

The WFSA at the IWA 2016

PRESS RELEASE

The annual Plenary Session of the World Forum on Shooting Activities was held in conjunction with IWA, The International Trade Fair for Hunting and Sport Shooting, on March 3, 2016, under the title: **“TRUE CONSERVATION IN A MODERN WORLD”**

Keynote Speaker

Gilbert De Turckheim, spoke on the activities carried out by the European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation (FACE) in the last years. Mr. De Turckheim has been President of FACE for twelve years; He is currently the President of the Institut européen pour la gestion des oiseaux sauvages et de leurs habitats (OMPO). After completing his studies in Engineering and Zootechnics, Mr. De Turckheim has been very active in the field of nature conservation. He is in fact the creator of four wildlife parks, namely “La Montagne de Singes”, “La Foret des Singes”, the “Affenberg Salem in France and the “Monkey Forest” in UK. These wildlife parks were the first in Europe to present colonies of Barbary apes living in large open enclosures. Mr. De Turckheim has also covered several leading positions in the French Hunters Associations. He has been President of the Departmental Hunters Federation of Bas-Rhin, President of the Northern-East Cynegetic Region, President of the Board of the National Hunting Office and Vice-President of the National Hunters Federation.

WFSA Vito Genco Shooting Ambassador Award

Mr. Herbert Keusgen – WFSA President, opened the WFSA Plenary Session and welcomed all participants.

The WFSA Vito Genco Shooting Ambassador Award 2016 was granted to Mr. Olegario Vázquez Raña – President of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF). In charge as President of ISSF since 1980, he also founded, in 1981, the African Shooting Confederation. He is also the Chairman of the Board and Principal Shareholder of Grupo Empresarial Angeles, a holding company that employs 26,000 people and includes several divisions.

Olegario Vázquez Raña attended higher studies in business administration and several seminars in financial matters. He holds a degree of Doctor Honoris Causa granted by the LaSalle University of Mexico for his contributions to the development of science, art and well-being of humanity, and a Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration presented by the University of Kyungnam (KOR) for his outstanding contributions to Korean-Mexican business relations and education.

Olegario Vázquez Raña began his shooting career in 1956, and joined the Olympic sport in 1960. He was a member of the Mexican National team and participated in all the summer Olympic Games editions from 1964 and 1976.

This year also marked the 20th anniversary of the World Forum on Shooting Activities. In this regard, a tribute was paid to two of the founders of this organisation in 1996, namely Mr. Carlo Peroni and Mr. Ted Rowe.

NGO in Roster Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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Two panel discussions followed.

The first panel, entitled: “**Activities at UN and EU level**” included the following speakers:

- Stephen Petroni (Malta) – Member of the European Shooting Sports Forum, who spoke on “The EC Proposal to Reopen the Firearms Directive”
- William Kullman (USA) – Senior Adviser for International Affairs of the U.S. Bureau ATF, who spoke on “The activities at UN level related to firearms and ammunition”.

The second panel, entitled: “**Communication on Social Media**” included the following speakers:

- Andrea Luminati (Italy) – Expert in Marketing and Communications, Owner of Andrea Luminati Marketing Communications Consulting,
- Daniel Morgan (USA) – Director of Communications for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.

A Very interesting Questions & Answers session with the audience followed.

Call to action

The closing Call to Action address was given by Mrs. Julianne Versnel from Second Amendment Foundation and WFSA Executive Committee Member. In his speech, Mrs. Versnel highlighted the importance of communications and correct information in order to address the main challenges that the WFSA faced in the last 20 years and that will continue to face as it moves into its third decade.