the current and future season and consists in re-supplying the current EHV-1 product. The vaccine should be available in Europe in June or early July. The solution to ensure its availability is to overproduce above the market demand, especially because the current process is not reliable at the moment. This is why the last step of the strategy, over the long term, is to improve the process for future seasons. Researches for the development of this process begun last year and it should be a 4-years programme. Simon Sunderland explained that a new product is expected for the year 2019 but insisted on the risks and uncertainties inherent to research activities for new medicines. He concluded his presentation by exposing the areas of mutual interest between Zoetis and the breeding industry. He made a focus on the regulating environment in Brussels and explained that the actual issue is to obtain a right balance between excessive formalities and the need to increase quality of the products thanks to regulation. The Veterinary Medicines Regulation in progress is a good opportunity to change the actual segmented nature of the market, the majority of products being national only, due to historical reasons. The primary objective of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Affairs (DG Sanco) in this regulation is to increase medicines availability across the Union and everybody should support this. Other areas of mutual interest, according to Simon Sunderland, include emerging infectious diseases, the availability of antibiotics and increased environmental toxicity concerns for veterinary medicines products.

Derek Icton was worried that the President of International Operations at Zoetis, Clinton Lewis, had given a slightly different answer to the Irish delegation who visited him in March. Clinton Lewis had suggested that the Equip vaccine would be available in the market in June, but that there may not be enough doses to meet the European demand. Simon Sunderland answered that the allocation of products was changing every day but that the last information is that the European market will be supplied in June. Des Leadon said that the industry has no mechanism to control how many doses are supplied to every country, and therefore was very pleased to hear from Simon Sunderland that the company has taken the decision to over-supply to counter difficulties. Hubert Honoré pointed out that such an issue should be taken over by the whole EFTBA and not only country-by-country.

As regards the work of the European Commission, Derek Icton reported that he had met the Commissioner for Agriculture and a representative of the DG Sanco and understood that they are both trying to get the horse as a minor specie in the new Veterinary Medicines Regulation. This is good news for the pharmaceutical industry because it could facilitate the commercialization of products for equines, and it is a good example of



mutual cooperation we need to follow through. Simon Sunderland agreed and explained that working with the industry is a very powerful voice for Zoetis when dealing with politicians.

James Crowhurst asked several questions. As regards the interrogation whether the difficulties encountered in the process of manufacturing are unique to this vaccine, Simon Sunderland answered that the Equip EHV-1 vaccine is indeed a difficult one. Another concern expressed by James Crowhurst was the possible extra-demand for vaccine when it will be available again and Simon Sunderland suggested that local organizations know the ordinary demand for this product and there should therefore be a balanced repartition. Finally, the issue of the availability of Pneumabort in Europe was addressed. Pneumabort being an American product, there should be no need to import it when the European vaccine will be available. Imports licenses that have been issued by national authorities in Europe are, by definition, special and should therefore not become permanent.

Hubert Honoré asked further precisions about the environmental issues linked to the use of medicines and antibiotics. According to Simon Sunderland, there is a dual issue. The first point is the impact on the environment, especially on the aquatic, that may justify restrictions on the use of medicines. There have been recent guidelines for medicating, coming into force this month. The second issue is about giving antibiotics to animals and the risk to increase antibioresistance. But in the industry, people are responsible for the health of their animals and need antibiotics to cure them. They should therefore advocate for responsible use.

8. ITBF Meeting in South Africa (January 2017)

Louise Kemble explained that England is taking the secretariat of the ITBF. A conference call has been held recently between the English TBA and the hosting country, namely South Africa. Louise Kemble invited everybody to come and advised members to plan their trip as soon as possible. Having a secretariat in the ITBF will render it easier to proceed, and any question regarding the ITBF can be addressed to Louise Kemble.

Des Leadon reported that the Veterinary session of the ITBF programme had been approved (see annex 1). The Veterinary session of the ITBF has been extended to two days. It will include a report on infectious diseases from all countries and, due to the location of the meeting (South Africa), concerns have been expressed that there could be a disproportional report and dominance on African Horse Sickness (AHS). But this being a very important issue for the hosts, they have been allowed to have a series of specialists' contribution within the infectious diseases' report. The AHS may be evoked again in the context of International Movement of Horses, as South Africans are seeking to have greater access to the world stage. In the afternoon, the focus will be on genomics and electronic voting will be used to collect the views of the member countries on this important issue.

The Veterinary session will be opened to all, to allow everybody to give an input. On day 2, the session will focus on the wider strategy of the Breeding and Racing industries, including a review of the values of these industries and their products, a possible dialogue



with the insurance industry, a formal forum to assess and improve the existing dialogue between the breeding and racing industries, and new perspectives for the sustainability of the Horse industry in the 21st century. It is a social issue today to continue doing what we do with our horses facing a 21st century public that has nothing to do with animals. There are objective measures that can be documented, for example in PHDs, to show the good things that are done in the Horse industry and professionals need also to recognize what is not well done. In this respect, the university of Sydney has commissioned a research team of sociologists and psychologists to look at the sustainability of the industry.

As a conclusion, Des Leadon pointed out the fact that, just as EFTBA, ITBF has become essential. It is doubtful that Simon Sunderland would have come to this meeting had the letter addressed to Zoetis - that was signed by Derek Icton on the behalf of ITBF - not have the authority of a worldwide breeding industry.

Shane O'Dwyer encouraged as many countries as possible to attend, and outlined that national delegations should include a veterinarian representing his country. Derek Icton added that the ITBF should make a step forward as regards the number of countries attending.

9. 2017 Incoming Presidency and Board

Derek Icton reported that Ireland would agree to take Chairmanship of the EFTBA with three conditions:

- 1) The secretariat should remain in France;
- 2) Germany and Denmark should retain their position as Vice-Chairmen;
- 3) Kirsten Rausing should stay as Honorary Chairman.

Andreas Tiedtke explained how this compromise had been achieved. The Owner and Breeders' Association in Germany is a small group of people and his colleagues and himself therefore decided that they should ask another country with a larger association to take the lead of the EFTBA. The existing relationship with MEPs was also a key point in the decision, as the German Association is in contact with only two MEPs while the Irish TBA maintain close contacts with several MEPs and politicians. But Germany is willing to continue to work with EFTBA and can contribute to this association as Vice-Chairman.

Hubert Honoré asked whether the Irish association will keep some role in the ITBF. Should that not represent a too large amount of work? Derek Icton outlined that Ireland is not anymore involved in logistical support with the ITBF, the British TBA having taken the secretariat.

Derek Icton underlined that the point for retaining the EFTBA secretariat in France is because the bank accounts and administrative formalities are located in France. Hubert Honoré suggested that the location of the Annual General Meeting could vary from one year to the next. For example, it could be organized in the Vice-Chairmen countries. This was approved by the assembly.

The new Board is unanimously approved. Stephen Collins is elected Chairman on behalf of the Irish TBA. Andreas Tiedtke, for Germany, and Nick Elsass, for Denmark, remain Vice-Chairmen. Julian Richmond-Watson becomes Treasurer, as the



representative of the English TBA. Kirsten Rausing remains in place as Honorary Chairman. The new Board will take up its functions for the AGM in May 2017.

10. Round Table of Country Developments from each Member/Observer_

Belgium: There is not a lot of breeding in Belgium, although there are still some breeders. Most of them went to France where the breeding system is much more attractive. Belgium has tried to attract breeders with premiums and incentives but there are no races for young horses. The programme is not adjusted because of late schedule times and a minimum number of horses in each race (at least 14) to reach the PMU's objectives.

Norway: (see complete report in annex 2). Breeding in Norway has reached a sad low (40-50 mares, 3 stallions and 30-40 foals). To increase the interest for breeding, the Norwegian Jockey Club together with the TBA has introduced some incentives. The Yearlings sale, usually held with trotters, will be organized this year at Øvrevoll Racetrack in October 2nd. Norway still forbids the use of the whip, both for trotting and racing. There have been no accidents due to this and approximately 30% of the races are won by the favourite which is the same figure for most countries that use the whip. Jockeys are however allowed to bring the whip in hurdle races and races for 2-year olds, but not to make the horses go faster, only as a precaution measure.

