

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1580/02

by Jan Mulder (ELDR) and Maria Sanders-ten Holte (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Restrictions on participation of foreign horses in competitions in France

Directives 90/427¹ and 90/428² are intended to improve the functioning of the internal market in equidae, particularly with regard to trade and participation in competitions.

1. Is it true that certain horses not registered in France cannot participate (or cannot fully participate) in all competitions organised in France, which is a violation of Article 3 of Directive 90/428?
2. Is it true that both the French studbooks use registration criteria (including non-recognition of sires and dams registered abroad) which do not accord with the principles referred to in Article 4 of Directive 90/427?
3. Is it correct that the procedures for registering foreign horses with the French registration office SIRE cause very long delays, thus impeding the functioning of the internal market and participation in competitions? Is it correct that this office keeps the birth certificates of foreign horses?
4. Is it correct that other European studbooks are recognised in France only subject to certain extra conditions, i.e. conditions additional to those provided for by Directive 90/427?

If the answer to any of the above questions is affirmative, what will the Commission do about this, and how soon?

¹ OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 55.

² OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 60.