



MEMORANDUM 09/26

TO : IFHA/FIAH
FROM : Maurits Bruggink
DATE July 7, 2009
REF. **EU to hold conference on importance of horse sector**

On 1 July 2009, Sweden took hold of the Presidency of the European Union for 6 months. In order to promote policy in this area, it will hold a conference on “The Future Horse Industry in Rural Areas and Society”. The conference will bring together European officials, national and regional government officials, politicians, scientists, the agricultural and business sectors and other stakeholders.

The conference is organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Swedish Horse Council and has as main objectives to:

- bring the horse industry together to work more efficiently with the EU authorities
- increase cooperation, research, knowledge transfer and education
- define the economic, ecological and social benefits of the sector
- set up a “European Horse Network”

The horseracing industry has been invited to provide input and possibly a speaker because of its important financial contribution to the entire horse sector through betting taxes and levies. In a meeting today with the organisers, the IFHA has, along with the European Trotting Union, European Breeders Federation and the European Pari-Mutuels Association, provided input on the outline of the conference.

The European Pari-Mutual Association is expected to use this conference to highlight the results of a study on the economics of horseracing, which consultancy McKinsey is currently carrying out for the association.

☞ European IFHA members are invited to bring this initiative to the attention of their government and to attend the event in support of horse and racing friendly policies. The IFHA will keep you informed about developments.

EU Equus 2009
“The Future Horse Industry in Rural Areas and Society”
29-30 October 2009, Uppsala, Sweden
www.equus2009.eu