



**WFSA**

The World Forum  
on Shooting Activities

# Overview of the Institutions Influencing the Future of Lead in Ammunition

Symposium “The Sustainable Use of Lead  
Ammunition in Hunting and Sports Shooting:  
Facts and Emotions”

Brussels, 20 October 2015

# Who we are

The WFSA is an association of hunting, shooting, F R O O H F W and industry organizations. Founded in 1996, the WFSA has over 50 existing associations and organizations from all over the world.

It represents over one hundred million sport shooters, hunters and collectors around the world. The WFSA and its member associations for twenty years have attended every major UN conference affecting hunting or sports shooting.

The WFSA is an NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The WFSA is a pro-active advocacy organization, working in concert with international bodies, national governments and regulatory authorities, for the worldwide promotion and preservation of sport shooting activities.

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WFSA Plenary Session 2015, Nuremberg

H U V



UN General Assembly, New York



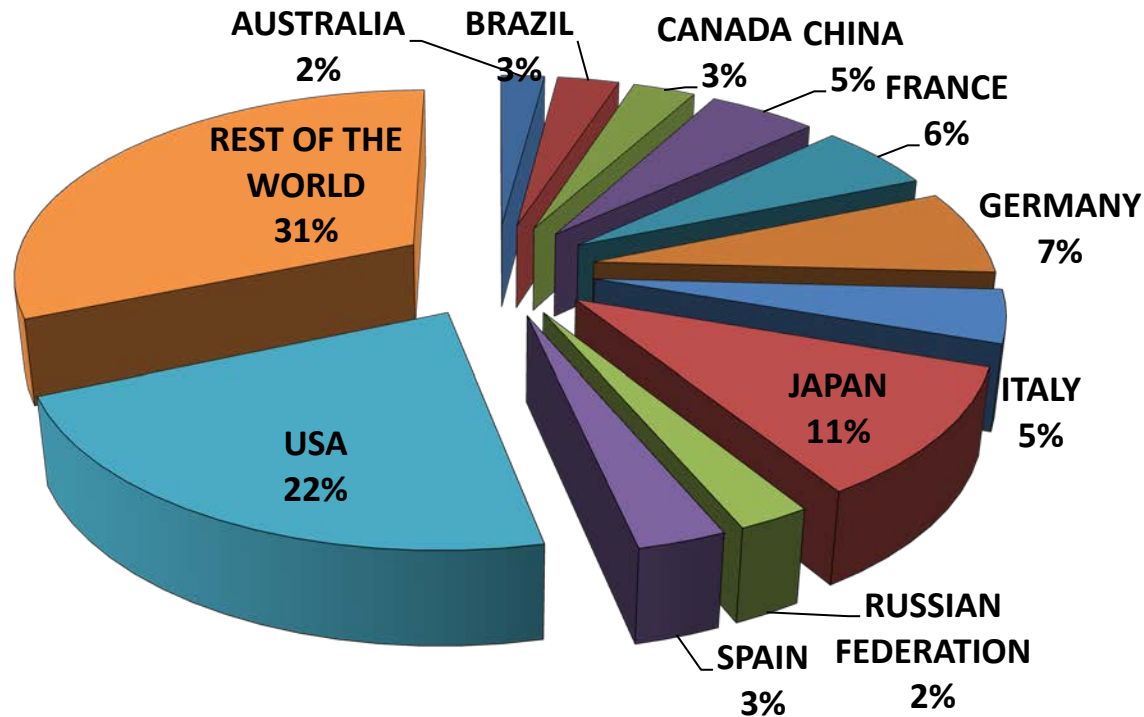
ATT Informal Preparatory Meeting, Vienna

# **Institutions Influencing the Future of Lead in Ammunition**

- 1. International**
- 2. Continental (Regional)**
- 3. National**
- 4. Local (Federal, Region)**

# UN contributions by Member State

Total Gross Contributions for 2015:  
**2.976.267.900 USD**



Other sources of funding for each UN agency:

- Funds
- Programmes
- Contributions
- Donor and Partners

# United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)



It is a specialized agency of the UN that is concerned with international public health established on 1948 and it's Hq is located in Geneva. WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

## **Current priorities:**

Its current priorities include communicable diseases, in particular HIV, Ebola, malaria and tuberculosis; the mitigation of the effects of non-communicable diseases; sexual and reproductive health, development, and aging; **nutrition, food security and healthy eating**; occupational health; substance abuse; and driving the development of reporting, publications, and networking.

