

Dynamic shootings sports endangered

European champion shooters speak out against category changes to European firearms directive

21 oktober 2016

Dear honorable members of the European Parliament,

The proposed changes to the European firearms directive on the categorization of firearms which are currently debated in trialogue, would in practice ban competitive shooting sports in Europe. We – all European or world champions or medalists in target shooting – therefore strongly urge you to reconsider these proposals, both to allow us to defend our titles in the next championships and to allow future athletes to follow in our footsteps and compete for the titles and medals we have won before.

During the negotiations between the European Commission, Parliament and Council on the new European firearms directive, from October 3rd to 8th, athletes from all European countries have met in Hungary for the European Championship in the dynamic shooting sport of IPSC. A championship that may well have been the last, should if these proposals be accepted. In this case we would not only lose a shooting sport, but also the many great friendships we have formed in the international shooting community over the years.

The result of the negotiations on this subject will decide the future of our sport. If the current proposal becomes law our sport will basically cease to exist. We use the semi-automatic sporting rifles and pistols that the EU suggest should be listed in category A, the same category as military anti-aircraft missiles. This would, regardless of the eventual possibility for us to be granted licenses in the future, in practice mean the end of our sport as it is virtually impossible for a civilian to import or travel with so called military weapons because most airlines or courier firms do not accept them as cargo.

We who compete in dynamic sport shooting hope and believe that it is not the goal of the European politicians to ban our sport. That's why we ask you to reconsider the present position and allow our sporting rifles to stay in category B. Then we can avoid the very serious consequences of mixing civilian sporting equipment and military armaments. We would also like to remind the EU politicians that contributing to and promotion of sports is one of the goals of the Lisbon treaty. Actions resulting in the end of sports cannot in any way be regarded as anything but contrary to this objective.

Łukasz Borkowski (Poland) current Polish Champion Dynamic Rifle
Christine Burkhalter (Switzerland) current Lady European Champion Dynamic Pistol
Irene Canetta (Italy) current Lady European Champion Dynamic Rifle
Bjorn Dietrich (Netherlands) current Dutch Champion Dynamic Pistol
Eric Grauffel (France) current World Champion Dynamic Pistol
Stefan Ekstedt (Sweden) European Champion Dynamic Pistol 2013
Ralf K. Jensen (Denmark) Silver Medalist European Dynamic Pistol Championships 2010
Gabriele Kraushofer (Austria) Lady World Champion Dynamic Pistol 2005
Gregory Midgley (Germany) current European Champion Dynamic Pistol
Hilde Nakling (Norway) current Lady World Champion Dynamic Pistol
Raine Peltokoski (Finland), current European Champion Dynamic Rifle