

The WFSA at the IWA 2014

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 6, 2014, under the title: **“ON TARGET FOR THE FUTURE”**.

Keynote speaker

Dr. Axel Heider, keynote speaker, spoke on **“Lead and lead-free ammunition for hunting: a German approach to a complex problem”**. Dr. Axel Heider is deputy director general in the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva (CH) and Cologne. After receiving his PhD at the University of Cologne, Dr. Heider worked for the German Federal Government covering several leading positions, among others as a lawyer at the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg) and as attaché for agriculture at the German Permanent Representation in Brussels. In the last years he was head of several divisions in the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, among others for “European Agricultural Subsidies” and for “Biodiversity and Genetic Resources”. Since 2012, he is head of the “Directorate Forestry”.

Dr. Heider is a hunter since 1974. He is member of the “Deutscher Jagdrechtstage.V.” (association of jurists for hunting law).

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 2014 was granted to **Ms. Theresa Vail** from USA.

Ms. Vail graduated from Leavenworth High School in 2009 and is currently a senior at Kansas State University majoring in Chemistry and Chinese (though she has taken a year off to complete her duties as Miss Kansas). She plans to obtain a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree and become a prosthodontist for the army. She is the recipient of the “Georganne Howler Chemistry Scholarship,” and is a Distinguished Honor Graduate at the Army School of Ordinance and a Distinguished Honor Graduate at the Army School of Health Sciences. She is also a section leader in the Kansas Army National Guard Medical Detachment where she received the Army physical fitness award and excels in archery, marksmanship, skydiving, and boxing.

In the Miss America 2014 contest she placed into the Top 10 and won the “America's Choice” award. The platform with which she took part to this contest was “Empowering Women: Overcoming Stereotypes and Breaking Barriers.” This platform was inspired by the way that outdoor sports with her father helped her to overcome being bullied as a child.

Panel discussion on “Breaking Gender Barriers”

A panel discussion followed on “**Breaking Gender Barriers**”, chaired by WFSA Executive Committee Member Ms. Julianne Versnel. The panel included:

Sandra Froman (USA) - Past President of the National Rifle Association of America (NRA)

Yasmin Hammerschmidt (EU) – Communications Officer for the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE)

Manuela Schmermund (Germany) – German Sport Shooting Paralympics Athlete

“Overview of the United Nations activities concerning firearms”

Mr. William Kullman – Deputy Chief of International Affairs for the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) gave an exhaustive and interesting overview of the main activities on firearms and ammunition carried out at UN level, focusing on the latest developments of the Programme of Action (PoA) and the recent Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Very interesting Question & Answer sessions followed each discussion.

Call to action

The closing Call to Action address was given by WFSA Executive Committee Member, Mr. William McGrath who appealed all members to support a recently founded organization, CALL – Coalición Armas Legales Latinoamericanas, headquartered in Peru – fighting for the rights of legal gun owners in South America.