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December 2014

Issue 4



*Dear Friend of the Shooting Community,*

*Welcome to the December edition of the WFSA Newsletter.*

*2014 has been a very challenging year: we faced serious threats from multiple fronts, but struggled to defend our common interest and prevent our sector from being damaged. 2015 will inevitably bring new challenges for us to confront, and therefore, more than ever, we must continue to stand united in supporting our common goals.*

*In the meantime, I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and joy, and I hope to see you all at the WFSA Plenary Session that will be held in Nuremberg at IWA on 5th March 2015.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Herbert Keusgen - WFSA President*

1. **UN General Assembly First Committee**
2. **7th Session of the Conference of Parties on Transnational Organised Crime (COP7 UNTOC)**
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### UN General Assembly First Committee

The UN General Assembly First Committee was held in New York from 2nd October to 5th November 2014. NGOs were given the opportunity to make their statements on 28th October. The WFSA President, Herbert Keusgen, attended the meeting and delivered his speech on behalf of WFSA.

The ATT, which will officially enter into force on 25th December, is now under the control of the State Parties, and not the UN whose rules no longer apply.

The current topics under discussion include the rules of procedure, finances, and details about the secretariat.

There will be a final meeting in Geneva in March 2015. Possible locations under consideration for the secretariat are Geneva, Vienna, Port of Spain (Trinidad) and New York.

A conference of State Parties is likely to take place in the summer of 2015 in Geneva, to which NGOs will be invited.



### EU Commission's high level Panel "The Firearms Strategy: One Year Later"

A high level panel entitled "The Firearms Strategy: One Year Later" was held in Brussels on 24th October. It was organised by DG Home of the European Commission. The meeting was attended by several members of WFSA.

The panel, which was held as a conclusion to the political loop started by DG Home in November 2012 with the Firearms Conference, provided a political and expert assessment of possible new legislative initiatives against illicit firearms and ammunition trafficking.

The industry was represented by Mr Torbjörn Lindskog, president of AFEMS, who made an intervention entitled "The added value of EU legislation: matching security and safeguard of the licit market" and who participated actively and constructively in the ensuing debate.

The key message of Mr Lindskog focused on the actions to be taken in order to improve security without damaging the licit market:

1. implementation and enforcement of the existing legislation at national level;
2. harmonisation of the legislative system currently in place;
3. cooperation with the industry in the fight against illicit trafficking.

To view all the presentations that were made, [click here](#).

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### 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties on Transnational Organised Crime (COP7 UNTOC)

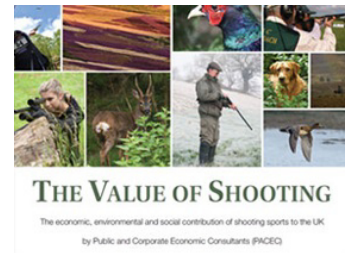
The Seventh Session Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime took place from 6th-10th October 2014 at the UNODC Headquarters in Vienna and was attended by ANPAM, SAAMI, SAF, WFSA and UFA.

Please [click here](#) for the text of the “Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto: Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition”.

The industry succeeded in obtaining the inclusion of a paragraph at the end of the preamble on page 2. Other points that should be taken into account as the UN's position evolves are:

- Point 6, confirming the involvement of the private sector and NGOs in cooperation with State Parties;
- Point 7, the statement concerning the aim “to facilitate the tracing of firearms and, where possible, their parts and components and ammunition”. UNODC is trying to include in the aim of the Firearms Protocol the exchange of information for marking ammunition and also the need to authorise the transfer of parts and components of firearms.

Moreover, the UNODC proposed a review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, however, the positions taken by



### UK Research: The Value of Shooting

The study “The Value of Shooting”, conducted by Cambridge-based Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC), is the most comprehensive research into the economic, environmental and social contributions of shooting ever undertaken in the UK.

The study shows that shooting is worth £2 billion a year (gross value added) to the UK economy and provides significant conservation benefits, according to the results of independent research released today by leading shooting and countryside organisations.

