

Dear friends,

To some extent life always sucks a bit, we brush it off and laugh about it, but on certain occasions life really sucks. Today is surely one of those days: it is with the utmost regret that we have to inform you that the IPSC European Rifle Championships have been cancelled.

During the past weeks we have been in constant communication with the municipality of Karlskoga and the Swedish Armed Forces over the large amount of wildfires in the area. Only a few hours ago we received a phone call in which the Swedish Armed Forces communicated their decision, not to allow us to use Villingsbergs shooting range. [The current critical situation with uncontrolled wildfires could, in their opinion, present danger to us.](#) Only a few days ago there was a big fire in the Villingsberg shooting range. It has been decided that, for reasons of safety, we cannot hold the match there.

We can only imagine how disappointed you must be. And so are we. Our team was really looking forward to having you as our guests and show our best hospitality. We have worked very hard to present great stages in the breathtaking nature of the beautiful shooting range. The opening ceremony and the awards dinner would be something truly special. We have designed 28 stages, we have built over 300 walls, 257 special target stands, sturdy platforms, staircases, towers, we have painted over three kilometers of fault lines, we have made check lists and road signs, we have planned ceremonies and banquets, we have arranged national flags, match hotels, import permits, match ammo, etc, etc.

And then, today, eleven days before first shot: poof... it's gone. Just like that, in one short phone call.

The situation feels just surreal and empty. We are really, really sorry for what has happened and we fully understand the great inconvenience the cancellation causes for you. We are deeply saddened that we will not see you here at the ERC2018. We do have the support from both the municipality of Karlskoga and the International Practical Shooting Confederation to move the ERC to next year, even though this is a deviation from the international championship program. We hope to get a positive message from the Armed Forces as well so that we can host the match in 2019. We will keep you posted.

On behalf of the ERC2018 Team,

Roland Dahlman

Match Director

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