



Dear Delegates,

The 27<sup>th</sup> MLAIC-world-championships in Sarlóspuzsta/Hungary are now already past and we are looking towards a fascinating future. However, before doing so, let me have a short look back to this fantastic event.

Although it has been said several times, let me once again repeat my appreciation for the organization of this event by our Hungarian friends notably, Mr. Balázs Nemeth.

He and his team did such a great job, not only by organizing an important shooting event, but also by making us feel comfortable. It was an astonishing experience for me to see how a relatively small group of enthusiasts/friends can make such an event unforgettable. There might have been some minor problems or some difficult challenges, however, they found a quick solution at any time. There might, nevertheless, be one or the other shooter who has not been happy with one or the other decision – but please consider that in such situations, solutions must be made in a moment in order to not lose time and in order to keep things running. This means that one or the other decision might not be particularly fortunate, but none of the decisions have been made against shooters. And I am convinced that everybody has learned a lot and in future we shall make other mistakes. We are all human beings. The level/amount of complaints, however, shows us that most of the work has been done incredibly well. Thanks again!

But also for me this event was an important stage in my “shooter’s life”. You have placed your trust in me and you elected me as your Secretary General. I must admit that I am really proud of this sign of confidence and I can promise you that I shall do my utmost to meet the demands imposed by this office. Whenever you have problems or proposals, please feel free to contact me at any time. I shall try to support you by either answering directly to your letters/emails or by forwarding your enquiry to one of our competent commissions.

What will be our work in the near future?

First of all, we must build new commissions such as the “Small Arms Commission”, the “Shotgun Commission” etc.

Therefore, if you knew somebody in your national federations who has/have special skills or special knowledge about antique fire arms, please let me have their names and contact details. We shall be glad contacting them and ask for their support.

What shall we do concerning the registration of MLAIC in Switzerland?

At present, we are working on the amendment of Part A – Constitution in order to bring it in line with the requirements of Swiss law. At this point, let me thank again our Swiss delegate, Mrs. Louis van Greunen, who dedicated an enormous amount of time - within her often tight time frames – and worked out what is supposed to be necessary for this registration. Great job, Louise – Thanks a lot!



At the same time, we are checking where exactly we shall register in Switzerland. There seem to be two alternatives at present. We shall let you know in due course.

What shall we do with regard to fire arms control?

We are just starting a program where we would like to collect as many information as possible - first on military fire arms. We do already have hundreds of data sets and are now looking on "how best get these information in a data base". This data base should then be available during any kind of championships and scrutineers shall have direct access to them. By doing so, we hope that there will be a consistent quality of scrutiny and also less experienced scrutineers will be prepared to work in the fire arms controls in future. Possible claims can also be handled immediately.

How shall we proceed with the former problems with reproduction fire arms?

There is no solution, which covers all contingencies, however, we are trying to eliminate as much as possible loopholes and to establish useful documentations on weapons and weapon components as well as on accessories which might be used in MLAIC shooting events.

The question of military fire arms (see above) will be "covered" soon. Concerning the problem of civilian fire arms, some more time will be needed. So far, we decided in the delegates meeting to allow weapons or weapon components which were contemporary at the time of their making; i.e. no modern style. This decision gives us a certain space, however, knowing that we shall not allow everything that has been produced within the last 45 years. Nevertheless, shooters can certainly live with that decision. We are – at least to a certain extend – in line with the ideas of the MLAIC founding fathers without destroying a fortune spent by our shooters. Despite that decision, which looks very "open" at first glance, it will certainly be necessary to establish rules and manuals which describe what was "contemporary"!

The problem with the design and the components of matchlock fire arms will be treated parallel. Due to the fact that there is not much literature available, it will be comparatively more difficult to establish clear rules. However, we are already in contact with Japanese specialists and we shall contact several European museums asking them for support. I hope that, at the end of the day, we shall have covered the major part of matchlock fire arms as well.

Well, this is an excerpt of what we intend to do in the near future (or better: in the years to come). Certainly, a lot of work! However, it is our hobby and therefore it cannot be considered as work – can it?

I shall send you another newsletter towards the end of the year. At that time, we shall probably have re-written our rules and regulations and hopefully be able to tell news about the registration etc. -

**GERHARD LANG**

Secretary General of the:

***Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation***