



Fectu

Annual General Meeting , 27.03.2021, 10.00-13.00,

online Zoom meeting

Attendants:

Delegates: Joao Rodrigues (APTRAN-Portugal) Pit Schlechter (IDAC -Luxembourg) Cesc Aldabo (ACTA-Spain) Matthias Penner (ÖIPK-Austria) Michel Carrel (HIPPOTESE-France) Nanna Larsen , Erling Larsen (Dansk Koereforbund-Denmark) Aurelija Aksomai (Lietuvos Sunkiuju Arkliu Veislės Augintoju Asociacija- Lithuania) Benjamin Blumenstein (IGZ-Germany) Bruno Nigsch (Ländliche Fahrer und Reiter – Austria) Davide Outeiro (Asociacion Galega de Traccion Animal – Spain) Carol Coates, Peter Coates (British Horse Loggers – United Kingdom) Age Oibakken, Ynskje Kaldheim (Foreningen Arbeidshesten -Norway).

Guest: Erhard Schroll (Germany)

The attendants briefly present themselves.

President's address:

The president Joao Rodrigues opens the AGM: the last two years have been extraordinary challenging for everyone. For the second time the AGM has to be organized as an online meeting. Nevertheless it's a great pleasure to see so many FECTU delegates again. Thank you to all the attendants for joining. The collaboration within the board has been very rewarding.

Reinhard Scharnhölz cannot attend the meeting, he sends his greetings.

1. Financial report and approval of the 2019 accounts

Davide Outeiro and Monika Ernst controlled and approved the 2019 FECTU accounts. All the money was transferred to the bank account of the Portuguese member association APTRAN, for as long as there is no possibility to have a separate bank account for FECTU. A written convention between FECTU and APTRAN has stipulated the conditions of this "organized accountability". The AGM of APTRAN agreed. The FECTU board continues to search for a possibility of a FECTU bank account. This is particularly difficult because the board members come from five different countries.

The board proposes to not ask for a membership fee for the year 2020 and the AGM agrees. The FECTU members will receive an invoice for the membership fee for 2021.

2. Appointment of auditors for the coming fiscal year

Monika Ernst and Davide Outeiro are proposed as auditors for the year 2021. The AGM agrees.

3. Election of the Board (presentation of the candidates, appointment of an electoral commissioner, elections)

Joao Rodrigues, Pit Schlechter, Cesc Aldabo, Nanna Larsen and Matthias Penner apply for a re-election. There are no other candidates. The five candidates are elected for the next three years.

4. Projects and activities to be undertaken by FECTU

WEBINARS: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic FECTU tried to use online solutions for future activities and started to organize webinars on different topics. Six of these webinars in English are already online on the You Tube Channel, webinars in French, Spanish and German are planned. So far the webinars were attended by up to 50 people from all over the world.

FECTU members are invited to suggest further webinars. It is important that the FECTU associations inform their members about the webinars. The next one is presented by Jean-Louis Cannelle on the 14th of April followed by another one by Manu de Meulenaer on the 17th of May.

FECTU became a Mountain Partnership member. Please see <http://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/en/>

FECTU organized an event, together with the partners of the Equid Power Network project (The Donkey Sanctuary and World Horse Welfare), to celebrate The International Mountain Day (11 Dec 2020). Please see the recording of the meeting in FECTU YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsr0J9fi4ss>

The **WORKING ANIMAL ALLIANCE**, a new organization, was founded last year by the four big animal protection societies *The Donkey Sanctuary*, *World Horse Welfare*, *The Brooke* and *SPANNA*. It The organization tends to act as a strategic coalition of stakeholders trying to highlight the contribution of working animals to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. FECTU has been welcomed as an important partner, providing professional inputs as an important ambassador of working equids.

Regarding **the FECTU ANNUAL GRANT** the board received one application from the Danish member association, asking for 500 € for advertising and educational purposes in the context of the Northern horse ploughing championship that takes place on the 23rd of October 2021 on the grounds of the Morso Agricultural School in Northern Denmark. About 20 participants and 200-600 visitors from Denmark, Norway and Sweden are expected. During summer and autumn 2021 training courses for working with horses are organized at the same place.

