



SAGA SNIPPETS

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International Symposium on Lead



"The Sustainable Use of Lead Ammunition in Hunting and Sports Shooting: Facts and Emotions" organized by WFSA and AFEMS was held in Brussels on 20 October 2015.

The Symposium focused on the sustainable use of lead in ammunition and its impact on both the environment and human health. The Symposium also provided an overview of the ballistic features of both lead and non-lead ammunition and assessed the current legislation at the European and International level.

Background

Lead is present naturally in a variety of forms, but only metallic lead is used in sport shooting and hunting ammunition.

The use of lead metal is highly sustainable because it can be recycled an infinite number of times and the available technologies make the process economically advantageous. It has been used in the ammunition industry for centuries because it possesses excellent ballistic features and is highly cost effective. No other material can guarantee the same results in terms of performance and sustainability.

The use of lead in ammunition is already highly regulated and its proper management minimizes the possible negative impacts on environment and health. Several scientific studies and research papers show that metallic lead in ammunition has no significant impact on human health and the environment as compared to other forms of lead. For example, lead fragments in game meat, if ingested, cannot be directly absorbed by the human body because they are in metallic form. By comparison, food consumed in larger quantities and by the general population, such as cereals, dairy products, vegetables and tap water, have the greatest impact on human dietary exposure to lead. Moreover lead shot and projectiles used in both indoor and outdoor shooting ranges are regularly collected and recycled.

Restrictions in the use of lead in ammunition would inevitably damage both hunting, a necessary prerequisite in game management as well as a traditional cultural practice, and sport shooting, a highly disciplined activity which increasingly involves young people and women.

The Symposium

The symposium was attended by 110 delegates, including journalists, politicians, scientists, members of environmental institutions, hunting and sport shooting organizations and food agencies.

Three influential keynote speakers from the European Parliament and the European Commission described the current position and future strategies of the European regulatory bodies, thus giving further significance to the event.

Sixteen speakers covered every conceivable aspect of lead in civilian ammunition, with presentations organized into five different panels: environment, legal issues, ballistics, human health and other issues. Three expert journalists managed the lively and animated debates which followed the presentations as well as sharing their own assessment of the issues.



International Symposium on Lead Continued

The Symposium opened with a welcome address from Mr Torbjörn Lindskog (AFEMS President) who welcomed participants and introduced the first keynote speaker, Ms Natalie Pauwels (DG ENVI), who presented the EU Environment Policy priorities over the coming years. The afternoon session was opened by Mr Herbert Keusgen (WFSA President) followed by a keynote address from Ms Renata Briano (Vice President of the EU Parliamentary Intergroup "Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside").

Panel 1: Environment

Mr Rick Patterson (SAAMI Executive Director) spoke about the California Condor whose blood lead levels and population number did not change despite the introduction in 2008 of a ban on lead hunting ammunition and 99% compliance with the ban.

Mr Frederik Verdonck (ARCHE Consultant) presented the results of experiments which were carried out to demonstrate the magnitude of the effects of lead shot ingestion on population size, growth, and extinction of upland avian species that ingest these substances. The results suggested that lead shot can cause poisoning of individual birds but they have no significant impact on population level.

Mr Axel Gottlein (Professor for Forest Nutrition and Water Resources at the Technische Universität of München) presented the results of a comparative assessment of the environmental impacts of different types of bullets.

Panel 2: Legal Issues

Mr Bill Dufwa (Professor Emeritus at the Stockholm and Uppsala Universities) talked about the legal aspects which need to be taken

into consideration when alternative types of ammunition are used in weapons which were not originally designed for use with that ammunition.

Mr Steve Binks (Director of the REACH Lead Consortium) gave a brief overview of the legislative framework in Europe with regards to lead in ammunition.

Mr Mauro Silvis (Executive Secretary of WFSA) explained how the issue of lead in ammunition is being addressed in the international arena, and in particular at the United Nations level.

Panel 3: Ballistics

Mr Ryan Bronson (Director of Conservation and Public Policy at VISTA Outdoor) compared the performance of both lead and copper bullets for big game hunting.

Mr Helmut Kinsky (former CEO of DEVA) also spoke about the performance difference between lead and lead-free bullets with regards to their rebounding effect.

Mr Hans-Dieter Pfannenstiel (Professor Emeritus, Zoology) further examined this issue by reporting on an existing German study involving different calibres and bullets used for hunting.

Panel 4: Human Health

In his presentation, Mr Klaus-Hinnerk Baasch (Doctor, Toxicology) explained that, despite several concerns about human health and wildlife, lead contained in ammunition has no relevance to consumer protection, species protection or the environment.

Mr Christer Holmgren (Senior Advisor at SEPA) presented the methodology and results of his recent study,

'Lead in Game Meat', which

showed that only 1-2% of present lead metal fragments are converted to bioaccessible forms in the human gastrointestinal tract.

