

Statement

02.03.2023, Nuremberg

Statement by Jürgen Triebel, President Verband Deutscher Büchsenmacher (VDB, German Gunsmiths and Gun Traders), for the opening of IWA OutdoorClassics 2023

Check against delivery!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the VDB, the Association of German Gunsmiths and Gun Traders, I want to extend a warm welcome to IWA 2023 in Nuremberg.

This year's IWA is a special one. Following the event cancellations compelled by the coronavirus years and our somewhat modest restart last year, this year we'll once again have a trade fair with no interfering constraints and more attendees.

A thoroughly renewed concept of the IWA will take place, and I very much hope it will be a successful event. I wish the organising company and its deeply committed staff all the best.

My organisation, the VDB, will also be attending in a new form. But the reason for that is more of a cause for concern. Once again we are facing an attempt to make our lives more difficult. More restrictive gun laws are supposed to make our country safer. The government, along with the system's loyal supporter the media, ignore the fact that it is not the law-abiding firearms owners who pose a threat to our state. Out of concern that this situation might ultimately deprive us of the basis for our economic life, with everyone's support we have decided to resist this attempt. That has certainly also brought about a change in the overall picture; we have not

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Veranstalter
Organizer
NürnbergMesse GmbH
Messezentrum
90471 Nürnberg
Germany
T +49 9 11 86 06-0
F +49 9 11 86 06-82 28
iwa@nuernbergmesse.de
www.iwa.info

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been accustomed to having the VDB become involved in such a way. Developments so far, though, have shown that significantly more of those who will be affected can be motivated to join in.

Let us fight for our rights, our economic survival, and our hobby. We encourage those in charge to evaluate measures of firearms law and to sit down at the table with us to establish a reasonable and also enforceable set of gun laws that can truly be characterised as just.

We are ready for a dialogue, and willing to contribute our expertise so that we can arrive at reasonable regulations that take due account of both our rights and public safety.

I'm looking forward to a successful trade fair, and I wish plenty of business for everyone involved. Thank you.