

Good morning everyone,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the shooters who are attending this FITASC competition in Portugal.

All of you belong to the large family of FITASC shooters. And it is with great satisfaction and personal pride that I find myself at the heart of this family, which includes some European and World shooting champions, individually or as part of a team. This is a legacy that can't be ignored. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few points that I believe are important and affect all of us.

Hereafter a short reminder of the facts:

At the FITASC General assembly 2003, the new elected team unanimously adopted the prohibition, within the Fitasc and from January 1, 2004, of the use of live animals in different disciplines. In response, the few national organizations practicing live pigeon shooting have created a new structure called FEDECAT, whose purpose is the use of live animals in different disciplines, which did not present any problem for FITASC and its members by then.

But, in contravention of all law rules, FEDECAT has organized international competitions using clay target and helice Fitasc disciplines in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

FITASC has had then to suspend or exclude some of its members, also FEDECAT members, such as RFEC, in accordance with the point 8 of the preamble of its by-laws: "Fitasc is recognised by its members as the sole international organisation with competence for shooting disciplines with sporting / hunting weapons (not prescribed to the programme of Olympic games), using strictly artificial targets."

To normalize the relationships between both organizations, an agreement (see hereafter **doc.1**) was signed in 2006 between FITASC and FEDECAT that basically involved the following:

- FEDECAT recognised the FITASC as the sole international governing organisation for sporting disciplines and competitions using fixed or moving artificial targets and consequently undertook to refrain from organising competitions in such disciplines;
- the FITASC recognised FEDECAT as the sole international governing organisation for live animal disciplines and consequently undertook to refrain from organising competitions in such disciplines.

This agreement put an end to the competitive situation brought about by FEDECAT and also enabled federations that so desired to belong to both the FITASC and FEDECAT provided that the obligations under the agreement were observed.

This agreement has been scrupulously observed by both signatories and their respective members, including FPTAC, since it took effect on January 1, 2007.

In spring 2014, the President of FPTAC, M. Mota, who was the General Secretary of FITASC, was elected President of FEDECAT. In May 2014, M. Mota officially submitted his candidature to the FITASC Board in view of the Elective General Assembly of July 8, 2014.

On the eve of the FITASC Elective Assembly, I informed M. Mota that I would not support his candidature on the grounds that the President of an organization of live pigeon shooting wouldn't be supported by most of the FITASC members at the post of General Secretary. Thus on July 7, 2014, M. Mota, realizing that he had no chance to be re-elected at the Board, withdrew his candidature as well as the ones of all other Portuguese candidates (see hereafter **doc. 2**).

In August 2014, FITASC received a letter from FEDECAT, signed by M. Mota, denouncing the agreement signed by FEDECAT and FITASC in 2006, thus re-opening a conflict between both organizations, which would not allow any more, if it were to be applied, a FITASC member to be a FEDECAT member.

Since that, any FITASC member, also FEDECAT member and failing to resign from this organization, such as FPTAC, has been suspended from FITASC until the situation was resolved or until its exclusion is voted by the next FITASC Assembly in July 2015.

The shooters from the Portuguese FITASC Shooters Association are allowed to participate in FITASC events in 2015. They can count on the unconditional support of FITASC, which finds it unacceptable to take shooters as hostages, like FPTAC does.

I should note that the events of Sporting (Percurso de Caça), Compak Sporting, Universal trench (Fosso Universal) and Helice (Tiro à Helices) are overseen by FITASC, and any Federation that has suspended or expelled from FITASC wouldn't be allowed to organize competitions in these formats, at the risk of being the target of a legal process presented at the Tribunal. This specific situation is being monitored by FITASC's lawyers.

To conclude, I would like to wish you all a very excellent competition, in a fantastic environment of conviviality and camaraderie.

Enjoy!