



**Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture**

**EE**

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

# EE-Documentation



**Entente Européenne d'Aviculture  
et de Cuniculture EE**

**European Association of Poultry, Pigeon, Cage Bird,  
Rabbit and Cavy Breeders  
Founded in 1938**

**Domicile in Luxembourg**

**26 Nations comprising 2,5 million members**

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# 1. Introduction to the Entente Européenne EE

The EE was founded in 1938. The Executive consists of 11 members.

Domicile of the association is in Berchem/Luxembourg

The management of the association is bound by the Constitution of the 'EE', that was amended and approved in Piestany/SK on 19. May 2007.

## Structure of the Association

- EE-Executive
- The Sections: Poultry, Pigeons, Cage Birds, Rabbits and Cavies
- The Sub Committee for Animal Health and Welfare

## Affiliated member states

2,5 millions members from the following 26 countries are affiliated to the Entente Européenne EE:

Austria / Belgium / Bosnia-Herzegovina / Bulgaria / Croatia / Czech Republic  
Denmark / England / France / Germany / Hungary / Italy / Latvia / Luxembourg  
Netherlands / Norway / Poland / Portugal / Rumania / Russia / Serbia / Slovakia  
Slovenia / Spain / Sweden / Switzerland

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## 2. Responsibilities

### Objectives

As a charitable and non party political and non denominational organisation, it is the objective of the EE to unite all small livestock organisations in Europe. The object of our organisation is also, apart from enhancing the contact amongst nations, to process the technical and breeding problems of all indigenous breeds. A further object includes taking charge of shows and judging panels.

Organising shows and seminars as well as dealing with all technical issues unites all European small livestock fanciers, which is a high priority within our organisation.

### Integration of rural cultures and traditions

The many small livestock shows in all parts of Europe create an excellent opportunity for urban citizens to gain an insight into rural cultures. Most shows incorporate the old regional poultry, pigeon and rabbit breeds. In times where city dwellers are progressively losing contact with the countryside and its cultures, these shows are of major importance to us.

### Preservation of the biodiversity of small livestock and the centuries' old poultry, pigeon, rabbit and cavy breeds as cultural assets.

For centuries, European small livestock breeders have looked after an immense array of breeds and species, thus guaranteeing the preservation of these valuable cultural assets. Following the 1992 Environmental Conference in Rio de Janeiro, the preservation of genetic resources of animals and plants has attained a very high status.

Without the commitment of small livestock breeders throughout Europe, many traditional breeds would have been lost by now. Their shapes and multi-coloured patterns give man a huge source of pleasure.

It is a well known fact that our breeds, especially the traditional poultry and pigeon breeds are present in many paintings of the old masters as well as in literature, either in books or chronicles.

The standard committees of the individual sections make sure that the breed descriptions conform to the demands as laid down by the animal welfare bodies. Long before animal welfare organisations took up these issues, our affiliated associations had already appointed sub committees that were taking care of all animal health and welfare issues

## **Supporting juvenile members**

Most affiliated member states within the European Association place a high value on the support and encouragement of juvenile members. This does not only guarantee future generations for our hobby, but more importantly offer children meaningful leisure time activities in which they learn how to appreciate nature and to deal with animals. It teaches them respect for animals and the responsibility of looking after them. At the same time, it also teaches them biological correlations and scientific knowledge.

These positive characteristics will remain with them throughout their lives.

It goes without saying that the our juvenile members are very far removed from drugs' cultures and criminal environments.

It was decided at the 2002 Annual General Meeting in Malmö that juveniles (4 to 18 years of age) could participate at the 2006 European Show in Leipzig for the first time in a specially created Juvenile European Show.

The incorporation of juvenile members in the European Association is one of our highest priorities.

## **Education – Cooperation with schools**

More and more, members of our associations are invited into local schools. There they compile educational programmes in close cooperation with the teaching staff. Alternatively, visits to small livestock breeders' premises are arranged for pupils.

The Swiss National Small Livestock Association has put together two teaching programmes for primary schools. This gives teachers the opportunity to offer their pupils a perfectly constructed syllabus about rabbits and pigeons.

## **Animal Health and Welfare Committee**

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting in France, a sub committee for animal health and welfare was set up on which five proven professionals serve. The president of this sub committee is currently Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille from Germany.

The sub committee attends to all veterinary issues, animal welfare and breed specific husbandry. In order to bring these issues to the attention of a wide ranging population, the president of the sub committee works closely together with the EU authorities.

A close link has also been forged with the scientific fowl institute of the German Poultry and Pigeon Association in Sinsteden near Cologne. The EE has taken the responsibility of getting as many affiliated associations to support and sponsor this valuable scientific institution

## **Uniting people from all levels of society**

Our joint leisure activities involving small livestock brings people from all age groups and levels of society together. Whether it concerns juveniles or pensioners, entrepreneurs, academics or employees –in our hobby all participants are equal. They are united by their joint enjoyment and love for animals and the friendly contact between small livestock breeders.

