



Presidents report 2021

Entente Européenne – quo vadis – where are you going ?

A pandemic, increasingly restrictive animal welfare regulations, new EU regulations, the Europe Show 2027 already returned - life is really not made easy for us small animal breeders.

It is nice that we can all meet again today, direct the fate of our association together, exchange experiences and cultivate camaraderie. However, the points mentioned at the beginning do not make it easy for our association. Yes, they even question the existence of EE!

Epidemics such as we have been experiencing for almost two years not only prevent gatherings like this one, they also make exhibitions impossible. When these can no longer be organised, many will say goodbye to small animal breeding.

Should the EU regulation 688 actually come into force at the end of October, the bar for international exhibitions will be raised so high that hardly anyone is willing to bear the costs of participating in an international exhibition. And with that there would probably no longer be a Europe show, and indeed no more breed-specific Europe shows.

In my home country, the authorities have now decided on much more restrictive conditions for exhibitions:

- The COM-1 cages at bird shows have been banned
- The 40cm pigeon cages were also banned and a perch must now be installed in each cage.
- With the rabbits, a third of the front of the cage must be covered as a retreat - a higher level resting place is recommended at first - what is recommended, however, will soon become mandatory.



- The worst hit is the poultry. A perch in the exhibition cage is a must. Except for the front, everything must be covered, with ornamental fowl even half of the front. Waterfowl, turkeys and guineafowl are no longer allowed to be exhibited individually and only in aviaries that are 2x2 meters in size. Bathing facilities must also be made available for waterfowl. Imagine the mess that arises when the geese and ducks go for a swim and the smell that creates in the wet litter. So the water has to be changed every day and the litter replaced. One can imagine what nagging arises when a stranger does the work in the aviary. That is what our "superiors" want - for the benefit of the animals! It is a shame that at the top of the authorities there are often pure desk philosophers who have no idea about the practice. The fact that you don't have to put a laying nest in the chicken cages was just about averted.

Holland has already returned the Europe Show in 2027. The uncertain epidemic situation and ever tougher national and EU regulations prevent planning security for them, which is why they prefer not to host the European Show 2027 now. This also raises the question of whether major events such as a European show will still be possible in the future? Or will there then only be section-specific or breed-specific Europe Shows?

If no more Europe shows can be carried out, the EE lacks the financial basis. That is why the Presidium is thinking about possible savings that could be made.

- Should the presidium be downsized?
- Should the Europe meeting be shortened by one day, as it was this year?
- Do we need to simplify the statutes and create possibility for "section" Europe shows ore other?

The Presidium has already discussed these matters and others and this will keep us busy over the next few months.



So, I haven't been able to tell you much positive so far. But it is the job of a president to motivate the members and not to make them see everything in dark way!

So let's look forward to the fact that next year's European show in Kielce, Poland, seems to be secure and the preparations for the 2024 European show are underway in the Czech Republic.

And we are especially happy about our animals. Happy are those who have been able to enjoy their animals every day over the past few months. They don't care about constitutions, they don't look forward to a Europe show and they don't know how important they are to us either. But hopefully they will feel it, because we give them the best possible life and we cherish and care for them every day. And it's actually a shame that they don't know what nonsensical decisions our politicians sometimes make. They pride themselves on protecting biodiversity, preserving genetic resources and preserving old rural cultural assets. Sometimes however we do not only have to read their decisions but also implement them.

Let's not up with everything from them, let's confront them with their own catchphrases, let's fight for our concerns and let's not accept all the regulations without discussion. We don't just do this for ourselves and our animals. We should, must do everything we can to ensure that small animals can still be bred and exhibited in 20 and 30 years' time!

Fighting for our concerns, fighting for the breeding of small animals, that's what I want from all of us, so that we can say not only today, but also in 50 years' time, that WE have preserved the small animal biodiversity, the genetic resources and the old rural cultural assets.

Long live small animal breeding, long live the Entente Européenne!