



Commission Report

World Air Games has absorbed considerable time for the Bureau and other Officials. Conference will recall that the Commission's first meeting to discuss World Air Games was in Turin November 2007. Planning had already started 18 months before the event.

The World Financial Crisis aggravated and caused many delays to which should be added a lack of communication.

Future progress for World Air Games must be more effectively planned well in advance and Commissions not left to struggle at the last moment.

It is vital that when selections are made the appropriate Selectee is informed well in advance. This did not happen thus a number of the world's best pulled out.

As part of World Air Games the Commission trained a number of young judges as part of their University course. They qualified just in time to receive their accreditation prior to the start of World Air Games. We are considering a second programme to continue our relationship with the University Authorities in Turin.

Due to the high cost of participation in helicopter events the Commission must consider other ways and means of promoting its sporting activities. A working group will report before the year end on the possibility of internet challenges which will avoid travel. The group will report further on other possibilities that might be of benefit.

Recent proposals by EASA have caused very serious concerns that would substantially restrict helicopter flying and its sporting activity. Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland and UK have already formed the 'Private Helicopter Alliance' to fight these proposals which have attracted more than 8,000 helicopter objections from within Europe and another 5,000 on related matters. The Alliance has been recommended to engage with the European Air Sports.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Professor Fulvia Quagliotti, Federico Vallauri and Luca Beraudo and their teams for the hard work and their professionalism to ensure that the helicopter input to World Air Games succeeded.

I would also like to add to this Peter Kuhn (Switzerland) who undertook at very short notice the role of Liaison and Media Advisor to the Commission. He did an excellent job and his briefings to the World Press in explaining the skill and reasoning behind helicopter events, was well received.

FAI Rotorcraft Gold Medal was awarded to Vladimir Zyablikov (Russia) who must be congratulated on his achievements.

No Commission can function without the input of every member of the Bureau. Once again I can only give the highest praise for 1st Vice President Konrad Geissler, 2nd Vice President Irina Grouchina and our Secretary and Chairman of the Rules Committee Wolfgang Perplies.

It is with great sadness that we were informed that Max Bishop is retiring. His work over the years, his contribution, his guidance and above all his love of air sports has been second to none. We shall miss him enormously. We look forward to entertaining him at our Plenary Meeting next February.

The entire staff of FAI who work so hard on our behalf must be thanked. Yet again they have excelled themselves in what could have been a very difficult year.

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