Øvrevoll Racetrack has built and sold 16 luxury apartments on their ground which has allowed them to do quite a lot of improvements both on the tracks - for horses, trainers, owners and breeders - and for visitors.

What can be said is that, although the Norwegian breeding is in a low period, good initiatives have been taken, including the restoration work on the racetrack, which may predict a good future.

Germany: A new programme of incentives for breeders and additional funding for 2-years and 3-years old was set up in Germany. The result is that the number of foals went up by 15%. Larger investments were made by leading breeders in new stallions. So Germany is on a good way to increase. The number of trained horses went from 2200 to 3000 but this is mainly due to the fact that most horses that were stabled on racetracks were not registered as trained horses. Last year, the tote company was sold to the PMU but the result has not been the one expected.

Switzerland: The situation has not changed a lot. Like in Belgium, there are still breeders but they are mostly breeding outside of their country. This shows that there is still an interest for breeding but the racing system in Switzerland is not attractive. The number of thoroughbreds trained in Switzerland has fallen from 90 to 70. Despite that situation, the situation of racing is not too bad, there is a slight increase in the number of races.

United Kingdom: Expectation for the Thoroughbred population is pretty much the same than last year. The issue in Great Britain is about funding the races. The actual system for betting has dropped since more and more bets are placed online and not anymore on the track. But a new arrangement is planned to come into force by April 2017.

Italy: The situation in Italy is dreadful. Betting is decreasing, as well as the number of broodmares and breeders. The government has no interest whatsoever in the



Thoroughbred industry. The ANAC has tried many times to get in contact with the minister, but it is difficult to talk with him. Another problem is that there is no certified laboratory for anti-doping in Italy. This is a great problem for Italian breeders willing to sell their horses abroad. The only way to make a test for an anabolic steroid is to send the samples to England to have the analysis made. Hubert Honoré intervened to propose the help of the EFTBA to support the lobbying of the ANAC in case this could help to solve the situation.

Ireland: The 2015 figures are: 13.500 mares, 8.700 foals and 210 stallions. There is an increase between 12 to 15%, which can also be explained by the absence of late registration, a new legislation having imposed for the foal had to be registered within 6 months. The Irish TBA is working closely with ministers and also with the Irish governance at the Commission DG Agriculture. A new legislation imposed every premise to be registered. There has been state support for anti-doping control; this has been well received by the industry.

Czech Republic: Czech Republic has over 60 race days. Over 300 broodmares are registered, and this figure is going down since 2 years by 10%. This is due to the portfolio of breeders that has changed dramatically. The Czech industry relies today on small owners. The trickiest issue is to obtain the recognition of the racing sport by the government. At present, the Ministry of Agriculture does not support racing. The Ministry of Education and Sports give funds to the Olympic sports and sport for the masses but Racing is not considered as such. Negotiations are under way for the Racing industry to be recognised as a regular agricultural business and to be given more subsidies and attention. There is no sustainable funding system for the races, Czech owners and breeders rely on their own. Owners actually pay the more expensive entry fees in Europe, that is 6%. But there are still some enthusiastic people.

Hungary: Last year, all indicators were decreasing. The State and decision-makers do not have a clear, coherent and transparent project to bring forward the system of racing.

Poland: Racing is going quite well. There are 3 racecourses operating. Every year the owners are coming to Ireland, France or Great Britain to buy yearlings, so most of the horses racing in Poland are bred elsewhere. This is a problem for the breeding industry. The number of broodmares dropped dramatically last year from 900 to 300. There is no market for breeders; they have to race their horses themselves. Breeders are putting their hopes in the coming yearlings of one or two good stallions this year.

Finland: There is no Thoroughbred racing in Finland, but there have been one pure thoroughbred foal born in Finland this year, and around 20 broodmares.

