



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY**

Directorate G - Veterinary and International Affairs  
**Director**

Brussels  
SANTE/G2 (2015) 66711

Dear Mr Greeves, Dear Mr Devolz,

**Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions for trade in and imports into the Union of breeding animals and their germinal products**

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2014 addressed to Commissioner Andriukaitis, who has asked me to reply on his behalf. In your letter you requested our help in preventing possible risks for the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry arising, in your understanding, from the above mentioned Commission proposal.

To my information, the Commission, also thanks to the longstanding close collaboration with your organisation, is fully aware of the particular situation of the Thoroughbred breeding and racing and has therefore included in its proposal the specific provisions deemed to be necessary for the protection of this cultural heritage.

In your letter you refer in particular to Article 21, which lays down the acceptance of breeding animals for breeding purposes using natural and assisted reproduction methods. It is our view that through the reference to Article 19, laying down the criteria for entry of breeding animals in the main section of a herd book, this Article 21 permits Thoroughbred breed societies to exclude from entering in the main section of their studbooks those Thoroughbred horses which were produced as a result of assisted reproduction methods, if this contradicts the conditions for entry of breeding animals in the main section of such studbooks.

The conditions for entry into the main section of the studbook set out in Part 1 of Annex II have not changed for equidae compared to the provisions laid down in Commission Decision 96/78/EC, and in particular have maintained the requirement of a covering certificate. The covering certificate is at present the agreed instrument to address the principles set out in Article 4(1) of Council Directive 90/427/EEC, which concur with the concerns raised in your letter.

Mr P. Greeves  
Mr R. Devolz  
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As regards the identification of equidae in accordance with animal health legislation, I wish to remind you that this is a strong request from Member States and has emerged as a sensitive point in the discussions on the new Animal Health Law in Council and Parliament. However, in the proposal for a Regulation on Zootechnics there is a possibility for breed societies to accept the delegation, provided for in that law, from the competent veterinary authorities to identify equidae they enter in their studbooks.

Concluding, I should like to reassure you that the Commission follows closely the legislative process and will continue to do so. On several occasions our staff has already defended the specific requirements for the breeding of certain livestock and equine breeds, including the Thoroughbreds, in the working parties of the Council and also the relevant Committee in the European Parliament took care of the Thoroughbred breeding along the lines of your letter.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard Van Goethem