**Report general meeting of the Advisory Board for Animal Health and Animal Welfare**

Dear Chairman, dear colleagues on the board, dear fellow breeders,

As you all heard yesterday in the various departments, we in the advisory board continue to work on topics within our area of expertise. Progress is being made, but we are not there yet.

In the area of overtyping, which leads to harmful external characteristics, it is important for the standards commissions to remain critical and make adjustments if necessary. When it comes to animal protection, we are available to provide advice. We live in a time in which public opinions and social developments also play a role in decisions about adaptations to breeds or breeding characteristics with long-standing traditions. A difficult task for the standards committees, but one that should certainly not be avoided.

With regard to animal diseases, we must be clear that bringing large numbers of animals together rightly represents a risk from the legislator's point of view. We must also take this into account when it comes to animal diseases by taking a proactive approach, for example by requiring rabbits to be vaccinated against RHD 1 and 2. This shows that we also attach great importance to animal protection and animal health.

With regard to European legislation, the efforts we have made seem to be having an impact. Following an initial public consultation and discussion in Brussels, some relaxations have been made to TRACES certification, making it much easier and cheaper to register groups of animals at a European exhibition. It is also possible to sell animals to other countries. This ensures that there are no longer any major regulatory obstacles to holding a European show

The recent consultation carried out by the European Union to assess legislation on animal transport has once again resulted in a good response and contact with EU officials shows us that they will work with this information again.

This result is positive, but also opens the way for more. For an organization with millions of breeders as supporters like the EE, 900 responses to a public consultation is not overwhelming. Even if it may be less relevant or necessary for your club, as EE we deserve the trust that you will still take part.

A second, even more important comment here is that we hear from the European Union that it greatly values having one or a few points of contact. In our conversation in February 2023, the EE presented itself as such and communication from Brussels recently confirmed that we are now seen this way too. The call is therefore to involve us as EE, especially the Advisory Board, every time you want to take action regarding European legislation. We as the EE Advisory Board have the opportunity to coordinate, harmonize and thus engage with the European Union in an effective way, without causing frustration among the officials concerned due to the number of repetitive answers. The foundation for this has been laid and can be further expanded.

In this third message that I send to you as President of the Advisory Board, it is my most important appeal for the third time: take an active part in our common mission and share your own experiences with us and with each other as much as possible. Together we are stronger!

Thanks for the attention.