Breeding small livestock very often becomes a hobby in which the whole family participates uniting parents and their children. Success can be jointly celebrated and set-backs are jointly endured.

For pensioners our hobby forms a valuable purpose in life after their professional job. For full time workers our hobby constitutes a welcome escape from the stress of daily life.

More and more countries from eastern Europe are affiliating to our association. So far Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria have entered the EE, and other countries have already applied for affiliation.

The keeping and breeding of small livestock contributes on a large scale to the currently very difficult daily life of these people.

The EE is therefore able to help with the rebuilding of these countries and the re-unification of their populations.

# 1. Activities

## Management of the Association

The Executive meets at least twice a year.

Once every year, the EE convention, which includes the Annual General Meeting, is held from Ascension Day through to the following Sunday. The convention is usually attended by around 150 delegates from all affiliated countries.

Members of the Executive also attend shows and meetings that are held in its member states. These visits enable us to discuss problems on the spot and offer support in any form.

## Shows and Exhibitions

A European Show is held every three years under the patronage of the EE. European Shows attract up to 50.000 exhibits from all five sections. The next European Show will be held in Nitra, Slovakia from 20. to 22. November 2009.

Specialist breed clubs from numerically strong breeds organise breedspecific European shows in the interim years at which up to 3.000 exhibits from one breed are exhibited.

These breedspecific European shows are allocated at the Annual General Meeting to the relevant host organisations.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the organisers of these European shows are facing almost insoluble financial problems. Shows of this calibre can only be staged in exhibition centres, but the rental more than often exceeds our means. The entry fees and other costs for the exhibitors have to be kept relatively modest, as it would deny especially our members from eastern Europe from participating at such events.

Unfortunately, the EE is unable to offer any financial support to the organisers.

## Judging seminars for European breeds

The individual sections organise at least one international judges' seminar per annum. These seminars are held mainly to achieve an alignment of all breeds as well as a uniform international interpretation of the breed standards.

The basics of the breed standards are compiled by the EE standards committees and then passed on to the standards committees of the member states.

In order to obtain an identical judgment and interpretation of the European standard, it is imperative to hold a seminar for all European judges at least once a year. Financial help is urgently required, especially for those judges that originate from the financially weaker countries; as lack of funds makes it impossible for these judges to attend the seminars.

## 2. Economic Factors

It should be stressed at this stage that 2.5 million European small livestock breeders constitute an impressive economic potential, which is primarily expressed in the following areas:

- a) Turnover in animal feeds
- b) Turnover in vitamins and minerals
- c) Turnover in veterinary care
- d) Turnover in equipment and accessories
- e) Turnover in housing equipment
- f) Turnover at shows and exhibitions

**Projections across all animal genera have resulted in the following figures:**

<b>Turnover in animal feeds</b>	€	3.40 Bn
Pellets, Mixed feeds, 6.8 million tons		
<b>Turnover in vitamins and minerals</b>	€	0.20 Bn
<b>Turnover in veterinary care</b>	€	0.38 Bn
Vaccines, Medicines, Vets' consultations		
<b>Turnover in equipment and accessories</b>	€	0.43 Bn
Transport vehicles for racing pigeons, Travelling boxes, Furnishings and Fittings		
<b>Turnover in housing equipment</b>	€	0.55 Bn
<b>Turnover at shows and exhibitions</b>	€	0.50 Bn
Hall rentals, Administrations, Catering		
<b>Total</b>	€	<b>5.60 Bn</b>

These figures do not include any non-organised small livestock breeders, so that the total turnover from the small livestock sector is substantially higher

Finally, there is the turnover connected to printing, e.g. exhibition catalogues, magazines, folders and promotional flyers. The turnover on printing can quite easily be estimated at another two to three million euros.

### **3. Financing problems**

The financial circumstances of the European Association do unfortunately not allow any financial support of the important and valuable activities that our organisation undertakes.

#### **Support from the EU**

Over the last two years, the European Association for small livestock breeders has tried to secure financial support from the EU for our activities and objectives.

This documentation shows quite clearly that the 2.5 million European small livestock breeders perform a grand and important task in our society. The European Association is therefore convinced that it is possible to negotiate some form of financial support with the EU.

With this in mind, we hope to create a sound financial basis for the European Association to operate on, so that various tasks can be tackled and suitably financed.

## 4. General Information

### Patronage by the EU

All European shows are held under the patronage of the EU or the relevant ministries of the host nations.

### Summary

You will probably have realised that the problems of the European small livestock breeders and their organisations are quite considerable. The EE endeavours to come up with the best possible qualifications in all areas, so that important contributions from our members can be effectively supported.

We would like to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your time and interest. We are convinced that our joint efforts will greatly benefit not only our association and the animals in our care, but more importantly the human community as a whole.

Entente Européenne EE

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