Sweden: There has been a constant number of Thoroughbred for the last seven years, around 300 broodmares and a bit more in training. There is hope for an increase due to some incentives. The first is the creation of a new racecourse that will open officially on the 15th of June, and it is ratherly unusual in Europe to build a totally new racecourse. The second success is the organization of a special racing day on the 6th of June (national day in Sweden), which hosted 50.000 visitors the first two years and 30.000 last year.

As regards subsidies, 10% of the total prize money is allocated to breeders. For 2 years, there has been a new subsidy, similar to what is done in France, according to which the



owner of a Swedish bred horse is entitled to 40% extra prize money. This has shown to be the most successful breeding support set up in Sweden, although a lot of things had been tried in the previous years. This support is compatible with EU restrictions.

Denmark: Figures for breeding and racing are static in Denmark. There are serious worries because the budget of racing has been reduced by one-third to fund an anti-doping body. There is cooperation with Sweden and Norway under the name of Scandinavian Breeders' System, merging together the Swedish Breeders' trophy, Norwegian Breeders' prize and Danish Breeders' cup. Therefore, horses sired by a stallion connected to the system in one country can compete in the respective challenge in the other countries. This is a fantastic incentive to keep optimism in Danish racing and Danish breeding. The Danish government will decide shortly whether they accept or not for the gambling system to be managed by the racing industry, as it is in Norway or Sweden. Such a decision is crucial for the survival of Danish trotting and racing, because at the moment gambling is a State monopoly and the State is not doing anything for the industry. If the proposition of the industry is accepted, a Scandinavian company could be created in combination with ATG and Norsk Rikstoto. This may raise EU problems regarding competition law and protection of monopoly but it is worth trying to negotiate a model or a system that would allow returns to the industry.

France: For the 1st time since 2010, the number of foals increased in France for the year 2015 by 8%. This growing trend should continue in 2016 since the number of covered mares increased by 5% in 2015. In what regards the racing context in its whole, the industry is concerned by the declines in wagering. Trot and Gallop together have created a "common marketing" initiative to attract a new public to the racecourses, their first action being planned for the 5th June during the Prix du Jockey Club. Welfare is also a core issue in France. Racing industry players, amongst which Godolphin and SA Aga Khan, are working together in a common initiative called 'Beyond the tracks' to help the reconversion of horses and coordinate all existing initiatives in France. A Charter on the Welfare of horses was signed by the operators of the French Horse sector, and the French TBA participated on it. The new Longchamp racecourse is currently under way, and should reopen next year.

11. Discussions with Louis Romanet (IFHA) and Brian Kavanagh (EMHF)_

The Chairman, Hubert Honoré, thanked Louis Romanet, Brian Kavanagh, Paull Khan and Jason Morris for coming. He recalled that, for a number of years already, the Breeding and Racing associations have pursued joint work on different issues, including transport of pregnant mares, genetic testing, welfare etc. The aim of the dialogue today is therefore to determine how they can continue working hand in hand in the future. Des Leadon drew everybody attention to the minutes of 2015 Autumn meeting, in which there is a report on the formal discussion held between EFTBA and EMHF. There were six items on the agenda, all highlighting the importance of joining forces. The Thoroughbred industry is a minor one compared to the livestock industry, but combining figures on the value of the entire industry can give good results and allow us to gain more credibility in the eyes of



both politicians and private companies. Being a small industry, it is easy for most of its actors to solve difficulties by emailing or phoning. However, this does not confer the authority or power of combined voices that one can only boast when speaking in the name of the entire industry. This is the reason why it seems so important to have observers from all sectors in every meeting concerning the industry.

Louis Romanet, Chairman of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), had a formal question regarding the structure of the ITBF. He asked whether it would be possible to have a copy of the existing statutes in order to understand its organization and working. Derek Icton answered that statutes are now available. Initially, the ITBF had been conceived as an informal group gathering on a regular basis during meetings called International Breeders' Meeting (IBM). But for several years now, the IBM evolved to become the ITBF, with the view of getting more organized and structured.

