



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'Elevage de Volailles, de Pigeons, d'Oiseaux, de Lapins et de Cavia

Rabbit section

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Standards commission

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Minutes of the 'Rabbits' section - Friday, 15.05.2026, 09.00 Uhr, Segovia/Spain

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1. Opening, welcome

During the meeting of the Rabbit Section, the Chair welcomed the delegates from 15 countries as well as the honorary members present. In his report, he addressed the current situation regarding European pedigree rabbit breeding. In particular, he highlighted the declining membership numbers in many national associations. Among the causes cited were an ageing membership base, increasing restrictions under animal welfare legislation, and a decline in the social status of small animal breeding. On the other hand, positive developments in Eastern European and Baltic states were highlighted.

Another key focus was the difficult financial situation surrounding the organisation of major European shows. High venue hire costs and rising expenses make it considerably more difficult for exhibitors to take part. It was therefore suggested that, in future, there should be a greater focus on organising sector-specific or breed-specific European shows. These would continue to offer good opportunities for breeders to exchange ideas and compete at a European level.

It was also emphasised that the future of pedigree rabbit breeding can only be secured through joint European action. National interests should take a back seat in this regard. The differing interpretations of animal welfare within the member states were also discussed. Ultimately, the veterinary regulations of the respective host country are always decisive.

There were positive reports on the new European standard, which is proving very popular and is selling well. Thanks were extended to all those involved in the Standards Commission. There was also a detailed report on the judges' training course for the rabbit section, held from 13 to 15 March 2026 in Cluj-Napoca (Romania). Despite difficulties caused by a Lufthansa strike, the event was carried out successfully. A total of 104 people from 19 countries took part. The organisation, accommodation and catering were expressly praised. The participation, for the first time, of judges from Estonia and Bulgaria, as well as younger participants, was particularly pleasing.

The training covered various rabbit breeds, including Giant Papillon, Large Lop, Dalmatian Rex and Dwarf Rex. Traditional Romanian breeds were also presented. The presentations were accompanied by multilingual interpretation. According to the report, the animals' accommodation complied with animal welfare requirements at all times.

In conclusion, the chairman expressed his thanks to the organisers of the event in Segovia and to the officials of the Spanish association, in particular Elena and Arturo. He also thanked all the volunteers and supporters of the conference.

2. Confirmation of attendance

The following 16 member countries are represented:

Serbia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, France, Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Serbia

Each delegate will receive one voting card.

3. List of addresses

Not applicable

4. Minutes of the EE Conference held on 30 May 2025 in Bucharest, Romania

The minutes were published on the website in three languages. There were no objections or additions. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Correspondence and notices

Correspondence was received regarding the breed-specific European shows (see item 13) and the application for the EE judges' training course in Rignitz-Dammgarten, Germany (see item 09). These matters are reported under the relevant agenda items.

6. Minutes of presidium meetings

During the reporting period, more than ten online meetings and one face-to-face meeting in Neuhoof took place. The meetings were chaired by the new chairman, Hansjörg Opala. The EE's new treasurer, Jean Maurice Tieche, has also settled in well within the executive committee.

The main focus of the meetings was the future direction of the European Association. Various proposals put forward by a specially appointed committee were discussed, some of which were deemed impractical. It was emphasised that tried-and-tested structures and the work of previous generations should not be abandoned lightly.

Another important point was the EE's financial situation. A lucrative advertising contract was concluded with the feed manufacturer Mifuma. In addition, discussions are underway with ring equipment manufacturers regarding further sponsorship deals. The treasurer advocated attracting further sponsors. Alongside sponsorship income, membership fees and revenue from breed-specific European shows remain important sources of funding.

The importance of holding an EE show featuring all five sections, despite difficult circumstances, was also highlighted. A great deal of time was also taken up by the revision of the EE's articles of association and their legal registration in Luxembourg. Difficulties persist with regard to opening a bank account in Luxembourg.

