



Joint communiqué of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)  
and the Fédération Internationale de Tir aux Armes Sportives de Chasse (FITASC)  
regarding ECHA's proposal to ban the use of lead in clay target sport shooting



September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

ISSF and FITASC, as two major international shooting sport federations, regulate shooting sport around the world and therefore must manage and reconcile the rules of the sport considering the differences in social and environmental conditions in different parts of the world. The history and consistency of the disciplines of our sport are based on technical standards that apply worldwide. These include the type of firearms and ammunition to ensure the best and equal conditions in international but also national competitions.

Adhering to the health and environmental objectives pursued by the European Commission, ISSF/FITASC must ensure that the clay target sport shooting disciplines are sustainable in the long term.

Major international shooting sport championships such as Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups etc. take place in large shooting sport centres that could meet some of the requirements of the ECHA derogations. However, there are only a few such centres in Europe and an essential prerequisite for the continued success of our sport is a complex network of different sized shooting ranges with different disciplines, which are used by sports shooters at different levels. There are great differences in the size and use of the clay target shooting ranges and for many regional and local facilities of our member federations, the requirements proposed by ECHA are neither practicable nor necessary given the risks they pose. In several European countries, most clay target shooting ranges are small to medium-sized and are run by local shooting, hunting or reserve clubs on a voluntary basis.

Therefore, ISSF/FITASC have grave concerns regarding the currently proposed restrictions on the use of lead ammunition for clay target shooting sport prepared by ECHA and now submitted to the European Commission: the proposed restrictions provide some derogation conditions which are not scientifically justified and will end competitive sports shooting and will conduct to many clay target range bankrupts.

ISSF/FITASC jointly state that:

- Based on current knowledge, only lead meets the ballistic and economic requirements necessary for the practice of all clay target sport shooting disciplines.

Ammunition made of other materials, due to their different ballistic and/or economic properties, are today unsuitable to clay target sport shooting, including a lack of the necessary precision for our sport, ensured safety of the athletes, financial challenges for the range owners etc.

- Clay target sport shooting absolutely need an enduring exemption to continue to allow the use of lead thus securing the industry's investment and the ability of the sports facilities to operate;
- ISSF/FITASC support that the exemption on the use of lead for the clay target sport shooting, be coupled with the implementation of agreed to, site-specific risk management measures, throughout Europe.
- ISSF/FITASC commit to continuing research to find material/ technology alternative to lead, with equivalent or very close ballistic and economic properties and without negative effects for health and environment.

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ISSF President

Jean-François PALINKAS  
FITASC President

*The ISSF is the international governing body for all Olympic and several non-Olympic shooting sport disciplines, composed of 163 Member Federations from 149 countries or territories; 57 of them are also Member Federations of the European Shooting Confederation.*

*FITASC manages a popular non-Olympic clay target shooting sport bringing together composed of 75 Member Federations from 65 countries, including 46 Member Federations in Europe.*