# WHO: Impact on Lead Ammunition



## LEAD POISONING AND HEALTH

### **Key facts**

- *Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems and is particularly harmful to young children.*
- *Childhood lead exposure is estimated to contribute to about 600 000 new cases of children developing intellectual disabilities every year.*
- *Lead exposure is estimated to account for 143 000 deaths per year with the highest burden in developing regions.*
- *About one half of the burden of disease from lead occurs in the WHO South-East Asia Region, with about one-fifth each in the WHO Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean Regions.*
- *Lead in the body is distributed to the brain, liver, kidney and bones. It is stored in the teeth and bones, where it accumulates over time. Human exposure is usually assessed through the measurement of lead in blood.*
- *There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe.*
- *Lead poisoning is entirely preventable.*

# WHO: Impact on Lead Ammunition



## LEAD POISONING AND HEALTH

*More than three quarters of global lead consumption is for the manufacture of lead-acid batteries for motor vehicles. Lead is, however, also used in many other products, for example pigments, paints, solder, stained glass, crystal vessels, **ammunition**, ceramic glazes, jewellery, toys and in some cosmetics and traditional medicines.*

*→ WHO placed Pb in the list of the 10 chemicals of major health concern. WHO programmes are however more focused on other uses of lead (i.e. Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint)*

# United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



It is the leading global environmental authority.

## Objectives:

1. To set the global environmental agenda
2. To promote the coherent implementation of environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system
3. To advocate for the global environment

## Main Tools to prevent birds lead poisoning and soil remediation:



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

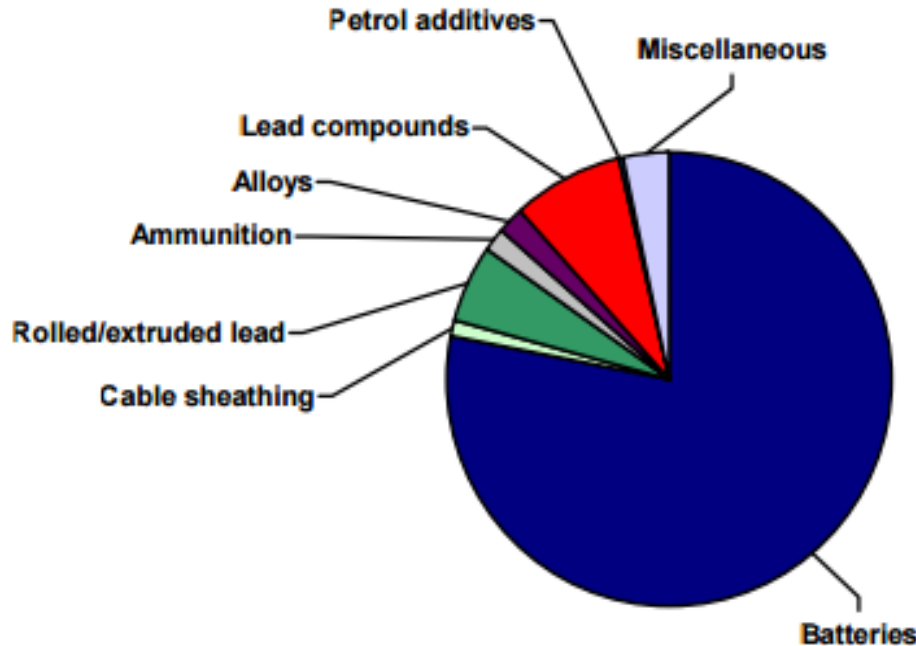


Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)



