

Minutes of the IMSSU General Assembly held in Uzès (France) 6th July 2002

The delegates have two months (from the reception date) to forward their remarks to the General Secretary.

Member countries represented: Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Zimbabwe.

Delegates from Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, United Kingdom and USA did not attend the Assembly.

Two member countries ask the Assembly to allow an observer attending the meeting. It is Mr Dewsbury for Australia and Mr Lempola for Finland. The Assembly agrees.

1°) President's report:

My welcome to all delegates!

I would like to thank the French Shooting Federation in behalf of IMSSU for being their guests not only for this meeting but for the whole Championship. We all know and appreciate the immense work what was done by the French Shooting Federation. Our thanks to each and every person who worked or is still working.

By decision of the last meeting in Australia Heinz Krenn, Austria and me was sent to Budapest as observers to the WFS Inaugural Congress. This event was hosted by the HDSSF which by the way is also the representative of Hungary in IMSSU and took place at November 4, 2000. The congress was very well organized. We had the possibility to meet WSF's president Nick Alexakos and to learn a lot about WSF and the future plans. We also met some people which are present here, such as Fritz Gepperth and Michel Boulanger. Heinz and me agreed at the end of the meeting that in principle IMSSU should be a member of WSF. As you may know the problems seldom lays in principle questions but in the very details. There are two major problems:

First the membership fees. At this time WSF has proposed the following flat fees

International Organization \$ 1000.- per year

National Organizations \$ 500.- per year

The problem here is, that IMSSU and all its member countries have to be members of WSF to be able to compete at WSF events. Some countries are already members of WSF, most not.

Second there is a problem with ISSF. ISSF has not recognized WSF in any way and does not allow its members to be a member of WSF nor to participate in Championship others then ISSF's. This would cause problems for a lot of IMSSU member countries.

During the year 2001 I had to learn that the scheduled events have not taken place. I personally think we should wait and observe what will happen with WSF and the ISSF problem.

During 2001 in Europe was some work done on the production rule caused by a jury decision and by a decision of the AETSM meeting at the European Championship. This lead finally to a vote inside IMSSU. I know and respect that some countries may found the result wrong. As I look at it, the change can only be a temporarily solution.

Now coming to this meeting I would like to emphasize the responsibilities we all have. The responsibility to represent the interests of our countries but also the responsibility for the well doing of IMSSU.

Very important to me is that IMSSU will do a review of the handgun rules and on our fees. These are topics where the thinking of all our member countries can be very different. I ask you all to discuss these topics openly and kindly and with respect to the ideas of others. Please do not forget that we are delegates and therefore should represent the thinking and the ideas of our shooters and not our personal ones. We all shall also be ready to make compromises for the sake of IMSSU. Only if we find ways to work out joint solutions to our challenges IMSSU will stay an unified and strong international body.

Coming to the end I want thank you all for the work you did for our beloved sport.

Thanks for listening to me.

Note : during Mr Paolini speech, Mr Gepperth informed the Assembly that the WSF was currently in stand-by.

2°) General Secretary's report:

In France, after the killing which occurred in a city hall near Paris, we had to face a decree projecting a quasi total ban on handguns. Eventually, this did not happen because the government was not reelected. Germany is facing the same problem for the same cause.

In many other countries, anti gun policies are active. We must fight this trend and refuse to be the scapegoats for problems which are, unfortunately, very serious and at world level but bear no relation to legal private firearms ownership. A unified association for the defence of legal private firearms ownership is underway at european level.

At IMSSU level, we have several problems :

Small bore pistol and rifle as well as field pistol are popular but in big bore pistol (excepted in standing), the number of shooters is declining or stable at best, depending of the countries. In big bore rifle, it is the lack of suitable ranges, at least in Europe, which hampers the worldwide development of this event.

Pistols used in freestyle are more and more expensive. Revolver wise, since some years, only one firearm is suitable for competition on the market, the Casull. Another revolver, very sophisticated, is now manufactured, the Picra. Both are not cheap. This could be a deterrent of joining our sport for young shooters.

