



Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Members,

Another year has gone – time for reflection. It was a good year in terms of dog sports since the pandemic slowed down and we could assume our activities again. Certainties could be felt once more – the scheduling, planning and organization of events, shows and competitions became more reliable again.

Very much to our shock, a humanitarian disaster struck all of Europe – with effects to be felt at a global level. Since February 24th, 2022, Ukraine has been under military attack by their Russian neighbours – war in Europa of which we had all thought it was a thing of the past. And again, the German Shepherd Dogs world moved closer together, and we tried our very best to support our friends in Ukraine with food - and monetary donations. All of this will not cure the misery that now prevails in Ukraine but once again there has been proof that we support each other in times of need.

The court decisions against the FCI at global level and the VDH at national level in Germany in terms of cartel right violations where good news for us. But also, homework for ourselves. The WUSV Statutes also require a major review in this connection, and this will be a complex task which we are currently tackling. Following the WUSV General Annual Assembly 2022, a statutory commission was established that is currently working on the changes and amendments required.

This year's WUSV General Annual Assembly was a very lively event – even beforehand since we never received so many proposals from WUSV member countries for the agenda in the past. Participation in our democratic framework and structures shows a very encouraging development which is most welcome by the WUSV Board of Directors who were joined by a new member after the elections – Vadim Plotsker, president of the *United Schutzhund Club* in the United States of America, has offered the WUSV his services and we will for sure benefit from his expertise. But where there is light there is also shadow – Imran Husain, our longstanding board member to whom we owe so much was no longer available for re-election. He loyally served us for more than a decade and we wish him the very best for his future to come. We are sure – his commitment to the dogs' world remains unchanged.

The WUSV World Championships 2022 could be held (almost) without Corona related restrictions. The World Championship UNIVERSAL was held in Schwanenstadt – Austria, and the World Championship IP in Randers – Denmark. Both events were professionally planned and organized, and we could enjoy dog sports at its best. Our thanks go once more to the SVÖ in Austria and the *Schaeferhundeklubben for Danmark*. Next year we will meet again in Switzerland and Hungary, and I am sure both clubs will offer us the highest levels of dog sports in very nice surroundings.

Last but not least – many people who coined dog sports and breeding passed away during 2022 – Luciano Musolino from SAS in Italy, Rafael de Santiago from the FCI, and Hans W. Müller, also FCI, to name but a few. The saddest loss was our esteemed Clemens Lux. His name could be translated into *gentle* or *gracious* – that was not always the case but mostly. In first place he was down to earth, and matter of fact based – with true dedication toward our cause which he had made the purpose of his life – and as a member once said, he was always open for the needs of our international clubs and working with the many different cultural mentalities brought him joy. He will be sadly missed.

Please allow me to take an outlook towards next year. Some of you might already know that the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.* will hold board elections in June 2023 and thus, also a new President is to be elected. Whether the “old” President will be the “new” President – that I cannot say. This shall be decided by the SV General Assembly next year. Thus, this might be my last Season's Greetings to the worldwide community of the WUSV – but whatever the case might be – we will meet again.

I wish you, your families, and four-legged friends a Merry Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year 2023.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Dr Heinrich Meßler
WUSV President