The study reveals that shooting supports the equivalent of 74,000 full-time jobs. People who shoot spend £2.5 billion each year on goods and services, bringing income into rural areas, particularly in the low-season for tourism. The research shows that an established shoot generates local economic benefits for businesses in a radius of up to fifteen miles.

The figures show that the amount spent on shooting (£2.5bn) equals almost 10% of the total amount spent on outdoor recreation in a year, which has been measured at £27bn by the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Shooting is involved in the management of two-thirds of the UK's rural land area. Almost two million hectares are actively managed for conservation as a result of shooting. Nearly £250 million a year is spent on



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member states on this proposal were so far apart that fortunately no agreement was reached.

During the session ANPAM organized a side event entitled "Private-public partnership in the prevention and control of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms" ([see the flier](#)) in collaboration with UNODC and the permanent Mission of Italy to the International Organisations in Vienna. ANPAM wishes to express particular thanks to SAAMI and UFA for having contributed to the success of this event.



### 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11)

On November 4-9, 2014, in Quito (Ecuador) was held the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11). ANPAM and SAAMI attended the various meetings on behalf of the industry; FACE attended the meeting on behalf of the hunting sector.

The proposal of a ban of lead in ammunition formulated by the CMS Scientific Committee last July in Bonn (Germany) was presented and approved. However, thanks to the lobbying activities carried out by ANPAM, AFEMS, CIC, FACE, IEACS and SAAMI both at the national and EU level, it was possible to obtain a last-minute modification of article 1 of the draft resolution, giving to Parties the power to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions.

Moreover, during the COP11 works in Quito it was highlighted that proposals were made and resolutions adopted without taking into consideration the industry position. As a consequence of this, from now on the industry will be involved in future meetings organized by the working groups dealing with issues of our interest.

conservation and habitat management which benefits a wide range of wildlife. People who shoot put in 3.9 million work days on conservation every year – the equivalent of 16,000 full-time conservation jobs.

At least 600,000 people in the UK shoot live quarry, clay pigeons or targets and existing industry information shows that there are at least 1.6 million individuals who shoot live quarry with an airgun.



### US Report: Traditional ammunition ban would cause shortages and price spikes

On 17th September 2014 the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) released a new report demonstrating the negative effects which the state of California's ban on the use of traditional lead ammunition in hunting will have on hunters, the state's economy and wildlife conservation.

The report, commissioned by NSSF on behalf of the firearms and ammunition industry, was presented at a public hearing of the Wildlife Resource Committee of the California Fish and Game Commission.

The survey-based report by Southwick Associates quantifies the problems that this ban will cause. Non-lead ammunition is not available for about half of hunting calibers ([click here](#)), and the report found the California ban will cause

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The situation remains still very delicate since it was confirmed the aim to phase out the use of lead in ammunition in all hunting environments over the next three years.



### **Eurosite Workshop “Sustainable Wildlife Management: Integrating hunting practices with nature conservation planning”**

From 28th to 30th October 2014 site managers, landowners and wildlife and hunting organisations from across Europe came together at Elmley National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Kent, UK to share best practice on how sustainable hunting practices can be integrated into nature conservation planning.

The workshop took place at Ashford International and was organised by Eurosite, along with Natural England and in collaboration with the Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace (Greece) and Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services (Finland).

Two members of WFSA participated in this workshop: KOMATH - Hunting Federation of Macedonia & Thrace from Greece (which is also a Eurosite member) and FACE – Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation of the EU.

The workshop programme included a series of presentations, an interactive information market and working group discussions on hunters' challenges and successes working in conservation and using hunting as a tool for management. On the second day, there was a full-day field trip to Elmley National Nature Reserve on the Isle of Sheppey, off the north coast of Kent. Elmley is a farm owned and managed by a local farming family in close collaboration with Natural England. Here, best practice in predator control takes place with fine results. The participants had the chance to witness first-hand the positive impact of predator control on nature conservation outcomes.

