



Confédération Ornithologique Mondiale

Président Général, Carlos Fernando RAMÔA,

Réf. : PG2018-37

PÓVOA DE VARZIM august 18, 2018

Dear Mr.

Presidents of the COM National Entities (member-countries)

with cc to

Members of the COM Management Committee

Members of the OMJ Executive committee

Breeders and individual members of COM

Dear Sirs:

The COM World Show 2018 held in Cesena, Italy, last January, was a moment of extreme joy and happiness for all those that love COM, and that regard our Confederation as their reference in our hobby, the breeding and showing of domestic cage birds, and consequently have developed a sentiment of belonging to a big family: the COM family, having originated many moments of great conviviality and friendship over the years.

But, like in all families, sometimes there are problems. And this was the case at the end and after the bird take-out operations at the last World Show, with the disrespect of some rules and the disappearance of some birds entered in the show.

Even if we know that in Cesena 2018 some of the rules that were to be followed during the take-out of the birds were not respected and that the security situation at the show hall was not perfect, mainly after the take-out of the Italian birds, the disappearance of birds to be found later in the transport cages of other breeders or convoyeurs is a very sad situation.

Annexed to this letter you can find the resume of the facts discovered during the investigation procedure that the COM Committee made regarding three Portuguese breeders and its conclusions and decisions already announced in April.



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In their last meeting, the COM Committee has confirmed the sanctions applied.

With the objective of not leaving any doubt about the application of the sanctions and its motivation we specify that:

- a) The three Portuguese breeders accused have not respected the rules about the take-out of the birds : Sobral and Jesus have taken-out their birds themselves and Carlos Moia took his transport cages to the sales hall and back, before he handed them over to the convoyeurs.**

Because of this infraction, the COM has punished them with a one year ban time, but has suspended its execution, considering the general security situation in the hall and the absence of physical barriers between the show hall and the sales hall, and also the fact that their presence in the hall at that time was allowed by elements of the organizing committee, surely motivated by the expressed availability shown by these breeders to help in the bird take-out operations.

Many other breeders were also present to « help » in the take-out operations.

This situation is not new in the world shows, this has been happening with many persons involved.

With this punishment and its suspended execution, we were expressing that this behaviour is not accepted and will not be tolerated and will be severely punished in the future.

Acknowledging this situation does not mean that we want simply to criticise or condemn the World Show Organising Committee or all the breeders who worked so hard to make it a success.

Totally the opposite!

And only those who don't know or understand the reality of the work of the COM, or that have not lived the World Show from the beginning to the very end, could have that kind of opinion.



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But we should not hide these problems.

The critic goes also to the COM, its Management Committee and mainly to its General-President, who is the main responsible of the World Show. The show only finishes when all the birds are taken-out by all the convoyeurs.

We have the duty to change the system and respect the rules for taking-out the birds, even if this will mean some delays and more work for the convoyeurs.

The COM Committee has already taken some decisions that will change the bird take-out method, the working schedules, and the obligation of previous identification of all those involved in these operations, even those who only come to help, and also the setting of new rules for the show bird transfers between different countries.

Also for the 2020 World Show, the table for nomination of the official convoyeurs by the member-countries will be changed, previewing an increase of their number, allowing all the convoyeurs to have a more balanced work load.

Having said this, another thing, much different is that:

b) from the investigation, we have concluded that Vitor Jesus and Nuno Sobral were involved in the disappearance of the birds belonging to Jose Banares entered in Cesena 2018-

and,

c) from the investigation, we have concluded that Carlos Moia took-out his birds in the presence of an authorized convoyeur

And we cannot conclude that he has been involved in the disappearance of the birds belonging to Jose Banares entered in Cesena 2018-



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All the transport cages of these breeders were under the guard and responsibility of the convoyeurs for more than 2 days after the take-out operations in Cesena, until their arrival to the distribution centre near Lisbon.

Accordingly the breeders **NUNO SOBRAL (stam PT-AX74)** and **VITOR JESUS (stam PT-BN49)** **received a suspension punishment of all COM activities for a period of 9 (nine) years.**

Also, the COM Committee, considering that a theft constitutes a crime, reserves itself the right to take other measures after the conclusion of the police enquiry and judicial process entered in the Italian concerned authorities.

As such, we refute all accusations of inaction, prejudice or disproportionality in this process, and we want to assure that the COM and its Committee has taken all the possible and necessary measures and will not hesitate to do it again in the future.

Also that we will never condemn anyone without concluding evidence!

Bearing all of this, the COM Committee has already formulated a proposal for a deontology code and a more precise COM Disciplinary Regulation, so that the rules of our family can be clearer and more respected.

The COM General-President is available for any clarification to be found necessary by any policial, judicial or other entity about this process, his intervention in it and all decisions taken by the COM Committee.



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Wishing that all members realize how serious these facts were and how much concern they should bring us all in the COM family, I continue to assure you my entire commitment to our Confederation, and send you my warmest regards, hoping to see you somewhere in the next show season.

Le Président Général, Carlos Fernando RAMÔA,