Mr Pier Mannucci Mannucci (Scientific Director at the Policlinico Hospital Foundation of Milan) reviewed the case-control study of the Swiss Public Health Office, showing that there is no risk of a significant increase in the body burden of lead for the average consumer of wild game hunted using lead ammunition. A similar case control study is now being conducted in Italy.

Mr Holger Von Stetten (Doctor, Internal Medicine) stressed once again that banning lead hunting ammunition does not reduce the lead pollution of the total population. Human dietary exposure to lead among consumers occurs largely through the most commonly eaten foods and only in a very small part through game.

Panel 5: Other Issues

Mr Rolf Larsen (Director of the Norwegian Hunting Association) spoke about the efforts made to repeal the ban on lead ammunition in Norway and the activities undertaken to achieve this.

Mr Stefano Rosi (Director of the Italian Shooting Federation) described how lead is collected in shooting ranges in Italy for recycling.

Similarly, Mr Joachim Streiberger (Director of the Shooting Ranges Association) presented case studies to demonstrate the efforts made in Germany to operate shooting ranges in an environmentally friendly manner.

For any further information, please contact the secretariat at leadsymposium@afems.org

Meer Mense Sterf Weens Steekwonde as Skietwonde

MEDIAVERKLARING

UITGEREIK DEUR:
Dr. Pieter Groenewald

HOEDANIGHEID: VF Plus-
hoofwoordvoerder: Polisie

DATUM: 3 November 2015

Meer mense het die afgelope vyf jaar weens steekwonde as skietwonde gesterf. Sedert 2010 tot vanjaar het 38 725 mense weens steekwonde en 25 869 mense weens skietwonde gesterf.

Dit blyk uit 'n antwoord van die minister van gesondheid, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, in die parlement op 'n vraag van Dr. Pieter Groenewald van die Vryheidsfront Plus. Die statistiek is gebaseer op die aantal lyke in staatslykhuise volgens die Foren-

siese Patologiese Dienste van die departement gesondheid.

“Pres. Jacob Zuma en die Minister van Polisie, Mnr. Nathi Nhleko, is altyd vinnig om te sê vuurwapens moet verminder word, aangesien dit die grootste oorsaak van geweldsmisdaad is. Hierdie statistiek bewys hulle verkeerd. Indien 'n vergelyking met die moordsyfer van die Polisie getref word, en aanvaar word dat alle skietwonde ook moord was, wat nie so is nie, was skietwonde die afgelope drie finansiële jare verantwoordelik vir 35% (34,9; 35,1; 35,1) van die moordsyfer. Steekwonde in dieselfde tydperk was egter verantwoordelik vir 50,5% (59,8; 45,6; 46,2) van die moordsyfer. Hierdie statistiek is weereens 'n bewys dat wettige vuurwapeneienaars onbillik en onnodig geteiken word asof die

besit van vuurwapens die groot oorsaak van geweldsmisdaad in Suid-Afrika is,” sê Dr. Pieter Groenewald, hoofwoordvoerder van Polisie vir die Vryheidsfront Plus.

In die vyf jaar tydperk was die meeste messteke in die Oos-Kaap met 11 423 gevalle en die minste in die Noord-Kaap met 1 217 gevalle. In dieselfde tydperk was die meeste skietwonde in KwaZulu-Natal met 6 472 gevalle en die minste in die Noord-Kaap met 132 gevalle.

Dr. Pieter Groenewald (LP)
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Third Membership Draw



Congratulations to our 3rd Membership draw winners:

The first prize was won by Barry Els from Birchleigh, he is a founder member and second prize went to Mr P Van Tour from Duiwelskloof, he is a new SAGA member.

This is your last chance to enter for the 4th draw and also to get entered into the big draw, which will be done on 10 December. All entries will close on 9 December.

All you need to do is:

Sign up a new member today and get your name entered into not only one, but two, prize draws. There is one more quarterly draw before the end of the year when we will draw the final big winner.

The quarterly prizes are (1) a hamper of 30 Year insignia (Patch, Beanie, Memory Stick, Knife and Long Sleeve Shirt) valued at R625 and (2) a 30 Year commemorative Drimac Jacket valued at R430.

The big winner at the end of the year will win a custom-made knife by well-known knifemaker Stephen Mackrill.

The main prize is a special skinning knife. Made of Bohler N690

steel, the blade has a satin finish and a brass bolster. The handle is made from tamboti wood with a brass name plaque inlaid into it. There is also a sheath made of kudu hide. Presented in a beautiful custom box, the value of this one-off prize is R2200.

See www.mackrill.co.za for more on knives made by the Mackrills.



Maryland Scraps 'Gun Fingerprint' Database

<http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2015/11/10/maryland-scraps-gun-fingerprint-database-as-complete-failure/>

by Michael Walsh
November 10, 2015

Millions of dollars later, Maryland has officially decided that its 15-year effort to store and catalog the "fingerprints" of thousands of handguns was a failure. Since 2000, the state required that gun manufacturers fire every handgun to be sold here and send the spent bullet casing to authorities. The idea was to build a database of "ballistic fingerprints" to help solve future crimes. But the system — plagued by technological problems — never solved a single case. Now the hundreds of thousands of accumulated casings could be sold for scrap.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed," said former Gov. Parris N. Glendening, a Democrat whose administration pushed for the database to fulfill a campaign promise. "It's a little unfortunate, in that logic and common sense suggest that it would be a good crime-fighting tool."

