

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY REPORT

Dear friends and colleagues,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of the European Shooting Confederation. I am very happy that our Confederation celebrates its half-century anniversary full of forces, energy and creative plans. We have much to be proud of!

I also would like to thank everybody who supported my candidacy at the ISSF presidential elections. I know that it was a tough choice for many of you. However, the choice has been made, and this choice has been made in favor of the European Confederation

This anniversary year, our Confederation is at the forefront of the international shooting sport. We have managed to establish a system that allows balance the interests of athletes, national federations and organizers of competitions. We are constantly developing, which is indicated by the number of participants and starts at our tournaments, as well as the achievements of European athletes at the main ISSF competitions.

I believe that many of you, whom we have known and worked together with for quite a long time, are confident and those who are new here shall understand that: for me, an office at the ESC or ISSF is neither the easiest nor the only position in life. In the 30 years of work, I have built a successful business, and there is no other way for me to behave. The only way is to work and achieve success.

Let us go back to the most recent past. The ideas of the so-called stability and archaic character almost left us high and dry. If we had not started to experiment in time in Europe and introduce new events and formats on our own, if we had not shown the Mixed Team events to the IOC (do you remember the 2017 10m European Shooting Championships in Maribor?), what arguments would the ISSF have in the sphere of gender equality to maintain 15 sets of medals for the Tokyo Olympics?

In Europe, we continue to try things out, search for new formats increasing the appeal of our sport and the interest in our sport. Any ideas and proposals are welcome.

We all know talented and ambitious people who do govern, sometimes even rule countries, without going into much details. However, let us leave politicians alone. Their thing is the populist rhetoric and promises.

Unlike them, I try to delve into the minute details of each problem. Otherwise, I would have never achieved the results I have managed to achieve. And now, in my new position, I make efforts to understand all aspects of the shooting sport. I have both time and energy to do it. The goal is simple: we shall become leaders in the Olympic sport. I am confident that we will achieve this goal!

I believe that the president's role is not merely that of being a representative and occupying a place in VIP lounges. The role of the ESC or the ISSF president is to develop and promote the shooting sport, increase the number of competition participants, attract a broad audience, especially, young people. Our athletes shall become stars who are recognized and known beyond their own countries. Our Member Federations shall be active and shall have development programs.

In order to achieve the above mentioned I regularly attend competitions, hold meetings with athletes, referees, managers of organizing committees and national federations, officials and technical experts. I believe that it is worth my time and effort.

The year of 2018

- 1 – The European Championships 10m in Győr, Hungary;
- 2 – The World Cup in Changwon, South Korea
- 3 – The opening of the National Shooting Sport Center in Châteauroux, France
- 4 – The World Cup in Munich, Germany
- 5 – The World Military Shooting Championship in Thun, Switzerland
- 6 – The World Cup in Siggiewi, Malta
- 7 – The Mediterranean Games in Tarragona, Spain
- 8 – The Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany
- 9 – The European Championship Shotgun in Leobersdorf, Austria
- 10 – The World Shooting Championships in Changwon, South Korea
- 11 – The World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Châteauroux, France
- 12 – The Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 13 – The ESC Youth League Final at the Kiskallio Sports Institute, Finland
- 14 – The Shooting Championships of the Americas in Guadalajara, Mexico
- 15 – The General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees in Marbella, Spain
- 16 – A meeting with the organizers of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the UK

The year of 2019

- 1 – A meeting of the IOC Marketing Committee, a meeting with the IOC President and the IOC Sports Director in Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2 – A visit to Tokyo to discuss the preparation for the Olympics;
- 3 – The World Cup in New Delhi, India;
- 4 – A meeting with the shooting industry representatives in Nuremberg, Germany;
- 5 – The European Championship in Osijek, Croatia;
- 6 – The World Cup in Al Ain, UAE;
- 7 – The World Cup in Beijing, China;
- 8 – The ASOIF General Assembly and the SportAccord forum at the Gold Coast, Australia;
- 9 – The World Cup, a meeting of the ISSF Sports Committee and a meeting with the continental confederations' representatives in Munich, Germany;
- 10 – The Games of Small States of Europe in Budva, Montenegro;
- 11 – The European Games in Minsk, Belarus;
- 12 – The IOC session in Lausanne, Switzerland;
- 13 – The World Championship Shotgun in Lonato, Italy;
- 14 – The Pan American Games in Lima, Peru;
- 15 – The World Cup in Lahti, Finland;
- 16 – The European Championship Shotgun in Lonato, Italy;
- 17 – The European Championship 25/50/300m in Bologna, Italy;
- 18 – The Asian Shotgun Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In addition to all of the above, during the reporting period I visited Bhutan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and a number of other countries where I held meetings with presidents of national Olympic committees, heads of the ESC and ISSF Member Federations. I held five meetings of the ESC Presidium and already two meetings of the ISSF Executive Committee. Just for the record, neither the ESC, nor the ISSF budget spends any money to finance my study of the situation and my trips.

Today we are meeting in Budapest. Next week I am going to attend the World Cup Shotgun Final in the UAE. And my plans for 2019 do not end here.

Now let me speak about the issues which I gave my attention to during the reporting period, and the results achieved.

