

To F.I.T.A.S.C. president Mr. J.F. Palinkas

To Cyprus Shooting Sport Federation

To Federation Italiana Tiro A Volo

To Sporting Clays Federation Hungary

To Hellenic Shooting Federation

Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian hunting/sporting shooting federations, members of FITASC, are familiar with the decision of the Russian Shooting Federation to allow athletes from their federations to participate in 2023:

- at the European Sporting Championship Limassol, Cyprus 11-14. May;
- at the European Compak Sporting Championship in Foligno, Italy 15-18. June;
- at the World Sporting Championship in Gant, Hungary, 13-16. July;
- at the World Compak Sporting Championship in Psachna, Greece, 7-10. September,

as well as F.I.T.A.S.C. management committee's decision to delegate to the sporting federations of these countries the decision-making on the authorization of Russian athletes in these championships and in this regard wishes to express its protest against the admission of Russian athletes to these competitions, also under F.I.T.A.S.C. flag, for the following reasons:

- the decision to allow Russian athletes in this competition means the exclusion of Ukrainian athletes from this world and European competition, which Ukrainian athletes do not deserve due to Russian aggression against their country, which is unfair to Ukrainian athletes and Ukraine, as a country that suffers from large-scale Russian aggression;
- the decision to allow Russian athletes in this competition means supporting the war in Ukraine, the killing of innocent civilians and bringing misery; Russian athletes are co-responsible for the aggression of their elected power against a sovereign state, and pretending that nothing will change for Russian athletes after February 24, 2022, means supporting Russia in the war it started;
- the decision to allow Russian athletes in these competitions means ignoring solidarity with Ukraine - a country that has been suffering from Russia's unjustified aggression for a year, whose athletes, including sports shooters, die, are injured, maimed while defending their country and their families from destruction;
- the decision to allow Russian athletes in these competitions means splitting the family of sporting shooters, freezing the development of sporting as a sport, reducing the number of participants in international competitions, because the shooters of our national federations are against competing with the athletes of the aggressor country, which is recognized in Europe as a state supporting terrorism.

Russia cannot be stopped in the war it has started, if the European countries, their sports federations, pretend not to notice the events in Ukraine, - the atrocities of Russian soldiers raping, killing, torturing

peaceful Ukrainians, starting a full-scale war in the center of Europe only to destroy Ukraine as a country and Ukrainians as a people . This is not acceptable.

Taking into account the above, we ask you not to authorize Russian athletes to participate in the mentioned competitions.

We point out that in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania it is prohibited by state laws to organize competitions with the participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus.

Our governments and the Olympic Committees have taken clear decisions regarding the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international competitions. Our hunting federations are members of the local Olympic organizations and we fully support their principles with regard to athletes from these two countries.

We enclose with this letter links from the relevant decisions.

<https://www.eok.ee/organization/news/statement-from-the-estonian-athletes-commission-on-the-russian-aggression-in-ukraine>

<https://www.eok.ee/organization/news/statement-from-the-baltic-sports-organisations-russia-and-belarus-have-no-place-in-the-sports-family>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-on-russias-war-on-ukraine-and-international-sport/statement-on-russias-war-on-ukraine-and-international-sport>

Respectfully

President of the Latvian Sporting Federation  E. Shkele

President of the Lithuanian Sporting Federation  G. Malakauskas

Board member of the Estonian Hunting Sports Association  I. Parn