The Production rule is not manageable and obsolete in regard of the technical improvements we know. A possibility would be to determine a length and a weight plus some simple

specifications and design a box with a sliding lid. The pistol satisfies or not the specifications and fits the box or does not fit the box.

In big bore pistol as well as in small bore pistol, the Production and Unlimited categories are more and more alike. Many shooters use the same pistol to shoot on the same silhouettes. They shoot two times the same match. Is it realistic ?

It is more and more difficult to find clubs desiring to organize the championships. Organizing a championships is a heavy and costly task. We currently manage 14 shooting categories. Isn't it too much ?

We will have to answer these question altogether and find a consensus.

°) **Financial report:**

The amount available is:

Bank account :	11 123,06 euros.
Mutual funds :	<u>20 629,00 euros.</u>
Total :	31 752,06 euros.

The expenses of the two former years are :

- Bank fees and commissions 250,00 euros.
- General Secretary computer repair 810,11 euros.
- Ghost software (data and system save) 99,70 euros.
- Delegates meal in Australia 282,93 euros.
- Web site 1 311,20 euros.

4°) **Approval of the accounts of the two former years:**

The accounts of the two former years are approved by the Assembly.

5°) **Vote for the renewal of half of the Council by the General Assembly:**

Since there are 8 candidates for 9 seats maximum to provide, it is asked to the Assembly to allow a grouped show of hands vote. The Assembly agrees.

All the candidates are elected:

BEURTHERET	Jean-Pierre	France
GEPPERTH	Friedrich	Germany
KELO	Tony	Finland
KEOGH	Declan	Ireland
KRENN	Heinz	Austria
LEMPOLA	Esko	Finland
PAOLINI	Bernhard	Switzerland
SCHALLMOSE	Emil	Austria

6°) **Election of the President by the Council:**

There are two candidates :

Bernhard PAOLINI (Switzerland).

Jan LINSLEY (Australia).

Result of the vote :

B. PAOLINI 6

J. LINSLEY 7

Jan LINSLEY is elected.

7°) Election of the General Secretary by the Council:

Jean-Pierre BEURTHERET is elected.

8°) Election of four Vice Presidents by the Council:

Are elected :

DESSERTENE	Ole	Denmark
GEPPERTH	Friedrich	Germany
KRENN	Heinz	Austria
MÄKELÄ	Sami	Finland

8b°) Election of the Vice President responsible for overlooking the financial management by the Council:

Is elected:

KRENN	Heinz	Austria
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9°) Determination of the membership annual fee (article 5 of the IMSSU Rules & Regulations):

Australia, which is the only country paying the maximum fee of 2 000 US \$, asks the Assembly to lower this maximum to 1 000 US \$. Australian shooting associations continue to fight further restrictive legislation and funds are better used there at the moment. If, at any time in the future, IMSSU needs additional funds, the member countries of IMSSU can be asked to make a special contribution.

The Assembly votes the lowering of the maximum fee to 1 000 US \$.

The current fees (2 US \$ per silhouette shooter and 5% of the fees of the World Championships) are renewed.

10°) Debate and vote about membership fees reference unit for countries experiencing a high inflation rate.

The very high inflation rate in South Africa and Zimbabwe is pointed out. A fee based on the value of the Big Mac is discussed for these countries.

Friedrich Gepperth, BDS President, proposes to lower the fee per silhouette shooter to 1 US \$ for Zimbabwe and South Africa, the BDS paying the difference.

Friedrich Gepperth is thanked and the Assembly agrees.

11°) Debate about the Production Rule and vote about an eventual modification of the Production Rule.

Beurtheret : Historically, the only true Production pistol is the T/C Contender. What comes in the T/C plant are steel bars and wood planks. What comes out the T/C plant are pistols. They microfuse the receivers, drill and rifle the barrels, carve the stocks.

The MOA was designed and is assembled by Richard Mertz but the parts are made in different places and the barrel is an ultra rifled match from Douglas. Many other Production pistol are now made this way.

Krenn : it is not a problem to have a pistol made in different plants.