Promotion of the shooting sport

1. We have achieved high-quality TV broadcasting of the ESC and ISSF competitions. The TV signal from all the main 2019 competitions has been broadcast by the European Broadcasting Union satellite all around the world. Any European country could receive the broadcast signal from the World Cups and World Championships for free. The expenses for broadcasting the signal were covered by the attracted funds.
I would like to thank everyone who actively participated in promoting the shooting sport and who organizes regular broadcasts of our competitions.
2. We have concluded a contract with Eurosport. A number of competitions, including the finals of the Olympic events at the World Championship in Lonato and the European Championship in Bologna, have already been broadcast by this channel. The next competition broadcast will be the World Cup Shotgun Final on October 13. Apart from that, there are opportunities to promote the shooting sport on the Eurosport website. It is fair to say that numerous expectations of our community have come true. I bear the financial responsibility for that.
3. Opportunities have arisen for your sponsors to place advertisements both on Eurosport and during the broadcasting of competitions finals on national TV channels.

Support of athletes

1. The established ISSF Development Fund will have a significant impact on the ESC and European athletes. The first grants will be provided in the next six months to the national federations which have earned quotas for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, while the winners and runner-ups of the World Cup Finals in Al Ain and Putian will receive grants this year already.
2. The Golden Target award for the best athletes of the year has been established, and it will be presented annually. This year the award ceremony will take place in Munich on December 7.
3. For the first time, the European Games and the European Championship programs include Mixed Team events in 50m Rifle Prone, 25m Standard Pistol and 50m Pistol.

Moreover, the winners and runner-ups of the European Championships as always have received cash prizes, the amount of which was defined by me. In 2018-2019, the total amount of prize money was 211,000 Euro. These funds were distributed among 615 athletes in 28 countries. These included both famous champions and very young competition participants.

Measures to ensure fair results of competitions

My meetings with athletes have shown that there are many questions concerning the fairness and integrity of competitions.

We have almost managed to solve the issue of the inadmissibility of exceeding the shotgun charge weight. The next item on our agenda is the introduction of the VAR system at the finals. It allows to make a quick and objective decision whether the target has been hit or not, eliminates subjective factors and the possibility of inattentiveness on behalf of referees. The tests conducted at several World Cups and the 2019 World Championships have proven a high efficiency of the VAR system and have been met with only positive reviews from athletes, coaches and officials. Recently, we again interfered with the finals where quotas for the Tokyo Olympics were distributed, to eliminate the possibility of such being refereed by representatives of the same countries as one or several finalists.

Now, I would like to point out several other important ESC initiatives implemented during the reporting period:

1. The prolongation of the Olympic qualification period until May 31, 2020. This decision allows maintain maximum attention to the shooting sport in Europe almost until the beginning of the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Otherwise, the shotgun qualification and the 25m and 50m shooting qualification would have ended by now. While the 10m shooting qualification would have ended by the end of 2020. We have given many ESC Member Federations a chance to get additional financing, and many athletes to keep up their hope to participate in the Olympics.
2. We have established a Presidium that actually works. Its composition is known to you. Each member of the Presidium actively contributes to our work. Group decisions are made not only at meetings which, by the way, are held quite frequently, but also via mail voting. Everyone speaks their mind out, and the discussions at the Presidium meetings are often quite hot which ultimately helps to come up with an optimal solution.
3. The ESC sets an example in its commitment to achieving gender equality, the transparency of decision-making and financial accounting. We were the first to establish the mandatory minimum representation of both genders in all elected bodies in the Statutes. All decisions are communicated via the ESC website and a newsletter. At the Presidium meetings, we discuss and agree on the annual draft budgets and closing statements. Then they are checked by both ESC auditors and the Swiss tax service. And, of course, they are subject to approval by the General Assembly delegates.
4. Establishing connections with the industry. The ESC was the first to start regularly meeting with the shooting industry representatives, in order to look for ways of cooperation and take into account our mutual interests. The absolute majority of shooting equipment manufacturers are European companies. So far, they have preferred to support specific athletes and organizers of competitions. Our goal is to engage them in cooperation with the ESC and ISSF, in order to increase the number of shooting athletes significantly and thus to expand the industry market. We have already achieved some progress in this respect due to the broadcasting of our competitions on TV. The Eurosport contract, which I have already mentioned above, shall take our cooperation with the industry to the next level.

Dear delegates,

It has been ten years since you entrusted me with the right to become the ESC president. During these years, the shooting sport has developed greatly in Europe. It was mainly due to the fact that we were not afraid to try things out and to offer our community new constructive solutions.

Now that Europe has accepted responsibility for the fate of the shooting sport at the international level, it is time to take a new step forward.

What I mean is the discussion and adoption of the new revision of the ISSF Statutes. In fact, this process has already been going on for a long time. Over three years. Many ESC Member Federations have actively contributed to the discussion of this document and submitted their comments and offers. However, there are new faces in the leadership of some national federations, and I have to explain a lot of things all over again to them.

I will explain the most important thing. The shooting sport has too many external challenges for us to allow ourselves to politicize things which, in fact, shall promote our common progress. The only way for us to maintain and, as much as possible, to strengthen the position of the shooting sport in the international Olympic movement is to hold together.

I am quite sure: all of you understand that the new ISSF Statutes is not my whim. It cannot be adopted in the interests of one particular person, one country or even one continent. It shall reflect the current reality and the trends observed all over the world. That is why today we shall discuss and articulate a consolidated position in respect of several fundamental issues, and then make sure to get it across to all ISSF Member Federations.

And one more thing. Juan Antonio Samaranch, a great revolutionary of the Olympic movement, said: Democracy means that anyone can voice their opinion at the discussion stage. However, once a group decision has been made, everyone shall comply with it. Even those who do not agree with it for some reason. This principle is the key to progress and success. The IOC experience proves the validity of this principle. We shall comply with this principle.

I hope this is how it is going to be!