# UNEP: Impact on Lead Ammunition

Lead is mainly used in the production of batteries 78%; petrol additives and others 9.2%; lead compounds 8%; lead sheets for roofing and flashing 5%; **ammunition such as lead shot for shotguns 2%**; metal alloys 2%; cable sheathing 1.2%



*Figure 2.2-a: Intentional lead consumption by end-uses in 2003 as reported by member countries of the International Lead and Zinc Study group (ILZSG) representing about 86 percent of the total global consumption of lead. (ILZSG, 2006)*

# UNEP: Impact on Lead Ammunition



According to a UN report, lead in ammunition has a negative impact on:

## ENVIRONMENT

*Lead in soil: the major source of direct lead releases to soil is the use of ammunition. The total global consumption of lead for ammunition was about 120,000 tonnes in 2003. Ammunition is partly used for hunting and lost to the environment, and partly used in shooting ranges, where the lead is either accumulated at the range or collected for recycling. Studies indicate that in the long term lead lost with ammunition may increase the lead content of soils in some countries. Moreover, lost lead shot may poison waterfowl and other birds ingesting the shot.*

**→ mainly addressed by UNEP**

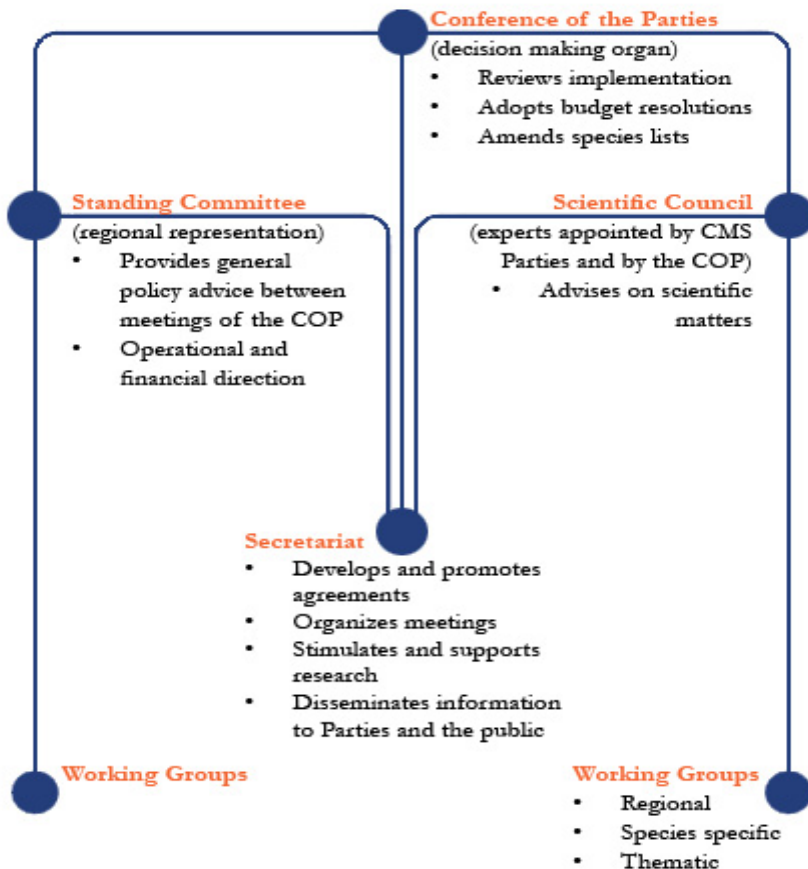
## HUMAN HEALTH

*Lead is a heavy metal that is toxic at very low exposure levels and has acute and chronic effects on human health. It is a multi-organ system toxicant that can cause neurological, cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal, haematological and reproductive effects. The type and severity of effects depend on the level, duration and timing of exposure. Lead is accumulated in bone and may serve as a source of exposure later in life.*



# What is CMS

The **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, also known as the Bonn Convention, is an environmental treaty under the aegis of the UNEP, with 120 State parties.



