



Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture



Europäischer Verband für Geflügel-, Tauben-, Vogel-, Kaninchen- und Caviazucht

European Association of Poultry, Pigeon, Bird, Rabbit and Cavia Breeders

Association Européenne pour l'Élevage de Volailles, de Pigeons, d'Oiseaux, de Lapins et de Cavia

#### Rabbit section

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## Meeting minutes of Rabbit section - Friday, 19.05.2023, 08.00 H, Sofia, BG

### Agenda

1. **Welcome and greetings**
2. **Attendance list**
3. **Address book**
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27.05.2023 in Konjic/BiH**
5. **Correspondence and information**
6. **Report on committee meetings**
7. **Agenda for the General Assembly of 20.05.2023**
8. **Admission of new members**
9. **EE-judges meeting in 2023 and subsequent years**
10. **Report of the Standard commission**
11. **European Standard**
12. **European show 2024 in Lysá nad Labem, Czech Republic**
13. **Breed Specific European shows 2023/2024 and later**
14. **Which breeds from your country are not yet admitted to the EE-Standard – EE Breed Nomenclature**
15. **Information about EE-meetings**
16. **Diseases and animal welfare – report from the animal welfare committee**
17. **Kaninhop report**
18. **National shows in the countries – location and possibly number of rabbits**
19. **Wishes and suggestions**
20. **Miscellaneous**

### **1. Welcome and greetings.**

Wolfgang Vogt welcomed the 29 delegates present from 15 member countries, plus 4 guests from Bulgaria and the new Croatian Federation and opened the meeting. He warmly welcomed the honorary members present.

It's good to be back, in good health and alert to continue our common tasks.

But despite all the joy, we also have to face reality.

Unfortunately, membership of the individual national associations has tended to decline in recent times. The reasons for this seem to be diverse, whether it's ageing, disproportionate animal welfare affecting breeding, the post-Corona era or even high inflation with its consequences for our hobby.

Unfortunately, some problems are also home-grown, such as the unspeakably negative publications about rabbit farming on social networks, which are in no way conducive to our hobby.

It's good to note, however, that the majority of breeders have now realised that such behaviour does absolutely nothing for us.

The air is getting thin in our hobby, and that's why we must do everything we can to continue working constructively to preserve our ideals in pedigree rabbit breeding, so that all our work as breeders can look to the future. Most of us know that a lot of things have already moved in the right direction in the past, but there is still a lot of work to be done if we are to meet the interests and requirements of breeding at European level.

I assume that all the participants are very interested in the European development of purebred rabbit breeding in the EE and that they are aware that this objective can only be achieved together.

Allow me to say a few more words about the new European standard. The standard committee, under the leadership of Roland Olinger, is working hard on the new version, as there are currently no more copies available. Please understand that the new European standard cannot be a history book but must contain the breeds that are exhibited and represented at European shows and breed shows.

This is why it is not always possible to take account of national egoisms in all respects. We are therefore counting on your understanding. Nor should we lose sight of the cost/benefit ratio, given the enormous printing costs.

The Chairman read out the agenda, which was approved.  
He then asked the participants to introduce themselves briefly.  
He warmly thanked those responsible in Bulgaria for organising the meeting.

Tributes were paid to members who had passed away. We will always remember them fondly. Because everywhere, there are moments of meeting and common memories. They will certainly also have left great gaps in their national associations. We send our condolences to their loved ones.

## **2. Attendance list**

The 15 member countries are present:

Serbia/1, Slovenia/1, Czech Republic/1, Romania/1, Lithuania/2, Luxemburg/2, Latvia/2, France/3, Italia/4, Germany/3, Switzerland/5, Belgium/1, Croatia/1, Austria/1, Finland/1  
One card is distributed per country.

Apologies: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, England, Slovakia, Holland, Hungary, Spain, Poland.

Invited without the right to vote: Bulgaria/2, new federation of Kosovo/2

### **3. Address list**

The contact details of the people responsible for each country should be completed or updated on the list circulating, so that they can be returned to the General Secretary, Jeannine Jehl.

### **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 27.05.2022 in Konjic/BiH**

The minutes, drafted in the 3 languages, were made available on the website. There were no comments or additions to the text. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

### **5. Correspondence and information**

Letters concerning the European breed shows (see item 13) and for the judges' training day in Pezinok/SK as well as for the following ones (see item 9), and the EE show of 2024 (see item 12). More details will be given at these points.

### **6. Report of the presidium meetings**

There have been 4 meetings of the Presidium this year:

Online: 15.06. 2022

Online: 05.10. 2022

In person: 04.02. 2023 in Sofia

Online: 21.03. 2023

The main aim was to organise the future of the European Federation. The financial situation of the European Federation, given the decline in European breed shows and the current problem of the lack of candidates for the organisation of future European shows, was considered in particular with the five sections. Even more so as the fees payable to the European Federation, along with the ever-decreasing sponsorship income and membership fees, constitute an essential component of the federation's income.

In the end, it was clear to all participants that organising a European exhibition with the five sections would become increasingly difficult, if only because of the size of the event and the associated expenses, as well as the exorbitant costs of the exhibition halls.

A proposed reduction in the number of members of the Presidency was not considered to be a good idea either, as each function within the Presidency has its own need and justification.

It was finally agreed that Presidency meetings would be held online if possible.

In addition, the rules for the European open competitions have been revised and will be submitted for approval to the General Assembly here in Sofia.

The appointment of a new president and treasurer to succeed Gion Gross and Willy Littau went very badly, to put it mildly.

That's why I don't want to say any more on the subject. In conclusion, Gion Gross is standing for re-election as Chairman. Hansjörg Opala of Burrberg/D, BDRK, had put himself forward as candidate for the position of Treasurer, but it was the ZDRK who finally put him forward. Hansjörg Opala introduced himself. The division delegates took note of his candidacy with goodwill. All that remains now is to await the election results.

### **7. Agenda of the General assembly of the 28 May 2023**

Wolfgang Vogt reads out the agenda of the General Assembly.

## **8. Admission of new members**

There are currently no applications for the rabbit section.

A possible application from Turkey to join our branch is currently being examined.

Applications have been submitted for other sectors and will be dealt with at the AGM.

## **9. EE-judges meeting**

The Chairman gave a report on past judges meeting.

The 18th international meeting for rabbit judges took place from 14 to 16 April 2023 in Pezinok, Slovakia.

In the end, 117 colleagues from 19 nations took part. The breakdown was as follows as follows:

Austria 2, Belgium 2, Croatia 2, Germany 37, Finland 2, France 6, Great Britain 1, Hungary 4, Italy 4, Latvia 1, Luxembourg 5, Netherlands 2, Poland 3, Romania 5, Serbia 3, Switzerland 3, Slovakia 15, Slovenia 2, Czech Republic 18, and 4.

On 14.04.2023, all the participants first met at the conference hotel.

On 15.04.2023, the Blue Holicer and Rex Slovakian grey-blue breeds were presented and explained in two blocks as part of the conference and explained in two PowerPoints.

The second part was dedicated to Liptov's List Rabbits and Large Chinchillas.

We thank here all the speakers of the Slovak federation.

The program was led by Josef Blokes, whom we all know, and who also covered the Large Chinchilla in detail in his talk.

After lunch, the practical evaluation took place within 20 evaluation groups divided beforehand. Four evaluation groups were led by leaders Dana Caithamlova, Roland Olinger, Urban Hamann, Markus Eber and Wolfgang Vogt. The groups evaluated four animals in total. After the evaluation, the judges compared the results and discussed them in detail with their colleagues.

In conclusion of this evaluation, I can say that this is a good result, which allows us to consider our future tasks with confidence. It can also be seen that with this number of participants, the event was well managed. I think that we have come a long way, taking into account our objective, which is to bring the evaluation of judges trained at European level to the same level.

In the evening, conviviality was in order. All participants had the opportunity to exchange their interests, to make friendships or to intensify existing ones.

To conclude, I would like to warmly thank, on behalf of all the participants, the leaders of the Slovak association for organizing this event.

The next training will take place in 2024 in the Czech Republic. The place and date are not yet known! Dana Caithamlova talks about it briefly. Everything is being clarified.

I therefore pass the floor to Dana who may already be able to tell us more!

We are still looking for organizers for the 2025 training and the following ones. The Italian representatives are studying the possibility of 2025 and the Romanian representatives that of 2026.

## **10. Report from the Standard commission**

Roland Olinger reports on the Standards Commission.

The last meeting of the division took place on Friday 27.05.22 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Then, the Standards Commission met twice. From 30.09. to 02.10.2022 as well as from 17 to 19.02.23, in order to work with all our might on the new EE Standard. More information about this in point 11.

We also talked about the financing of the new edition.

I would also like to thank all my colleagues from the Standards Commission for their good collegial collaboration.

conditions for the European breeding of purebred rabbits with all its nuances.

It is also the approval body for the recognition of new breeds of rabbits or new colours.

We also strive to democratically resolve requests addressed to us by breeders, in the interests of the latter.

Of course, this is only possible if the proposals fit into the overall design of the federation.

In any case, we believe that the new EE Standard, which has been completely revised and is based on the German standard, will enjoy great esteem among of you in the future.

## **11. European Standard**

The President reports on the new standard.

For some time, no copy of the old EE edition has been available for sale. We are aware that this situation must change as soon as possible.

