



Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation

Newsletter no. 146 dtd. January, 6th 2021

Dear Delegates,

As always at the beginning of a New Year, let me wish all of you a happy New Year 2021.

Last year, I wished you a successful as well as a healthy and a peaceful year 2020.

Unfortunately, for most of us it wasn't successful - at least not with regard to our shooting activities as these activities have been reduced (in many cases practically down to zero).

For some of us it wasn't peaceful - although, most of us are living in countries with relatively balanced political structures, there are others who have to fight against climatic disasters such as the bush fires in Australia where even some of our "black powder shooting friends" have lost practically everything.

And finally, for some of us it wasn't healthy. Most of us have been affected by the corona pandemic and some of our friends have even been infected by the virus. In several cases, there was a modest pathogenesis in others there were severe progressions of the illness and now it seems that we must mourn the first death(s).

Let us hope and pray that with the vaccination program, which has just started, we shall get the pandemic under control and can return to our "normal live". At least, it seems at the moment that we can see some light at the end of the tunnel.

Although, there were no (or at least not many) shooting activities in 2020, let me inform you about our activities carried out and decisions made during the last year.

Earlier in the year, we made an electronic vote based on the needs and findings of the Long Range shooters' division. The changes have been inserted in our rules during May 2020.

Then, at the end of May, we had to cancel the MLAIC European Championships 2020 which should have taken place in Italy by the end of August. The dramatic situation not only in Italy but all around Europe or better all around the world has left no alternative.

In the light of the current circumstances, we then put under scrutiny the MLAIC World Championships 2021 in Germany. After several video conferences, we finally came to the conclusion (see electronic vote of our international delegates) to postpone this event by one year to 2022. This was possible as Argentina had to withdraw, due to important reasons, their candidacy for the MLAIC World Championships 2022 in Buenos Aires.

Besides that, and in order not to let go by another year, we have made the decision to offer a MLAIC European Zone Postal Match (besides the Pacific Zone Postal Match). For this, another change of our rules was necessary. Therefore, we made a second electronic vote in 2020 and included its results in a second rule change in December 2020.



Resulting thereof and with regard to a (hopefully) normal time schedule from next year, our planning looks as follows:

- in 2021 MLAIC Pacific Zone Championship (**postal match**) organized by Dr. Corena de Beer, South Africa
Invitation have already been sent recently.
MLAIC European Zone Championship (**postal match**) organized by Ramón Selles-Calabuig (Deputy Secretary General), Spain
Invitations will be sent within the next days.
- in 2022 MLAIC Long Range World Championship in **Hungary** organized by Dr. Balázs Nemeth
MLAIC World Championship in **Germany** organized by German Shooting Federation and Mr. Gerhard Lang
- in 2023 MLAIC European Championship in **France** organized by Fédération Française de Tir and Mr. Jaques Vaïsse
MLAIC Pacific Zone Championship (**postal match**) organized by Dr. Corena de Beer, South Africa
MLAIC Long Range World Championship **????**
where and organized by whom?????
- in 2024 MLAIC World Championship (**country?? organizer??** - to be found as the US have withdrawn their candidacy)

Perhaps, Italy could organize the 2024 WC instead of the cancelled 2020 EC??
Proposals from your side are welcome.

What else happened or is still going to happen?

The issue "Anti-Doping", still takes some more time as there are aspects to be checked before we can integrate this item into our MLAIC-statutes. We do hope that this can be resolved within this year. As soon as this item is settled, it will be published on our website.

Another issue we have been confronted with for some time is the question of a "lead ban" initiated by ECHA (European Chemicals Agency).

After the ban of lead shot for hunting in wetlands they now want to expand that ban to European Lay in general.

I.e. they investigate if lead should also be banned for sport shooting in general (also on shooting ranges!).



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As already mentioned beginning of last year, an official MLAIC statement concerning the ban of lead in ammunition or shot and especially its use in muzzle loading fire arms was sent to ECHA in November 2019.

Hereafter, I enclose a link where you may find more up-to-date information and also the ECHA time schedule:

<https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/lead-in-shot-bullets-and-fishing-weights>

We shall, of course, watch the development very carefully.

These should have been the most important points for the time being. Of course, we are happy to answer any questions you may raise.

Finally, I have the pleasure to welcome Bulgaria and India as full members of the "MLAIC family". Hopefully, they will regularly participate in our competitions/championships.

Let me now, once again, wish all of you a happy, healthy and successful year 2021. In case of 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