There were also reports on the 30th European Show, featuring all five sections, and the 6th European Youth Show, which took place from 4 to 9 November in Nitra (Slovakia). The event was well received by breeders. Around 10,000 rabbits were exhibited in the rabbit section. Particular praise was given to the excellent cooperation with the section manager, Maros Sladek, as well as the prompt handling of complaints and organisational issues. All financial obligations, including proceeds from animal sales and judges' fees, were duly met. Finally, it was reported that discussions regarding the organisation of the 31st EE Show in Kielce (Poland) are now in their decisive phase. The next EE conference is expected to take place in Kosovo; an exact date has yet to be confirmed.

7. Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on 16 May 2026

Wolfgang Vogt reads out the agenda for the General Meeting.

8. Admission of new members

No applications for membership have been received for the Rabbit Section at this time.

9. EE Judges' Training Course

A bid from Germany to host the 2027 EE Judges' Training Course was presented. The plan is to hold the event in Ribnitz-Damgarten on the Baltic Sea.

The training is scheduled to take place from **5 March to 7 March 2027**. The proposed venue is the Community Centre in Ribnitz-Damgarten, which offers sufficient capacity for conferences and celebrations.

The town of Ribnitz-Damgarten was presented in terms of its location and accessibility. It lies between Rostock and Stralsund and is easily accessible by train (ICE connection), motorway and via Berlin and Hamburg airports. Travel via the Rostock ferry port was also explained.

A social evening with a communal meal (wild boar on a spit) is planned for the day of arrival. On 6 March 2027, a communal breakfast, training sessions, lunch and an evening buffet with cultural entertainment are scheduled. A communal breakfast is planned for the final day. Various hotels, guesthouses, holiday flats, apartment blocks, a youth hostel and accommodation at the "Bernsteinreiter" riding centre are available for participants. If the European Show takes place in Kielce, Poland, the Polish Federation would organise the training this year. Hungary has expressed an interest in doing so for the following year.

10. Report of the Standard commission

The report covers the work of the European Federation's Standards Commission, as well as current developments relating to the European standard for pedigree rabbit breeding.

The report began with an account of the Standards Commission meeting held in early February. The outgoing chair, Roland Olinger, stepped down for reasons of age. The author was elected as his successor and thanked Roland Olinger for his many years of service and collaboration.

Information was also provided on updates from the Netherlands and Austria. These included, amongst other things, new breeds and colour varieties, as well as additional regulations regarding over-typing in certain rabbit breeds.

The 'Little Vienna' have been newly included in the European Standard in the colour varieties wild colour, dark grey, iron grey and white with blue eyes. Furthermore, at the request of breeders, the standard weight for hares has been increased to 4.5 kg and the permissible ear length has been adjusted.

The Standards Commission also approved various amendments and additions to the general section of the European Standard, particularly regarding ear shapes and deep-set eyes. In addition, new colour varieties were included for the Mecklenburg spotted.

The amendments are to be published on the European Federation's website and will later also be printed as supplements to the European Standard. Editorial errors already identified (Coloured Continental Giants, Sallanders, black Hare-eared rabbits) relating to individual breeds are to be corrected.

Regarding the European Show in Nitra, it was reported that judging there took place for the first time in accordance with the new European Standard. Overall, the judges' implementation of the standard was viewed positively. However, there was some criticism of a lack of differentiation in the assessment of individual animals. It was emphasised that merits and faults must be assessed consistently in order to accurately highlight the quality of the animals.

Furthermore, during the European Show, there were complaints regarding the awarding of European Master and European Champion titles. In some cases, titles were awarded incorrectly or not awarded at all. However, these issues were quickly resolved in collaboration with the Slovakian Association.

In conclusion, all breeders were once again wished good luck, good health and continued enjoyment of pedigree rabbit breeding.

11. European Standard

Sales are going very well.

12. European show 2025 in Nitra/Slovakia

The 30th European Show, featuring all five sections, and the 6th European Youth Show took place from 4 to 9 November 2025 in Nitra (Slovakia). The event was very well received by breeders overall.

The rabbit section was strongly represented, with around 10,000 animals on display. It was noted that the east-west divide within Europe is increasingly shifting in favour of the Eastern European countries.

Cooperation with the section manager, Maros Sladek, was very positive. Complaints regarding the condition of the enclosures, particularly concerning plastic covers and a lack of bedding, were resolved promptly following complaints. Complaints regarding judging decisions were also quickly resolved in collaboration with the associations involved. All financial obligations, including proceeds from animal sales, judges' fees and payments to the EE, were duly met.

Furthermore, it was reported that discussions between the EE's Chairman with the general secretary and representatives of the Polish association regarding the organisation of the 31st EE Show in Kielce are now in their decisive phase. The outcome of these discussions remains to be seen.

13. Breed specific European shows 2026/2027 (RBES)

Hare Rabbits, Polish and Lothringer
Kaninchen, in France, in 67260 Sarre-Union,
Rue Vincent, d'Indy 4. Salle Polyvalente Corderie
from 05. to 06.12.2026

Thüringer, Sallander and Separator
in Germany, in 47624 Kevelaer, Ottersweg 6,
in Horticultural business Elbers,
from 05. to 06.12.2026

Rex, Little-Rex, Dwarf-Rex, Lop-Rex and Dwarf-Lop,
in Germany, in the city's exhibition halls Pirmasens,
from 11. to 13.12.2026

Rhoen-, Tan-, Perlfeh-, Lynx- and Marburger Feh Rabbits
in Germany, in 07580 Ronneburg
in the Bogenbinderhalle, Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 4
from 09. to 10.01.2027

Hermine, Miniature and Dwarf spotted,
in Czech Republic, in Zahori,
in KTZV Exhibition centre, House Nr. 130
from 23. bis 25.10.2026

White jar-, Rhoen- and Black jar Rabbits
in Germany, at the House of Clubs,
in 09232 Hartmannsdorf, in der Carl-Kirchhof-Str. 27
from 30. to 31.10.2027

Giant-, Silver Rabbits, in Germany, in
18311 Ribnitz-Dammgarten, OT Hirschburg,
Neuklockenhäger Weg 1a, bei den Bernsteinreitern,
from 05. to 07.11.2027

Rex, Little-Rex, Dwarf-Rex, Dwarf-Lop-Rex,
in Belgium, in Lanklaar, from 06. to 07.11.2027

14. Power-Point Presentations

Markus Eber introduced the 'Little Vienna'. In a further presentation, he discussed the different types of rabbit breeds.

15. Which rabbit breeds are new?

At its meeting on 10 July 2021 in Neuhof, the Standards Commission decided that the initiative for recognition must come from the respective countries. It does not make sense to unnecessarily inflate the European standard with breeds that are not shown at European shows. In accordance with the regulations, the breed must be presented once at a European show as a new breed. Furthermore, the breed must be recognised in at least three countries belonging to the European Federation, and an application must be submitted by the respective country.

16. Information on the EE conferences

It was announced that the next EE conference is expected to take place in Kosovo. The exact venue and date are to be announced at a later date.

It was also announced that the next EE exhibition, involving all five departments, is expected to be held in Kielce (Poland). The exact date and place for this are not yet been finalised and will be announced later.

17. Diseases & Animal Welfare – Report from the Animal Welfare Advisory Board

This update will be brief this time, as for the first time this year we are not reporting by department. However, a separate meeting on our topics will take place later today, to which we warmly invite everyone. The committee's main topics – legislation and regulations, animal diseases, husbandry and care, and excessive breed characteristics – will be discussed, and the most recent European show will be assessed in light of these issues.

The report was followed by a discussion on how animal welfare at European shows could be improved.

18. Report from Kaninhop

The EE Kanin-Hop Commission's annual report looked back on an intense and busy year. Alongside numerous tournaments and championships in the individual member countries, the

focus was particularly on referee training, training sessions with members and attracting new people interested in the sport of Kanin-Hop.

The members of the EE Kanin-Hop Commission met four times during the reporting year for online meetings to discuss current issues and organisational matters.

The discussions focused on preparations for the 10th Kanin-Hop European Championships, which are due to take place in Båstad (Sweden) from 9 to 11 October 2026. In particular, the allocation of starting places was discussed. In future, these will no longer be calculated solely on the basis of the membership numbers of the individual nations, but will also take into account the number of starts in the previous year. The aim is to ensure a fairer distribution of the total of 700 possible starting places amongst around 2,500 active Kanin-Hop athletes with approximately 17,500 rabbits.

In addition, the competition rules for the European Championships were agreed upon jointly. Due to differing animal welfare regulations across the various countries, special consideration must be given to national guidelines. For this reason, the judges will also receive specialised training, as the European Championship regulations differ in some respects from the national rules.

A further online meeting has been announced for mid-September, at which the final organisational issues regarding the European Championships are to be clarified.

In conclusion, the EE Kanin-Hop representative, Katharina Wermuth, wished all members continued success and extended an invitation to take part in the European Championships in Sweden.

19. National Show in our own country – Where is it held, and how many rabbits are there?

- Hungary: 14–15 November 2026, Czegled
- Romania: Mid to late November 226, Bucharest
- France: 17–18 January 2027 in Illkirch
- Latvia: 5 November 2026 in Riga
- Lithuania: 15–17 October 2026 in Kaunas
18–20 December 2026 in Kaunas
- Austria: 4–5 December 2026 in Iselburg
- Slovakia: 3–5 September 2026 in Nitra
15–17 September 2026 in Nitra
- Bulgaria: 28 to 29 November 2026 in Shumen
- Germany: 16 to 17 January 2027 in Offenburg
- Czech Republic: 20 to 21 November 2026, Lysa on the Elbe
- Estonia: 28 to 29 November in Petri
- Poland: 12 to 13 December 2026 in Kielce
- Serbia 30 to 31 January 2027 in Sombor
- Switzerland 29 to 30 January 2028 in Thun

20. Elections

Following Rolang Olinger's resignation from his post as Chair of the Standards Commission on grounds of age, Markus Eber from Germany was elected by the Standards Commission to succeed him. This election was unanimously confirmed by the delegates.

Miroslav Gira from Slovakia was elected by the Standards Commission as its Secretary. He was also unanimously confirmed by the delegates.

Following the resignation of Pascal Schmidt from Luxembourg as Secretary for health reasons, the position is now vacant. The deadline for applications is the end of the year.

20. Commission for the Future

During the discussion on the 'Commission for the Future', it was emphasised that one should not, as a matter of principle, be closed to innovation and sensible improvements. However, changes should only be made following careful and objective consideration.

It was pointed out that decisions should not be dictated by the loudest voices. It was also noted that many existing structures and regulations had been developed over decades and should not be called into question as a matter of principle. Changes should therefore be made with a sense of proportion.

It was also mentioned that some proposals may have been developed with extensive use of artificial intelligence. The speaker advocated approaching such developments with caution and subjecting proposed changes to an objective analysis before giving approval.

Finally, the meeting was asked for opinions and comments on this topic. The working group's findings will be announced at a future meeting. Consequently, there is currently insufficient concrete information for further discussion.

22. Suggestions and requests

No inputs.

23. Miscellaneous

The Chair thanked all participants for attending the meeting and asked them to pass on the information and insights gained to their respective home countries. It was emphasised that a smooth flow of information is a key prerequisite for the successful work of the European Association.

Reference was also made once again to the European Association's website, where information, minutes and other announcements are available at any time.

Special thanks were extended to the members of the Standards Commission and to various officers for their cooperative and trusting collaboration. Particular thanks were extended to Urban Hamann, who is stepping down from the Executive Board, for his many years of service on the Executive Board and in the Standards Commission.

Finally, best wishes for their personal futures and good health were extended to Roland Olinger and Urban Hamann. Both have always contributed constructively and were always willing to help. Wolfgang Vogt expressed his sincere thanks to them for this.

Segovia, 15.05.2027

Note-taking:
Markus Eber