

Competition horse session:

- All shipments (for whatever purpose) must comply with article 3 of Regulation 1/2005 in terms of not causing suffering not harm
- The definition of “Economic activity” in the current regulations is causing problems, particularly for equine charities needing to move animals. The delegates call upon the European Commission to re-define “Economic” in the legislation, or failing that to issue Community guidelines on the interpretation.
- Whilst delegates accepted that legally the definition of a “Registered Horse” is clear, they were unanimous that in practice “registered “ is being confused with “identified”, and that this is presenting a significant threat to equine welfare and biosecurity, and undermining the tripartite agreement. To address these problems, delegates propose that:
 - All registered horses of all ages must be microchipped, with an unique equine life number
 - All European control posts must be equipped with microchip scanners and horses must be scanned as they pass through them
 - All EU abattoirs must scan horses to identify them by their microchip at the time of slaughter
 - A central European database which can communicate with all national databases must be established so that horses can be accurately traced and identified via their microchips. Ideally, this centralised database would be run by the European Commission, but an alternative would be to have a charity run it, as is done for dogs.