In order to have the grant the Danish member must have it's own bank account and be able to issue an invoice. The total budget for the event is 12.000 € . If for any reason the event is cancelled, the grant must be returned to FECTU.

Although FECTU will have no income in 2021 the financial situation allows the payment of this grant.

The AGM agrees with the appointment of the grant. The Danish member will send a report after the event.

PECTU WORKING GROUPS. In order to encourage the involvement of FECTU members in coming initiatives the board proposes for working groups.

Innovation and technology, coordinator Cesc Aldabo
Efficient use of natural resources, coordinator Nanna Larsen
Economy and Society, coordinator Mattias Penner
Animal welfare, coordinator Joao Rodrigues

People who want to join one of these groups are asked to contact the board. The invitation should be spread within the different member associations. The idea is to share knowledge, to develop the contacts between FECTU members and to address topics on a larger basis. The initial coordinators can be replaced by any interested member of a FECTU member association.

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE. Claus Kropp from Germany is organizing a conference about Draught Animals in the Past, Present and future on the 8th and 9th of May 2021. FECTU will contribute a presentation and chair one of the sessions. Draught animal organizations are invited to produce +/- 5 minutes videos about their activities that will be integrated into the program as a kind of Virtual Draught Animal Archive.

<https://kloster-lorsch.de/freilichtlabor/tagungen/internationale-zugtierkonferenz>

5. Presentation of new FECTU members and setting of the membership fee

Aureljia Aksomai presents the Lithuanian Draft Horse Breeders Association, a new member of FECTU. The president of the organization cannot attend the meeting as he is one of the biggest breeders and he has to care for his foaling mares. The association was founded in 1977 and counts for +/- 100 members. It joined FECTU in order to learn from others, because, even after 40 years of independence the former structures could not be restored. There is a Facebook account and a webpage that is only accessible for members.

The membership fee for 2023 is fixed at 120 €.

6. Agreement on the provisional budget 2021

The provisional budget for 2021 was presented and explained in a Power Point Presentation. The delegates agreed to the proposal.

7. Points raised by the members concerning the FECTU (requests, suggestions, news ...):

Some delegates could provide information about financial support for horse logging in their countries depending on different conditions and about horses used in agricultural schools. The *PferdeStark* in Germany, planned for 2021, is cancelled, due to the national and international restrictions that make it impossible to draw up a reliable program. The next *PferdeStark* will take place in 2023.

Regarding the WWOOF program (<https://wwwoof.net>) it seems that it is not very successful. One of the reasons is that there is no international record of farmers using working horses and ready to accept trainees. There is no international organisation so everything has to be organized nationally or locally. This makes it nearly impossible for FECTU to intervene.

8. Various

Regarding the new edition of the **FECTU booklet** 13 chapters have been written by different authors. Erhard Schroll will act as the editor. A digital version should be ready soon. The board will look for best price for the printing. Some internal FECTU regulations have to be revised. A proposal will be submitted to an extraordinary General Meeting in autumn.

Michel Carretier reports about the **new horse drawn tool carrier** developed by HIPPOTESE. The project demands much personal commitment and very high financial means. It could be helpful if other FECTU members could be involved. HIPPOTESE plans to ask FECTU for a grant.

The Norwegian delegation draws the attention to the fact that it can be very arduous and expensive to travel to the **FECTU AGMs**, depending on the country, where they take place and suggests to have personal meetings only every two years and to organize online meetings in between. Cesc Aldabo suggests a combination of the two options, offering to all FECTU members the possibility to attend the meeting online if they cannot participate personally. Joao Rodrigues suggests to possibly organize FECTU meetings in the context of big international events like the *PferdeStark*. Davide Outeiro says that the AGM in Galicia in 2022 can be planned as a hybrid meeting.