

CIC RECOMMENDATION TO PHASE OUT LEAD SHOT



CIC PRESS RELEASE

At the 56th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) – the World Forum for Sustainable Hunting – members took important steps towards the development and promotion of best practices in hunting. The Assembly was hosted by the French Delegation in Paris and gathered 380 participants from 36 countries from around the world, among them high ranking representatives from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) as well as the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), representatives from the IUCN as well as government delegations, national hunting organizations and scientists.

During the Assembly participants reviewed the situation regarding lead ammunition and game and wildlife. New data show the contamination of game and wildlife has increased and that game birds show levels similar to waterbirds. This is against a background where medical opinion is hardening against lead with levels once thought harmless now thought harmful. More surprisingly it has emerged that in use both lead shot and bullets fragment to some extent, increasing availability to scavengers, predators and consumers. Much attention was given to new findings about alternatives to lead but some of these were so recent and ongoing that it was considered a special Symposium was necessary.

Consequently, on 2 May, at its Closing Session, the General Assembly adopted a recommendation on the phasing out of lead shot for hunting (see exact wording hereafter). After the ban on lead shot in wetlands, CIC is urging governments to closely work together with the hunting community in solving this hot potato issue. CIC also calls on the industry to give priority to the development and production of satisfactory alternatives to lead shot. To follow-up the recommendation the CIC intends to organize an international Symposium on lead and its alternatives and will publish articles in the CIC Newsletter and on the CIC Website with further information about the above-mentioned recent findings.

RECOMMENDATION

CICGA56.REC01

BEING AWARE of the evidence of the occurrence of lead with effects in some:

- a) Waterbirds and Game-birds,
- b) Scavengers and predators and of
- c) possible effects on human health;

IN ORDER TO follow-up provisions laid out in the *Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA) and the *Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats* (Bern Convention) as to waterbirds and wetlands and previous CIC (2003, 2007) recommendations;

BEING CONCERNED that the level of the lead in some game might breach the limits for food given by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union (EU);

BEING AWARE of the ecological and ethical necessity to maintain game as a truly wholesome source of food and of the favourable perception of sustainable hunting:

The 56th CIC General Assembly in Paris from 30 April to 2 May

1. URGES governments to work in close cooperation with international and national hunting organizations to solve the problem associated with lead shot,
2. CALLS ON the industry to give priority to the development and production of satisfactory alternatives to lead shot;
3. ASKS CIC's Director General and other international hunting organisations to organize a CIC Symposium, with invited scientists, to explore all issues relating to lead and hunting.

Active in 84 countries worldwide, the *International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)* is a global community advocating and promoting sustainable hunting through knowledge, networks and valued traditions to benefit people and conserve nature.