## Non Members

Brazil, Canada, China, Russia, USA, etc.

## Organizational structure:

- Secretariat
- Standing Committee
- Scientific Council
- Working groups
- Conference of Parties

# CMS 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties



Held in Quito (Ecuador), 4-9 November 2014, approved the resolution 11.15 “Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds adopting:

**the “Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds” Annex 2 to document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2, agreeing that it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions, considering the extent and type of poisoning risk, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments, including those under the Convention.**

The guidelines include the following recommendations:

- 2.1.1. Raise awareness of lead poisoning, particularly at key sites for migratory waterbirds; promote leadership from ammunition users, including wildlife managers, on non-toxic alternatives and best practice
- 2.2.1. Phase-out the use of lead ammunition across all habitats (wetland and terrestrial) with non-toxic alternatives within the next three years with Parties reporting to CMS Conference of the Parties (COP12) in 2017, working with stakeholders on implementation
- 2.2.2. Create legislative processes to facilitate remediation of lead ammunition contaminated environments

# What is AEWA



- It is the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
- It is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago.
- Objective: to establish coordinated conservation and management of migratory waterbirds throughout their entire migratory range
- 65 Parties of which 26 African and 39 Eurasian

# AEWA: 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties (MOP6)



The meeting will be held in Bonn, on 9-14 November 2015.

The following draft resolution will be submitted:

- **DRAFT RESOLUTION 6.12 (Doc: AEWA/MOP6 DR 12)  
AVOIDING ADDITIONAL AND UNNECESSARY  
MORTALITY FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS**

Urges Contracting Parties which are also Parties to CMS to implement, as a matter of priority and in the context of Resolution 11.15 on Preventing poisoning of migratory birds and its appended guidance to address risks from:

- the incidental poisoning of birds through the use and/or abuse of insecticides and rodenticides to protect crops;
- the deliberate and/or incidental killing of birds through the use of poison baits for predator control and harvesting; and
- **the use of lead ammunition and fishing weights**

# Legislation at regional level

**REACH:** is a regulation of the European Union, adopted to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals, while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry. It also promotes alternative methods for the hazard assessment of substances in order to reduce the number of tests on animals.

→ **As of today, REACH does not require any restriction to the use of lead in ammunition**

**CLP/GHS - Classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures:** Its main objectives are to facilitate international trade in chemicals and to maintain the existing level of protection of human health and environment. The GHS is a United Nations system to identify hazardous chemicals and to inform users about these hazards through standard symbols and phrases on the packaging labels and through safety data sheets (SDS)





# Legislation at national and local level

The use of lead ammunition at national level is managed in different ways. Each nation has in fact the discretionary power to decide whether, and in what extent, to implement the resolutions adopted by International/Regional conventions and agreements.

The way this issue is handled may also vary at local level between regions within the same nation

i.e. Liguria, Italy: in the past years Liguria obtained a temporary ban of the use of lead ammunition in hunting ungulates during the hunting season;

i.e. German Bundesländer: the use of lead shot over wetlands was banned in Federal States, and lead ammunition was prohibited for game hunting in federal forests





# Conclusions

- The debate around the issue of lead in ammunition vertical multi-layered discussion going from an international to a local dimension;
- Before taking any action it is important to carry out an impact assessment to verify the real consequences that a possible ban/restrictions of the use of lead in ammunition might have on the industry, the hunting and shooting activities, and users.
- The WFSA and its members are aware of the several actions going on at international level to limit the use of lead in ammunition. The WFSA has the right expertise to let the several stakeholders understand all the consequences of a potential lead ban. It is therefore fundamental to have a constructive dialogue at different levels; this is one of the most important mission of the WFSA: circulate news and share useful information at each level

**THANK YOU**

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SECRETARY EUROPE**