



Dear Delegates,

First of all, let me wish all of you a happy New Year 2020. May it be a successful but, above all, a healthy and a peaceful one.

This newsletter no. 145 should keep you informed about all important events that happened during 2019, a very busy year, filled with sport activities as well as administrative tasks. At the same time, it might give you a taste of things to come in 2020.

Let me start with our sport activities in 2019.

There were two Zone Championships (European and Pacific) which were carried out in two different, but well-known formats, shoulder to shoulder and postal.

The European Zone Championship was organized and hosted by the Hungarian Black Powder Federation at Sarlóspuzsta, the place where we had our World Championships in 2016. Again, the event was very well organized and the European member federations found a well prepared shooting range. There were no major problems and the championships was carried out in a very friendly and sporting atmosphere. Many thanks to our Hungarian delegate, Mr. Balázs Nemeth who, again was the head of the organization. However, our thanks also go to the innumerable helpers not mentioned here and finally to the national officials who made it possible to organize such a high-class sporting event.

This year, random controls of fire arms and equipment were made after the shooting for the first time. During these controls, no infringements of the rules were detected. As such random controls are foreseen in our rules, it has been discussed and decided to continue with this system in the future.

The Pacific Zone Championship, as a postal championship, produced its own challenges and demands. Our special thanks go to the South African Federation, above all to Dr. Corena de Beer, who were ready to "host" and to organize this event. Let me, at this point, also thank all the national organizers of our member federations for their support in organizing the decentralized shooting competitions.

A third major event was the MLAIC Long Range World Championship, this year held again on the NRA-ranges at Bisley/UK. After some initial problems (concerning the target sizes) had been resolved, decisions had to be made concerning the time schedule of the shootings. The usual scheduling of events was not possible given the target availability during the week, however, during the team captains' meeting a solution was found that everybody could live with.

During the meeting of the long range delegates (not an official MLAIC meeting!), several issues on long range shooting (rule changes) were discussed which are still to be worded.



These proposals, including electronic or optical scoring, which might be necessary for future LR shooting competitions, will be worded and circulated by mail for electronic vote at a later stage.

Let me, at this point, thank the MLAGB for hosting and organizing this event, and to the NRA-GB for their support and help, especially Mr. John Whittaker who was the responsible person within the MLAGB. A very well organized event, indeed!

With regard to administrative tasks, several issues have been on our agenda 2019 and partly remain on the 2020 agenda.

One issue was the "Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017" amending "Council Directive 91/477/EEC" on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons. This Directive had to be integrated into National Law of the EC Member Countries (normally) by September 2018, however, by December 14th 2019 at the latest. We were fighting against certain provisions of this Directive concerning black powder firearms as we did not clearly see, what our sport, using muzzle loader fire arms, has to do with terrorism and with crime. At the end of the day, not all EC member countries did integrate (or integrate entirely) this new directive.

It would be interesting to know from our European member federations which countries did integrate this directive to which extent? Your feed-back would be highly appreciated.

Another issue, the mutually agreed General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on May 25, 2018, and was designed to modernise laws that protect the personal information of individuals. We have given information to our European member federations to send, along with the entry documents for Championships, a sheet which every shooter and every official must sign. This sheet says that any personal data related to that championship, such as e.g. names of shooters, nationalities, results, rankings, photos etc., may be used by the MLAIC and by their member federations for the specific purpose of such shooting events. This item has also been integrated into our rules and statutes.

The issue "Anti-Doping", unfortunately, takes a little bit longer as there are still some other "influences" to be checked before we can integrate this item into our MLAIC-statutes. We do hope that this can be resolved within the next few weeks/months. When this has been completed, it will be published on our website.

Another critical issue we have been confronted with for some time is the question of a "lead ban" initiated by ECHA (European Chemicals Agency). It started with the ban of lead shot for hunting in wetlands and has now been expanded to "investigations on the ban of lead" in general; i.e. also in sport shooting (also on shooting ranges!). Additionally, lead ammunition used for outdoor sport shooting (not only shot) is under review.

An official MLAIC statement concerning the ban of lead in ammunition or shot especially on muzzle loaders was sent to ECHA in November 2019.



Hereafter, there is an official statement from ECHA's website:

ECHA is gathering information to support its investigation through a **call for evidence**, which runs from 3 October 2019 to 16 December 2019. Following ECHA's investigation into the evidence, a **possible restriction dossier** can be expected in October 2020.

We are carefully monitoring further developments and shall endeavour to react properly. More information should be available towards the end of this year.

Information on experience within your countries/federations would be appreciated.

Let me, at this point, also thank all the people who did send me emails on this issue. In these days it is very important to walk through life with eyes wide open! The "MLAIC network" apparently does work!

What will happen in 2020?

As agreed upon during the World Championships 2014 and 2016, we shall have Zone Championships also in 2020 in order to enable a World Championship in 2021 (50th anniversary of MLAIC).

Therefore, the European Championship will be hosted by Italy this year. It will be in Parma from 23rd to 30th of August 2020. The official invitation and forms shall be sent (be available on our website) soon.

The Pacific Zone Championships will again be hosted/organized by South Africa. Dr. Corena de Beer will keep you informed.

Well, I think these are the most important points for today. Of course, we are happy to answer any questions you may raise.

Let me, once again, wish all of you a happy, healthy and successful year 2020. In case of 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