



Dear Delegates,

This newsletter should have been sent already in December 2018, however, due to some delays, I am sending it early 2019.

So let me, first of all, wish you a Happy New Year. May your dreams come true and may the year 2019 be a healthy, happy, peaceful and a successful one.

A review of the past year shows us that, again, 2018 was full of activities and innovations. Let me give you a short overview on what happened during the past 12 months and also on what is supposed to happen in the near future.

The focus was clearly on the MLAIC World Championships in Eisenstadt/Austria which were held in August 2018. However, prior to that event we were faced with some unforeseen problems which were quite complicated and quite time consuming.

The first barrier that had to be overcome was a new European law concerning the protection of private data which came into force on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018. It was agreed between MLAIC and the hosting Austrian Federation that, due to the short time frame, we shall inform shooters and officials only by a short note in their "participant documents". Separately, we published this information in many places open to the public.

In future, we shall have a note on our registration forms that all participants of an MLAIC event declare their consent that their data (i.e. names, countries, results, fire arms, loads, photographs etc.) may be published or made available to third parties.

The second problem was that we have been contacted by the Austrian NADA (somewhere by end of May/beginning of June) asking for a confirmation that we are WADA signatories. This could, unfortunately, not be confirmed as we, even though we declare in our rules that we are supporters of the WADA as well as the WAD-Code, are no signatories. This information was, however, very disturbing with regard to the planning of the whole event. The fact that the MLAIC World Championship has financially been supported by the Austrian Government required a "membership" in the WADA, or respectively in the GAISF. After innumerable telephone conversations and after we found out that, for the time being, it is not possible for MLAIC to be a WADA signatory and therefore doping samples cannot be taken(!), we agreed to organize an official "Doping-Prevention-Measure" organized by Dr. Triska from the Vienna University (cooperation with NADA Austria).

This presentation was made on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 prior to the first competition day of the World Championship in Eisenstadt. This event was mandatory for all delegates. It was very well attended.

The hope was that the Austrian Government will accept this measure instead of doping controls.



As a result of this situation, however, we (all the delegates) agreed to make an electronic voting concerning the introduction of an "Anti-Doping-Committee" in MLAIC. This electronic voting was started on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 and ended September 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. The voting was very clear. 23 delegates (out of 29) voted in time (1 delegate answered too late - 5 delegates did not answer). All answers given were YES. Therefore, we shall install an MLAIC Anti-Doping-Committee. The names of the three responsible people of this Committee will be published on our website in a short while. Their tasks will be incorporated in our rules.

The World Championship itself went very well. The organization was very good. A few minor problems could be sorted out easily. The participants' feedback was wholly positive. Once again, thanks a lot to Herbert Wagner, Robert Szuppin, Alois Litschmann and the rest of the team who organized the whole event.

In 2019, there will be two Zone Championships. One of them will be the Pacific Zone hosted and organized by South Africa, namely by our friend, Dr. Corena de Beer and team and the European Zone hosted by Hungary, namely by our friend Balázs Nemeth and his team. Besides that, we shall have the MLAIC Long Range World Championship in Bisley/UK hosted by our British friends, namely by John Whitaker and team.

Thanks a lot, already in advance, to all of these people who are involved in the organization of those events.

As already announced, we had an electronic voting on two more events in the future. This was the European Zone Championship in 2023 which will be held in France in their new National Shooting Centre (Châteauroux-Déols). Secondly, USA will organize the MLAIC World Championship in 2024 (exact place still to be decided). Presentations of these two championships will be made during the delegates meeting in 2021 in Germany.

A complete list of MLAIC championships of the next five years will be published on our website soon.

Apropos website!

Our website will be adapted a little bit more to our needs and will be updated at more frequent intervals in the future.

We are still negotiating with one or two additional webmasters in order to guarantee a good service also in future.

Now, let me, once again, wish all of you a happy and successful year 2019. In case of any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ramón or the members of the MLAIC Commission at any time.

All the best to all of you!

**GERHARD LANG**

Secretary General of the:

***Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation***