

BREXIT AND EUROPEAN RACING – BRIEFING NOTE

The British racing industry

- The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is the governing and regulatory body for thoroughbred horseracing in Great Britain – the country's **second largest sport** by:
 - **Attendances** – **5.77 million** attendees at over **1,500** fixtures held at **60** racecourses (**52** in England, **5** in Scotland and **3** in Wales), with **four of the top ten** attended sports events in the UK
 - **Revenues generated** – Annual expenditure of **£3.45 billion**, a tax contribution of **£300 million** and a lever for multi-billion pound trade – including significant foreign direct investment – into the UK annually
 - **Employment** – Over **17,400 FTE** employment in the industry including approximately **450** jockeys, **550** trainers and **6,500** stable staff

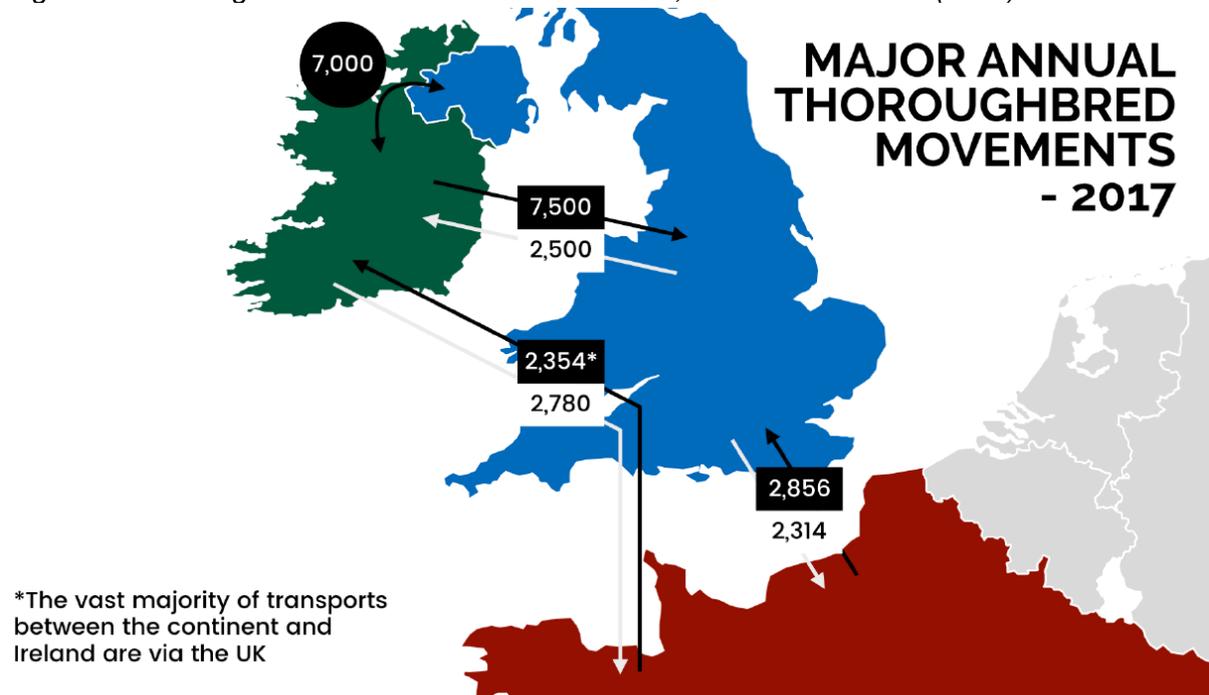
The European thoroughbred racing and breeding industry

- The European thoroughbred horseracing sector has an annual economic impact of **€12 billion** and directly employs **155,000** people in a variety of roles
- Some **22,000** thoroughbred foals are bred annually across the European continent, with an estimated **€760 million** worth of thoroughbred sales each year, including a significant amount of exports to third countries
- The industry is fully integrated across the continent with essential interdependencies – including standardised Stud Book conditions, a common Stud Book between Ireland and Great Britain, and harmonised Rules of Racing
- Examples of these interdependencies include:

Horse movements

- **26,000+** annual thoroughbred movements between Great Britain, Ireland and France for racing, breeding and sales purposes using the Tripartite Agreement (TPA)

Figure 1 – Thoroughbred movements between Britain, Ireland and France (2017)



Breeding and sales

- **52%** of annual Irish thoroughbred foal crop is exported to Great Britain – some **80%** of overall exports
- **50%** of exports annual French thoroughbred exports are to Great Britain

The implications of Brexit for British and European racing, and our industry's response

- British racing has established a Thoroughbred Industries Steering Group responsible for assessing the opportunities (particularly trade with the Middle East) and challenges presented by Brexit for our sector – working closely with our French and Irish counterparts

- Our industry's three main priorities from Brexit are to:
 1. *Maintain the free movement of the Thoroughbred horse within Europe*
 - Thoroughbred horseracing and breeding's continued growth is predicated on the ability to move racehorses as freely as possible for competition and breeding while, crucially, maintaining the highest levels of animal health and biosecurity
 - Central to this movement is the Tripartite Agreement (TPA), in place since the 1960s and a derogation from EU Animal Health legislation, which facilitates the movement of horses with high health status – including “thoroughbreds used for racing, breeding, in training or moving to a sale” – between the United Kingdom, France and Ireland
 - There are clear and damaging equine welfare, logistical and financial implications if free movement of thoroughbreds is compromised post-Brexit
 - The UK Government “expects” that the TPA in its present form will continue during the proposed Implementation Period following any ratified Withdrawal Agreement until December 2020
 - In the longer-term, we are working with the European Commission regarding a new High Health Horse status (3H) being established within the EU's Animal Health Law to ensure continued thoroughbred and sport-horse movement beyond December 2020
 - If 3H status is not included, the proposed legislation is inadequate in meeting the future needs of the integrated thoroughbred industry, regardless of the future relationship with the UK
 2. *Ensure there are common movement, transport, health, welfare, Zootechnical and equine ID policies across Europe to the highest standards*
 - There are a range of measures across equine health, identification, transport and zootechnical regulations which will need to be replicated and/or enhanced under UK legislation beyond Brexit – including most notably recognition of the Weatherbys Stud Book
 3. *As far as possible, ensure the free movement of people working within the Thoroughbred industry*
 - It is critically important for British racing and breeding to have appropriate access to the best talent from the international racing industry – **11%** of the British racing workforce are from EEA countries

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