That is why our goal is to be able to present and sell the new work in 24. Please understand that the new Standard cannot be a history book but must contain the breeds that are displayed and presented at European shows and European breed-related shows. This is why it is not always possible to take account of national egoisms in all respects. We therefore count on your understanding. The cost/benefit ratio should also not be lost sight of because of the enormous printing costs.

That is why I would like to know how many copies you will need in the future at the national level. I still miss a few countries.

Here are some explanations about the new edition.

- In the rating scale, position 1 is exchanged with position 2.  
position weight and then position body shape type and build.
- An assessment of young animals is also included for the first time in the standard.
- For all breeds, the length of the ears, which must always be measured, has been added.
- The name "Little Papillon" is replaced by "Bohemian Papillon".
- The name "French Havane" is replaced and will be called "Little Havane" in the future.
- The Czech albino is removed because it is perfectly identical to the White Country Rabbit.
- The Great Russian have been removed, as has Lutterbach's Hermine.
- The Cheetah Rabbit has been added.
- Among the breeds with characteristic fur, the Satin rhoen has been added.
- Pastel Slovak Rex will only be called Pastel Rex.
- Rex grey-blue replace Rex Opal.
- Added Black Jar Rex and Cheetah Rex.

I would like to explain again: for a breed to be admitted to the European standard, it must be bred and actively exhibited in 3 countries, and these countries must each send a request with description of the model to the president of the Standard Commission. The breed must also be exhibited at an EE show.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for the work carried out and a special thank you to Markus Eber, who took over the editorial management.

Markus Eber presents the structure of the new Standard by means of a PowerPoint presentation. A clear and legible structure with colours is provided. The evaluation of

young animals is also new. Clear guidelines help prevent hypertyping. It is above all a question of respecting the free field of vision of the eyes.

**Good photos of all breeds are required for the standard. Please send photos in good resolution to Markus Eber.**

[markuseber@gmx.de](mailto:markuseber@gmx.de)

Above all, we need images of races specific to a country, which are not widespread elsewhere.

- The Austrian representative asks if it is possible to obtain the old standard for its own reprint. It is answered in the negative, because it would compete with the new standard, especially since the old documents are no longer available. Of course, we are aiming for strong distribution in the member countries.

- Is an online version available? No, only the printed version in German.

The Standard Committee will distribute the new edition.

- Countries can address a request to the Standards Commission to translate this edition into their national language.

### **Break**

After a short break, EE President Gion Gross welcomed the delegates.

Divisions are the heart of EE. Action against absurd regulations and laws as well as guidelines of animal welfare organizations has unfortunately become the main task of the chair and especially of the animal welfare advisory board. Currently, a lot of nasty things are going on in Austria regarding the breeding and keeping of birds. It is important to fully support the advisory board. He invites everyone to the general meeting tomorrow and wishes a good section meeting.

### **12. European show 2024 in Lysá nad Labem, Czech Republic**

The Czech federation wishes to organize a specific European exhibition for rabbits and caviar instead of the general exhibition in Prague.

The risk of a cancellation for the "feathers" is too great due to the bird flu situation. It is also difficult to participate due to current export and import orders. It is difficult to estimate the number of registrations. The financial risk is too high. Subject to the approval of the GA, the exhibition will take place from November 15 to 17, 2024 in Lysá nad Labem, near Prague.

Dana Caithamlova briefly introduces the competition.

Up to 12,000 animals, only 1-row boxes are used. From 12,000 animals, there would also be boxes in 2 rows.

Our section fully supports this contest. Participation is required. Member countries are invited to promote it to their federations.

### **13. Breed Specific European shows 2023/2024**

Breed Specific European shows are an important part of our association. Contacts between breeders go beyond national borders. The improvement and dissemination of the genetic resources of breeds, etc. bring many benefits. Application forms are available on the EE website.

The following permissions have been granted.



Subject to subsequent delivery of the exhibition regulations also for the exhibition of the Holicer.

- 26/29. 10. 2023 in 8303 Emmelord/NL, Aeres College Balkan 16, for all Rex.
- 18/19.11.2023 in Hervé/B for the Hare and Polish rabbits
- 25/26.11. 2023 in Epinal/F for the Silver (normal size (except Meissner Lop)
- 24/26.11. 2023 in Nitra/SK for Holicer blue
- 20/21.01.2024 in 67227 Frankenthal /D for all Dwarfs Lop (except dwarf Lop rex).

#### **14. New rabbit breeds**

No new breeds have been announced.

There have been recognitions of breeds or varieties which are already recognized in one or more other countries.

Notes on recognition in the European Standard: see point 11, Standard EE

#### **15. Information about EE-meetings**

- 09. - 12. May 2024 in Czech Republic
- 29.05. - 01.06.2025 in Romania, ev. Costanza

#### **16. Diseases and animal welfare – report from the animal welfare committee**

Erik Apperlo provides an overview of the activities of the Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Committee 2022-2023.