Actually, no they don't. Lawful gun owners, who buy their firearms in federally licensed shops, generally don't commit crimes. Bad guys — who steal them or buy them on the black market — do.

The database "was a waste," said Frank Sloane, owner of Pasadena Gun & Pawn in Anne Arundel County. "There's things that they could have done that would have made sense. This didn't make any sense."

In a old fallout shelter beneath Maryland State Police headquarters in Pikesville, the state has amassed more than 300,000 bullet casings, one from each new handgun sold here since the law took effect. They fill three cavernous rooms secured by a common combination lock. Each casing was meticulously stamped with a bar code, sealed in its own envelope and filed in boxes stacked from floor to ceiling. Forensic scientists photographed the casings in hopes the system would someday identify the owner of a gun fired at a crime scene. The system cost an estimated \$5 million to set up and operate over the years.

But the computerized system designed to sort and match the images never worked as envisioned.

In 2007, the state stopped bothering to take the photographs, though hundreds of thousands more casings kept piling up in the fallout shelter. The ballistic fingerprinting law was repealed effective Oct. 1, ending the requirement that spent casings be sent in. The General Assembly, in repealing the law, authorized the state police to sell off its inventory for scrap.

Poorly conceived, incompetently administered and suffering from a complete lack of understanding of human nature, the Maryland "database" is a testimonial to the wasteful, unconstitutional malevolence of the Leftist project.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

City of Atlanta Illegally Stockpiling Seized Guns

Extracted from: <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20151113/report-city-of-atlanta-illegally-stockpiling-seized-guns>

Friday, November 13, 2015

The job of America's brave men and women of law enforcement is to defend the Constitution and uphold the laws of their jurisdictions. It's a tough job, and those who do it faithfully are to be respected and commended. But as movie hero Billy Jack famously said, "When policemen break the law, then there isn't any law"

Now, a disturbing report from CBS46 in Atlanta is claiming that city officials, including the police chief, are refusing to comply with a law passed in 2012 that requires public agencies in possession of firearms that are no longer necessary for official use to dispose of those firearms through public auctions.

The report contains video of Atlanta Police Chief George N. Turner opining that compliance with the law would lead to "catastrophic" consequences. According to the report, Atlanta police have some 10,000 confiscated guns that they are warehousing, rather than disposing of as the law requires. Chief Turner reasons that they are not "defying" the legislature but are merely "in a holding pattern."

But as the report goes on to point out, the law is very clear that "in no event shall such auctions occur less frequently than once every six months during any time in which the political subdivision or state custodial agency has an inventory of saleable firearms." In over three years, Atlanta has yet to conduct a single auction.

Reporter Ben Swann aptly summarizes the situation as follows: "to say you morally object to the law

and you don't have to follow it... Chief Turner and Mayor Reed would never allow that same reasoning for the rest of us accused of breaking the law."

Very simply, the law requires that guns forfeited or abandoned to public agencies shall, when no longer necessary for official purposes, but returned to their innocent owners, if applicable, or auctioned to licensed dealers.

Another reporter in the CBS piece alludes to the city having to "dump these guns on the street" Under the law, however, that is far from the case.

First, the law states that the firearms have to be auctioned to federally licensed dealers, who are then required to use the same safeguards in their further sale or disposal as they would firearms obtained directly from their manufacturers.

Furthermore, the law has additional protections to prevent dangerous or unintentional consequences. First, it does not apply if the head of the agency, or a designee of such official, "certifies the firearm is unsafe for use because of wear, damage, age, or modification" Also, despite the repeated mention of "illegal guns" in the report, the law does not apply where "any federal or state law prohibits the sale or distribution of such firearm." In those cases, the agency has several options for disposing of the firearms, including destruction.

Police departments and other public agencies routinely sell forfeited property to the law-abiding public, including firearms. Under the Georgia law, the revenues generated are required first to be used to offset the cost of administering the auctions and then to be transferred to the general fund for

further public use. Why anyone would object to raising public revenue through the sale of lawful products (and in the case of firearms, through heavily regulated channels of commerce), rather than expending public money to store or destroy the material, is not clear.

The radical fringe of the gun control movement loves to portray firearm owners as aggrieved insurrectionists, eager to take up arms against any perceived grievance.

Yet here is an apparent case of public administrators using the power and authority of their offices to advance their own preferred public policy, in open disregard of the contrary public policy enacted by the peoples' elected representatives. When the enforcement authorities think they know better than those who make the laws, the democratic system can quickly fall by the wayside.

Simply put, that flirts dangerously close to anarchy.

We can only hope this unusually penetrating report restores some "law" to the "law and order" apparatus of Atlanta, Georgia.