Louis Romanet made a presentation on the functioning of the IFHA. There are 8 committees, and breeders are represented in two of those committees, namely the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC) and the International Movement of Horses Committee. In the other technical committees, Louis Romanet would be delighted to welcome representatives of breeders when the issues addressed require their views, and this is why it could be very efficient to know what is the organization of the ITBF and who is in charge of what topic. IFHA is also careful about not stepping on the toes of the International Stud Book Committee (ISBC), which is independent. For issues concerning Stud Books, the EFTBA could have a closer liaison with the European and Mediterranean Stud Book Liaison Committee (EMSBL) whose new Chairman, Paul-Marie Gadot, is present today. The main structure of the IFHA lies on the key assumption that it is difficult to deal on a permanent basis with 60 countries. The IFHA is therefore organized around efficient continental organizations, including the European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (EMHF). Finally, a new Confederation (the "International Horse Sports Confederation") has been created recently with the Sport horses sector through the International Equestrian Federation (FEI). Such a Confederation is designed to respond the will expressed by the OIE-World Organisation for Animal Health to deal with a unique organization. Several common problems have been identified with the Sport horses sector, including international movement of competition horses, diseases, welfare and anti-doping. There is also a material interest in having only one organization represented at the OIE, because this latter is seeking for money and having only one structure for the Horse industry could help reduce the support given to OIE. As a conclusion, Louis Romanet thinks that multiplying the representations at the OIE is not a good solution. Instead, merging together will make the industry stronger. This requires good communication and Ingmar de Vos (Chairman of the FEI) and himself are therefore willing to increase the level of cooperation between the existing organizations, especially at a local level.

Derek Icton asked whether the ITBF could have a seat on the IFHA. Louis Romanet answered that the IFHA statutes provide that membership is limited to horseracing authorities, but ITBF could join as an observer. Louis Romanet will suggest it to its



Executive Council at the 50th IFHA Conference.

Andreas Tiedtke was concerned that being jointly represented with the FEI at the OIE could have an impact in lowering the high standards of racing, for example as regards doping. Louis Romanet outlined that he is the actual Chairman of the Confederation and that FEI is also strongly involved in those issues and is working closely with IFHA, so there should be no worries on that matter.

Brian Kavanagh, Chairman of the EMHF, made a presentation of his organization. He explained that the EMHF is a young organization, created 10 years ago. His founding members are small racing countries who merged together to raise their standards. Larger racing nations then joined the Federation and had a good contribution in explaining rules and regulations and sharing best practices. The second area of work of the EMHF is the EU. Paull Khan gave an example of good cooperation between EMHF and EFTBA: it has been decided last October that the three Thoroughbred organizations representing respectively breeders, trainers and racing authorities would share the seat at the Board of the EHN. EMHF being a young organization, they were pleased with the EFTBA, having more experience in the European arena, to take the first round of the rotation. This worked very well; there has been good communication after each meeting. There is a EU committee in the EMHF, and points of contacts could be extended with the respective body at EFTBA, and also through Tim Morris. The two organizations may have slightly different purposes but they need to carry the same message. Brian Kavanagh also invited the EFTBA to attend the next EMHF assembly as an observer.

Des Leadon thanked the guests for the two generous offers that had been made during this meeting, for the ITBF to be given an observer status at the IFHA and the EFTBA an observer status at EMHF. Hubert Honoré asked the assembly whether they all agreed on the concept of EFTBA and EMHF being respectively invited to the meetings.

This proposition was unanimously approved.

Andreas Tiedtke made a statement about the breeders' involvement in Racing authorities. In Germany, Racing organizations are in majority ruled by breeders and Racing authorities therefore usually agree that they are meant for improving breeding. At the opposite, in some countries like in Australia, breeders have no influence at all in the Racing authority and thus cannot give their views on important issues such as genomics testing. The EFTBA should therefore encourage its members to work closer on the national level with racing authorities. Brian Kavanagh approved this remark. He specified that most European countries have close relations between breeders and racing authorities and this system works well. Coherently, the development of racing and breeding come together, and may vary consistently from one country to the other. This is why breeders' voice should be a loud voice but often entailing a local interest.

12. Other issues

No other issues were raised. The meeting finished at 12.30.

