



**Joint communiqué of the European Shooting Confederation (ESC) and
the Fédération Internationale de Tir aux Armes Sportives de Chasse (FITASC) regarding the
European Commission Regulation's proposal to restrict the use of lead gunshot in sport shooting**



March 20th, 2025

Clay target shooting is now facing its responsibilities and its destiny.

For the first time in our sport's more than 100-year history, we are facing a European and world requirement to make sports facilities environmentally safe. Like any major development, it creates controversy and conflicts of interest that risk causing us to lose sight of the greater good of our sport. Such a development will certainly force the industry to reorganize its distribution channels, and many countries will have to amend their legislation to allow the sale of sport cartridges in authorized shooting ranges, which has already been done in France (*Decree No. 2023-557 of July 3, 2023*), except that we oppose sales being solely consumed on-site (*Attachment – Letter to the European Commission of March 7, 2025*).

It is clear that shooting range facilities bear the sole responsibility for facing this fate. Having this responsibility also means having the financial burden, and it is up to us, as international organizations, to help our members implement scientifically proven solutions endorsed by the European Commission for lead management on shooting grounds, including pH and runoff water management in lead fallout areas, and any other necessary measures to achieve our ecological objectives.

This is possible. This is necessary, and we share the position of all ESSF members that we need reasonable timeframes to finance and implement development solutions for our sports facilities.

It is our responsibility to ensure that all our sports can continue to be practiced in the same spirit that has enabled their development in Europe and around the world, without having to jeopardize them by canceling them or amending their regulations that would deprive them of any sporting value.

We are therefore determined to support all proposals that are in the best interest of our sport, and to be ready to negotiate to find solutions acceptable to all our organizations. This is what we have been doing for the past five years with ECHA and then with the European Commission.

We therefore invite all ESSF members to support us in our determination to preserve and develop our sport for future generations.

Alexander RATNER
ESC President

Jean-François PALINKAS
FITASC President

The European Shooting Confederation (ESC), chaired by Alexander Ratner, is the European section of the ISSF which manages Olympic sport shooting; ESC brings together 57 member National federations in 50 countries, including 33 member National federations in 27 EU countries.

The Fédération Internationale de Tir aux Armes Sportives de Chasse (FITASC) manages a popular non-Olympic clay target shooting sport bringing together composed of 80 Member Federations from 69 countries, including 46 Member Federations in Europe, including 36 member National federations in EEA countries.