It is clear that there is an opportunity for hunters and conservation organisations to exchange knowledge and experience with

severe shortages nationwide.

Due to technical and market-based constraints on manufacturers, the implementation of AB711 will at least triple the price of ammunition, driving more than one-third of the state's hunters to hunt less or stop hunting completely. With the loss of more than 50,000 hunters in the state, California's economy will see a loss of millions of dollars in salaries and in tax revenue.

In addition, as hunters are the primary source of conservation funding in the state, a dramatic decline in hunters means fewer dollars for wildlife conservation.



### **ISSF General Assembly 2014: Elections**

On December 2-3, 2014 in Munich was held the ISSF General Assembly during which the ISSF President, the ISSF Secretary General, the ISSF Administrative Council, the ISSF Sections Committees and the Committees Chairmen were elected.

Delegates attending the ISSF General Assembly re-elected President Olegario Vazquez Raña for another four-year term, thus entering his ninth consecutive Presidential term since his first election in 1980.

The General Assembly also elected by unanimous decision Mr. Franz Schreiber (GER) as the new ISSF Secretary General.

Additionally, four ISSF Vice-

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European site managers to find and deliver mutual benefits.

Presentations were made from the above mentioned organisations as well from the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC), the European Landowners Organization (ELO), Natural Scottish Heritage, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and CIC.

Presentations covered the following topics:

- Habitat improvement and the role of hunting organisations
- Hunting in protected areas
- Predator and invasive species control
- The contribution of hunting organisations in law enforcement
- The role of science in guiding hunting practices
- Hunting and Ecosystem Services
- Environmental policy and agreement of the stakeholders
- The European hunter's engagement for nature conservation

Participants were from the UK, Finland, Greece, Spain, Belgium, France, Cyprus, Slovenia and Georgia.

Overall this was thought to be a very productive workshop with very good examples and case studies. It is positive that hunting has been recognised as an important tool for wildlife management and that the active involvement of hunting organisations can contribute to nature conservation and biodiversity protection.

Following this event, an advice paper is expected to be published, while collaboration has been strengthened between the participating bodies.

Presidents were elected, namely Mr. Luciano Rossi, Mr. Gary Anderson, Mr. Wang Yafu and the President of the European Shooting Confederation Mr. Vladimir Lisin. Mr. Heinz-Helmut Fischer, President of the German Shooting Sport and Archery Federation (DSB) was elected as Member of the ISSF Administrative Council.

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### Peruvian Congress Approves New Gun Bill

In a landslide vote on 11th December, the Peruvian Congress approved a new gun bill. This is a landmark for grassroots organisations in the region, since it is the first time a firearms civil rights association has been able to completely reverse a country's gun control system.

J.Thomas Saldias, regional representative for SCI and executive director of the Latin American Coalition for Legal Firearms (CALL), led the efforts in Peru with the initial assistance of SCI and the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA).

This new law is very favourable to the legal user and will change the control model the country had in place to date. In short, a few benefits of the new gun bill include:

- switching from the current system in which each firearm has a license, to a system which will issue a single property card (with no expiration) per firearm and one single license per user;
- people will be allowed to have up to 3 handguns for self-defence with no limitation on caliber (previously, .380 was the maximum caliber allowed);
- there is no limit on caliber or number of firearms a sport hunter, sport shooter or collector may possess;
- suppressors will be allowed for sport hunting;
- there is new and modern legislation on collections which will allow the maintenance of a fully operational firearm and the authorisation of educational or exhibition demonstrations;
- restrictions on the use of military ammunition such as armor piercing ammunition, iron nuclei, tracer ammunition, explosive or incendiary ammunition. Use of all other ammunition, such as hydra shock ammunition, is now allowed;
- firearms for private use by army personnel or national police personnel need to be registered with the national authority.

The gun bill is awaiting signature by President Ollanta Humala.

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