Dessertenne : it is not a problem if the performances are alike. Don't change the rules.

Beurtheret : we cannot stop progress and our rules are obsolete.

Chmelik : each weapon must be registered. In CZ there is an official proof house where all weapons must be tested. This way we know the exact number of weapons manufactured.

Beurtheret : it is not true worldwide. Many of our rules cannot be verified.

Linsley : many rules are not verifiable but it is a question of honesty. If it is written, it acts as a barrier, maybe not for all but for the majority.

Paolini : a pistol with a painted stock was refused by the gun certification and then accepted when the factory sent a fax stating that all kind of painting were available on request at the factory.

Beurtheret : with the Anschütz peep sights, there are so different models, past and present, with little differences, that it is impossible to say if it is one of the models described in the small silhouette catalog printed by the firm two years ago.

Mäkelä : in Finland, the gun certification checks only the length and weight. If some competitor feels that the weapons of another shooter is not right he/she must make a protest.

Beurtheret : so, gun certification is made (or not) by the competitors. I don't think it is OK.

Boutcher : we should have an evaluation committee.

Beurtheret : this is the way the IHMSA proceeds. It does not work. An evaluation committee is always subjective. When we were IHMSA members, I remember that a pistol standed good chances of being approved production if an exemplary was sent for evaluation (a very long evaluation) to the President of the Committee of the time. I guess it is not the case now. When we wrote the IMSSU rules, we wanted everybody able to say if a pistol is Production or not simply by reading the said rules. It seems that it is not always possible.

Mäkelä : it is possible to begin with firearms which are not expensive and then buy more sophisticated guns.

Geppert : depending on the country, it is not always possible to buy as many guns as one wants. Buying cheap firearms first and then some more expensive is difficult in many countries.

Beurtheret : it is possible to have national sporting rules which are different from international sporting rules. Anyway, we have two years to think it over. In Big and Small Bore Pistol, it could be possible to have only two categories, one free style, one standing, or three categories, Revolver, something between Production and Unlimited and Standing.

Chmelik : Big Bore Pistol on ½ size targets in not Big Bore anymore.

Mäkelä : Revolver is the event king category. We must keep it.

Linsley : what is a problem for one country is not necessarily one for another one.

A brain storming on the subject is organized among all IMSSU Member. It will last 6 months. Jean-Pierre BEURTHERET will centralize and the dispatch the ideas.

There will be one correspondent for this subject in each country.

South Africa	Helena Laubscher
Germany	Gehrad Stern
Australia	Rob Boutcher
Austria	Heinz Krenn
Denmark	Ole Dessertenne
USA	Manny Melendrez
Finland	Sami Mäkelä
France	Jean-Pierre BEURTHERET
Hungary	Ferenc Kovacs
Ireland	Declan Keogh
Italy	Pierangelo Tullisso
Norway	Egil Helgheim
New Zealand	Keith Sinclair
The Netherlands	Joep Van Hoof
Czech Republic	Ivan Chmelik
Sweden	Ola Wälimaa
Switzerland	Heinrich Pfenninger
Zimbabwe	Ron Speight

12°) Debate about the creation of a Commission in charge of preparing the rules modification proposals and vote about the eventual creation of this Commission.

The Assembly decides that the creation of a specific commission is not necessary.

13°) Debate about the creation of a squad of International Silhouette Referees and vote about the eventual creation of this squad.

Having foreign referees attending World Championships would be too expensive. What we must have is a common knowledge and attitude for all the referees of the Member Countries. In Australia, there is already a teaching program with several degrees. Rob Boutcher will inform us about that program which could be extended to all.

14°) Examination and vote about the candidatures to sponsor the 2004 Championships:

South Africa will organise the 2004 Championships in Bloemfontein, probably at the end of april or beginning of may.

15°) Miscellaneous questions.

The IMSSU could have medals and/or pins made to give to each shooter attending the World Champs.

A junior category (14 to 18) could be created.

The President
Jan Linsley



The General Secretary
Jean-Pierre Beurtheret