Since the last annual congress in Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2022, the Advisory Council composed of: Hristo Lukanov (Bu), Eduard Gendrin (Fr) Wim Halsema (NI), Gunther Anthonissen (Be), Peter Supuka (Sk.), Andy Verelst (Be) and Erik Apperlo (NI), covered a number of topics. We consulted each other in four digital meetings. In addition, a great deal of time and work has been devoted to the study of these themes.

The main topics discussed were avian flu, a possible vaccine and its consequences on exposure, advice on breeding, prevention of hypertype, European legislation (regulations 429 + 688), etc.

The detailed report can be viewed on our website under "Animal Welfare".

Graben Zolt, Romania, asks if any existing forms can be consulted.

It's not yet the case.

Erik Apperlo stresses that it is extremely important to inform politicians at national level and to convince them.

The Advisory Board is thanked for its great commitment to our hobby.

#### **17. Report of Kaninhop**

The head of Kaninhop, Jules Schweizer, presents his report.

After a shutdown due to Covid, Kaninhop's activities increased sharply again last year at European level. Tournaments were again organized, as well as national championships here and there.

The European Championship in the Czech Republic had to be postponed twice due to the pandemic. The date proposed by the organizer, in November, was very badly chosen. The agreement on the date of organization of the European championship between the European national leaders of Kaninhop is clearly defined: April, May or September/October. Unfortunately, this agreement was not respected.

The organizer maintained the date he had set, despite the veto of the German head of Kaninhop, Kai Sander, and the European head, Jules Schweizer.

What had to happen happened: the European championship was a Czech championship with little foreign participation. Thus, only two titles went to Germany, all the others remained in the Czech Republic.

In the same agreement concerning the running time, it was decided that no European Kaninhop championship would be attached to a European Poultry Exhibition. Many hoppers are also breeders. In the event of simultaneous organization, they no longer have the time to carry out a European exchange between breeders and to visit in detail the breeds and varieties exhibited.

In 2024 / 2025, Switzerland plans to organize a European championship in Küssnacht am Rigi /SZ. Jules Schweizer will first discuss it with Kai Sander, then there will be a conference with all countries practicing Kaninhop at the end of June 2023. This will take place electronically, with the sole objective of rabbit hop practitioners showing up at again together and in a uniform way in Europe, in order to make this hobby with rabbits better known.

The President thanks Jules Schweizer and talks about the inspiring display of Kaninhop at the Norwegian National Exhibition. The euphoria of men and rabbits was impressive. This is the first time he has been able to attend in peace. It is absolutely necessary to support this sport.

### **18. National shows in the countries – location and possibly number of rabbits**

The delegates present entered the following competitions:

- |                  |                |                |                 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| • Slovenia       | 24.-26.11.2023 | Celje          | 600-800 animals |
| • Serbia         | 26.-28.01.2024 | Sombor         | 200-300         |
| • Romania        | 01.-03.12.2023 | open           | 1500-2000       |
| • France         | 20.-21.01.2024 | Illkirch       | 1400            |
| • Lithuania      | 28.-30.09.2023 | Kaunas         | 200             |
|                  | 25.-26.11.2023 | Kaunas         | 300             |
| • Italia         | 27.-29.10.2023 | Montichiari    | 900-1000        |
| • Latvia         | October 2023   | Riga Dobeles   | 500             |
| • Czech Republic | 17.-18.11.2023 | Lysé nad Labem | 2000-2500       |
| • Germany        | 15.-17.12.2023 | Leipzig        | 20 000          |
| • Luxemburg      | 13.-14.01.2024 | Ettelbrück     | 300             |
| • Croatia        | 2023           | Zagreb         | 200             |
|                  | 15.-17.12.2023 | Virovitica     | 200-33          |
| • Belgium        | 18.-19.11.2023 | Lüttich        | 1000            |
| • Netherlands    | 19.-21.01.2024 | Hardenberg     | 2000            |
| • Norway         | 03.-05.11.2023 | Bergen         | 1000            |
|                  | 01.-04.02.2024 | Holter         | 1500            |
| • Denmark        | 16.-18.02.2024 | ?              |                 |
| • Sweden         | 24.-25.02.2024 | Köping         |                 |
| • Switzerland    | 24.-26.01.2025 | Winterthur     | 3000            |
| • Austria        | no data        |                |                 |

No other data



## **19. Wishes and suggestions**

No message

## **20. Miscellaneous**

- On behalf of the countries, Regula Wermuth thanks the steering committee and the Standards Commission for their immense work.
- The President, Wolfgang Vogt, thanked all the delegates for their participation and commitment. It is very important to transmit the information in your own country and to always refer to the news, minutes, etc. on the website.

He closes the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Sofia, 19.05.2023

Urban Hamann