

The WFSA at the IWA 2015

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 5, 2015, under the title: **“ARGUING OUR CASE INTERNATIONALLY”**

Keynote Speaker

Amb. John Bolton, spoke on the Arms Trade treaty and other UN issues. He is an American lawyer and diplomat who has served in several Republican administrations. He served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from August 2005 until December 2006. Bolton is currently a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), frequent op-ed contributor to the Wall Street Journal and the National Review, Fox News Channel commentator, and of counsel to the law firm Kirkland & Ellis, in their Washington D.C. office. He was a foreign policy adviser to 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney. He is also involved with a broad assortment of other conservative think tanks and policy institutes, including the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), Project for the New American Century (PNAC), AEI, Institute of East-West Dynamics, National Rifle Association, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Council for National Policy (CNP) and the Gatestone Institute, where he serves as the organization Chairman. He is a major public figure in US regarding ATT and UN.

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 2015 was granted to Ms. Veronique Mathieu-Houillon – former French MEP. Ms. Mathieu served as Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2014. During these years she joined the group for a Europe of Democracies and Diversities and the group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) but she also took part in several committees, such as the Committee on Petitions, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Internal Market, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, the Committee on Budgetary Control, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Special Committee on Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. She has been President of the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup. At national level, she was secretary general of the CPNT before joining UMP in 2004 where she became the secretary of the Hunting Commission. In 2006 she became member of the valoisien Radical Party and President of the European Commission of the valoisien Radical Party. She is a hunter, and her favourite type of hunting is tracking and blind hunting.

Panel discussion on: **“An Overview of International Threat to Lead”**. The panel included:

- Mauro Silvis (Italy) – WFSA Executive Secretary for Europe, who spoke on “What happened at the CMS Conference of Parties in Quito”

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

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- Rick Patterson (USA) – WFSA Chairman of the Image Committee, who spoke on “The current legislation on lead”

“UN Arms Trade Treaty and Other Efforts”: Mr. Thomas Mason (USA) - WFSA Executive Secretary for the Americas gave an exhaustive and interesting overview of the United Nations past and future activities concerning firearms, focusing on the latest developments of the Arms Trade Treaty.

A Very interesting Questions & Answers session with the audience followed

Call to action

The closing Call to Action address was given by Mr. Steve Sanetti, President and CEO of the United States of American’s National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute, and WFSA Executive Committee Member. Mr. Sanetti spoke about the need for the firearms community to stand united and be proactive so as to fight the misinformation and distortion of news and facts carried out by the media and institutions.