



European Shooting Confederation

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### **European Championships in Tallinn 2027**

To the representatives of the European Shooting Confederation

Allow me to express our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to host the European Shooting Championships 10m in Estonia on 25 February – 9 March 2027. We are truly excited about bringing this event to Estonia and are confident that we can deliver an outstanding championship that will exceed expectations.

Estonia has earned a strong reputation as an organizer of world-class sporting events. Thanks to the great work of our sport organisations we have hosted events such as Biathlon World Cup, Figure Skating Junior World Championships, Football Boys Under-17 European Final Tournament already in 2026. These events reflect the trust placed in Estonia by international sports bodies and our proven ability to deliver exceptional results.

Our successful hosting of previous shooting international competitions has already demonstrated our capability and commitment to excellence to the European Shooting Confederation. Building on this experience, we are ready to raise the bar even higher.

At the same time I would like to express our position regarding the war in Ukraine. Immediately after the outbreak of the war, Estonia condemned the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and Belarus. Since the beginning of the war, Estonia has provided comprehensive support to Ukraine and has advocated for the strongest possible sanctions against Russia and Belarus in all areas.

As of 10 March 2022, Estonia ceased issuing tourist visas to Russian and Belarusian citizens at its embassies, and as of 18 August 2022, entry into Estonia was prohibited for all citizens of the Russian Federation holding valid visas for tourism or business travel purposes, including participation in sporting competitions or cultural events held in Estonia.

Since the start of the war, the Government of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture, and the Estonian Olympic Committee have maintained a clear and consistent position: Russian and Belarusian athletes, coaches, referees, and officials should not participate in international sporting competitions until the war in Ukraine has ended. This position reflects the reality that Ukrainian

athletes are unable to train and prepare under equal conditions, as many have been displaced, affected by destruction, or have chosen to defend their country and people. In this context, calls to separate sport from politics ring hollow when thousands of innocent Ukrainians have lost their lives and the sport has been constantly instrumentalized by Russian and Belarusian regimes.

I would like to confirm that the Ministry of Culture fully supports our national federation as much as possible. The Ministry of Culture is ready to co-operate with the event organisers and European Shooting Confederation in order to guarantee the best possible organisation of the event and legacy for Estonians. Visas, where required, will be granted promptly according to Estonian legislation taking into account the position explained previously.

Together, we can create an event that not only celebrates shooting but also embodies the spirit of fair play and solidarity.

Yours sincerely,

Heidy Purga  
minister

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher. The signature is positioned to the right of the printed name and title.