



Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation

Newsletter no. 149 - January, 2024

Dear Delegates, Dear friends,

Let me, traditionally, wish all of you a happy, a successful and a healthy New Year 2024.

When I wrote the circular letter 2022 early February 2023, all of us have been happy that Covid 19 has quite successfully been fought and meanwhile been under control (more or less).

However, a new danger appeared exactly in those days, the Russian-Ukrainian War. We were all hoping that this will soon be over and we shall find a way back to a peaceful Europe. Unfortunately, this thinking or better this hope was a huge error and this war is, in the meantime, heavier than anyone of us would have thought.

In addition to that, a new war began in Israel. The development of this new war is also very frightening as there are, meanwhile, also other countries and governments involved.

Let us hope that these military threads will soon be history and not grow bigger and bigger!

Let me now come to the official MLAIC sports events of the year 2023.

MLAIC European Championships short range 2023 in Châteauroux Déols, France:

Between July 30th and August 6th, 2023 the French Shooting Federation, FFTir, hosted the 19th MLAIC European Championships in short range muzzle-loader shooting. I believe, that I can say that most of the shooters were overwhelmed by the almost brand new and really large shooting range.

Our hosts were very friendly and courteous and, although there were minor problems in the beginning which have been solved immediately, the organization was very good. This could also be seen by the good results (result lists on our MLAIC website available).

Thanks a lot to all people of the FFTir who have been involved in the organization as well as in the conduct of this championship!

MLAIC World Championships long range 2023 in Veszprém, Hungary:

This championship was hosted by the Hungarian Federation between August 27th and September 3rd, 2023. The Hungarian team, which had already hosted the World Cup 2022 using the new camera system, had already a lot of experience using this new technology. Compared with the traditional way of showing the impacts by people standing in the butts, pulling targets and showing the impacts "manually" on the targets, this new system detects the impacts via camera systems. The system turned out to be very reliable and therefore, it has been bought by MLAIC. This means that from now on, it can also be rent out to every



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national federation who is interested in hosting such events. The only prerequisite is a shooting range which goes up to 1,000 metres or yards.

I am quite sure that in most countries there are shooting ranges (probably mostly military ranges) which would allow to host such international long range events.

The World Championship itself has again been organized perfectly well and the shooters were happy to be there. Our hosts, the Hungarian team, got up very early in the morning to install the targets and the cameras in the correct distance and went back home late in the evening as the targets had to be protected against (partly) heavy thunderstorms. Let me thank all of them for their outstanding service! All the results can also be seen on our website.

MLAIC Pacific Zone Championships short rang - postal match 2023:

Last but not least, let me express my gratitude to our South African friends for organizing the PZC. Understandably, this competition is extending over a longer period as one must try to create the maximum of equal opportunities for all shooters participating coming from both, the southern and the northern hemisphere. The results of this competition will soon be available on our website.

Whilst all this is already "past history", let us have a look at 2024 and future events.

MLAIC World Championships short range 2024 in Valeggio sul Mincio, Italy:

From August 25th through August 31st, we shall have the 30th MLAIC World Championships short range in Valeggio sul Mincio, Italy. All the details; such as invitation, forms, deadlines etc. can be found on our website (competitions - 2024). In case of further questions, the organizing team will, of course, be happy to support you to the best of their ability.

As there will be a completely new range, the Italian team is still working there. In April, there will be the possibility to have a first test shoot on these new premises as the Italian team will organize the Grand Prix d'Italia there, which is, at the same time, the general test for the World Championships. All details can be found on our website as well.

Please look at MLAIC website: Competitions - 2024

There, you will find all necessary information on the two Grand Prix (Austria and Italy) as well as on the World Championships.

MLAIC European Championships short range 2025in Portugal:

So far, we don't have many details. We shall inform you at a later stage (possible in Italy).



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I suppose/hope that the Pacific Zone Championships 2025 will again be organized by our friends from South Africa (Corena ☺).

Please let me point out that for the MLAIC World Championships long range 2025 and for the MLAIC World Championships short rang 2026, there are, so far, no hosting nations.

Interested national federation should please send their applications - if possible until May this year (latest of course until the delegates meeting in Italy). Thanks a lot in advance.

Any other application for future events; i.e. championships after 2025/2026 are also welcome.

Well, let me summarize the events/championships which are planned so far:

World Championships short range	2024	Italy
European Championships short range	2025	Portugal
Pacific Zone Championships short range	2025	organized by South Africa
World Championships long range	2025	USA (?)
		(still to be confirmed)

At present, we are also re-organizing some committees such as:

Small **A**rms **C**ommittee,

Shot **G**un **C**ommittee.

Anti **D**oping **C**ommittee.

The **L**ong **R**ange **C**ommittee will remain as it is.

The **L**ead **B**an **C**ommittee will remain as it is.

In a few days, the members of the various Committees will be published on our website.

In case of special proposals, please let us know.

As it was decided to send the proposals of any decisions made by the SAC to the delegates for their final decision, I shall send you various SAC reports for your approval within the next days. This is done similar to an electronic vote.

Only upon your final approval (simple majority is enough) it will be decided by the S.G. to publish these reports on the MLAIC website. Now the decision is valid!

Let me, at this point, once again make clear that such decisions, made by the delegates, must be based on historical data and not on "political" reasons.



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Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for your friendship, for your support, for your friendly words etc. during the last ten years. In 2014 I was proud to be elected as a member of the MLAIC Commission, two years later in 2016 you gave me your trust and your confidence when you elected me Secretary General of MLAIC.

I hope that you have never been disappointed by me. Although, I am sure that I also made mistakes during the years, I hope that these mistakes were never really serious. One thing, I can promise you at this point: "they were never personal"!

By writing this, I would like to inform you that, during the next World Championships in Italy, I shall stand back from my office as Secretary General.

Personal reasons (health etc.) forced me to make this decision. In the light of these circumstances, I feel that I cannot fully concentrate on the comprehensive work of a Secretary General any more. There is a good proverb: "when you stop trying to be better, you stop being good".

I sincerely hope that you will appreciate my decision and I can promise you to do my best to organize a "smooth transition".

Besides that, I can promise you to do my utmost to support MLAIC and my successor also in the future.

The agenda for our delegates meeting 2024 in Italy will be prepared within the next three to four months. Please send me all items which you would like to discuss/decide until end of April at the latest. Please back up your proposals (in case of need) with pictures, drawings etc. to make absolutely clear what you desire.

Well, that is it for the moment.

Let me, once again, wish all of you a happy, healthy and successful year 2024.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ramón or the members of the MLAIC Commission at any time.

My best wishes to all of you!

Gerhard Lang

Secretary General of the:

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation