



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Minutes

of the
**Meeting of
FAI Commission Presidents' Group
with FAI Executive Board**

held in Belgrade (SRB)
on Wednesday 12 October 2011
at the Continental Hotel Beograd

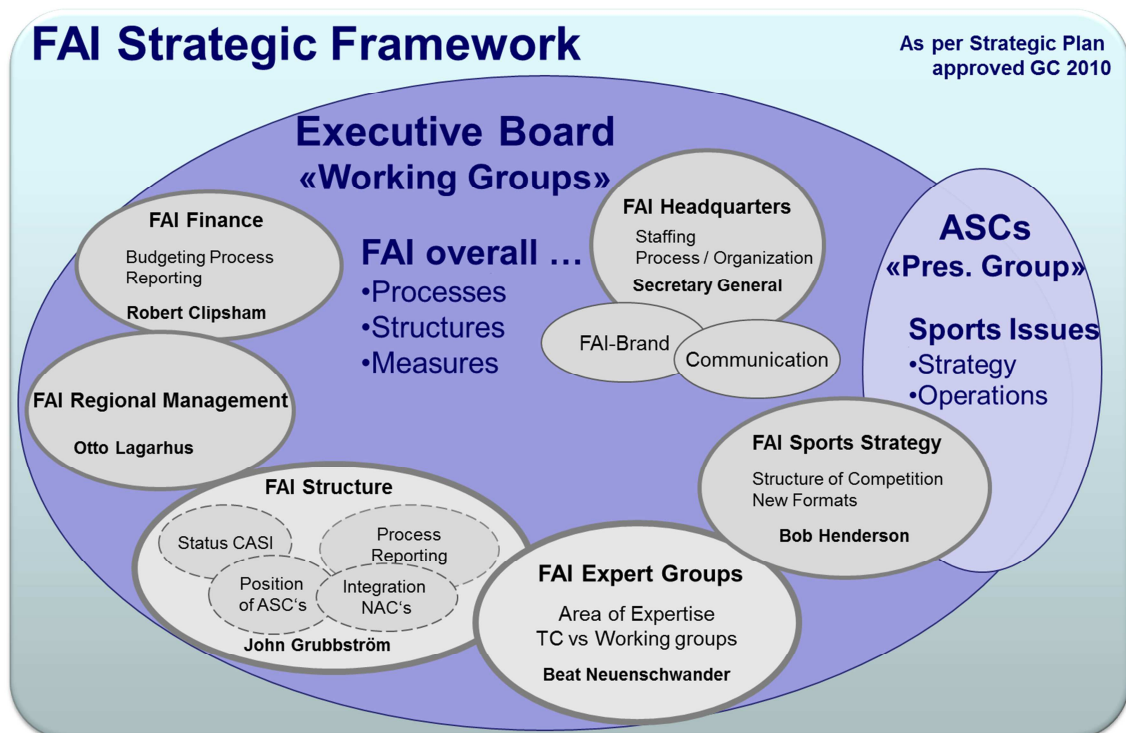
Ver. 1.3 / 10 January 2012

The FAI President then talked about the outline of the GC and the main issues that would be dealt with : The Conference would actually not be a Conference where a lot of items would be voted on, but rather a Conference where guidance from FAI Members would be needed to confirm that the directions the FAI had been taking since the last GC in Dublin and the propositions from the EB were correct.

2. Brief Update of FAI Strategic Plan Items for the General Conference

2.1. Strategic Plan Review

Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM reminded the Presidents that the 4 main objectives of the FAI Strategic Plan were to : Strengthen the organisation - Unite the Members - Increase service to Members and Commissions - Promote, facilitate and market air sports to increase their practice. He then outlined the Strategic framework.



He said that this was what the EB had been doing and that a number of working groups had been looking at various issues. Starting with finance, he reminded the attendees that one of the tasks from the last GC was to consolidate the FAI economy with the purposes of showing transparency, tracking expenses and having a consolidated accounting system. The President pointed out that there had been a lot of misunderstanding around this issue and made it clear that the purpose was certainly not to "steal the Commissions' money", but to consolidate it for the advancement of all air sports and to enable better sharing of resources to achieve common goals and projects.

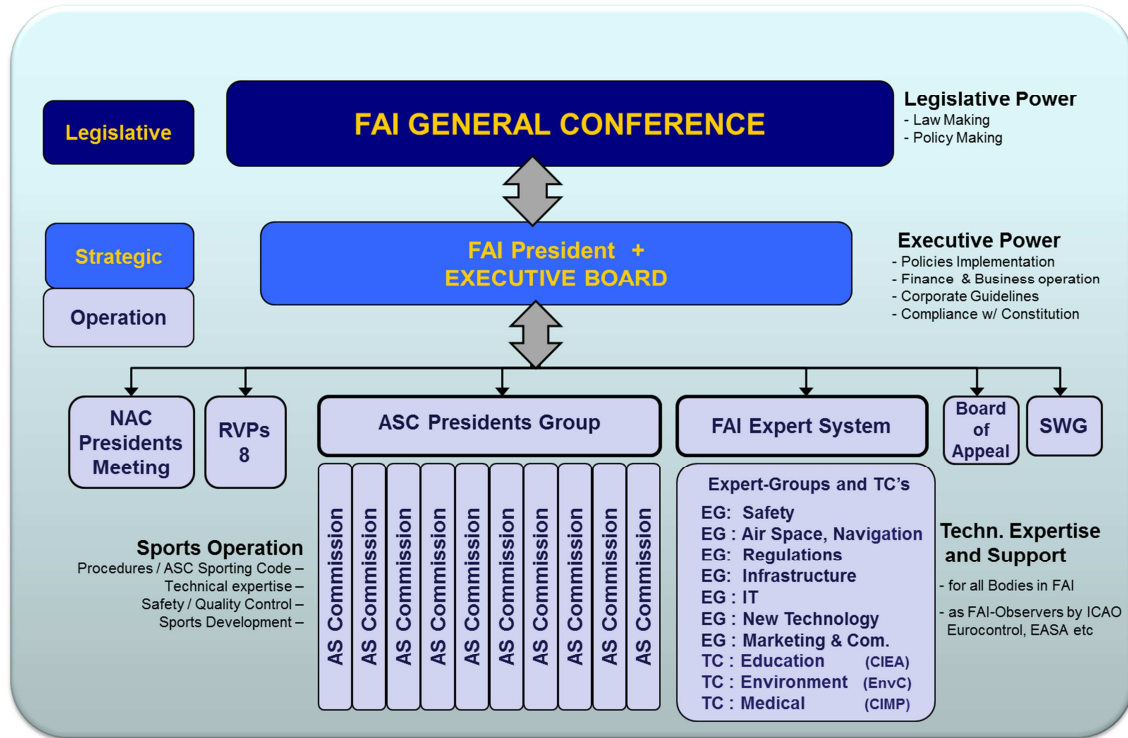
Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM then mentioned the concept of Regional Management and explained how difficult it was for the EB to know what was going on in distant regions. The EB really felt that there was a need for a point of contact to get feedback and develop air sports not only in Europe. Referring to the new FAI Structure, the President briefly mentioned changes regarding CASI, the position of ASCs, integration of NACs and reporting processes.

The FAI President also reinforced the desire for Expert Groups as had already been discussed during the previous meeting. Having a lot of Commission Delegates traveling around the world to attend annual meetings led to high expenses and administrative work. Introducing Expert Groups had the potential to simplify work and reduce costs.

The new FAI Sport Strategy was briefly presented by the President to show the need of new competition formats to popularize air sports, attract public, media and new comers. He also mentioned the problems the FAI Head Office was facing before stressing the importance of the ASC Presidents Group by calling it the "engine room" of FAI and by pointing out the operational management involved in this Group.

The President stated that this was an overview of what the EB had been working on during the year for the Commissions Presidents to be able to comment on that and give their feedback.

The President then invited the participants to look at the following diagram that summarized the future suggested FAI organisation.



This organisation was based on 3 levels of responsibilities :

- The legislative level fulfilled by the General Conference,
- The executive level managed by the Executive Board (strategic issues),
- The operational level dealt with by the Executive Board, together with the ASC Presidents Group and the other groups shown on the diagram.

The President introduced the Expert System, which was still at a rudimentary stage, as an alternative or complement to Technical Commissions. There would be 7 Expert Groups, and 3 Technical Commissions would remain. He then talked about the Board of Appeal and the proposed abolishment of CASI. The responsibility for keeping the Sporting Code General Section current would be transferred to the ASC Presidents Group. The last proposal the President commented on was to consider the Statutes Working Group (SWG) as an operational body under the EB. This new organisation would be presented at the GC in order to have support from the Members.

Discussion :

AC observed that the NAC Presidents Meeting shouldn't be part of the operations underneath the EB. JG repeated that the EB met this group informally, but that this group should perhaps be removed from the diagram. AOB and RH emphasised that this group could actually be part of the operations once the new sport strategy would be set up to make sure it can be applicable in their countries. RMH reminded that the NACs should be fully involved and aware of what was going on since they appointed Delegates to the ASCs who were supposed to report back to their NAC. RH pointed out that this was unfortunately not the case.

JCW noted that the ASCs were not just on the executive level but also on the legislative level, since ASC Presidents were entitled to vote at the GC. This real conflict in the FAI structure didn't appear on the organisation chart. He suggested this issue needed to be considered and maybe some changes in the

structure were required. JG reminded the participants that this was a historical compromise and admitted that it might look a bit strange. This issue would be discussed at the GC.

AC asked about the national representatives' concept that had been presented at previous meetings. JG said that a step back had been taken after discussing the concept at the last informal NAC Presidents meeting. He explained that the initial idea was to withdraw the current function of FAI Vice-Presidents and to give a clear mission to national representatives. The EB however understood that, in many countries, the title of FAI Vice-President had a significant impact for promoting air sports.

AOB stated that 95 % of problems faced by the FAI were because the FAI at large was getting older, more boring and less interesting. He said there was no new blood, no young managers, especially at the national level. RMH agreed and added that the "secretariat" was not managing its core business; he mentioned that some record claims had been waiting for a long time without having been ratified.

GW didn't agree with the principle of removing the voting power of ASCs and asked why the EB wanted to get rid of all the expertise available in CASI. JG explained that skilled people should be involved in Expert Groups, to take advantage of these volunteers and their expertise outside of CASI frame. Rather than having each NAC sending Delegates to Commissions, the EB wanted to promote groups of experts.

JG talked about a possible new way of staging the General Conference. Gathering all Commissions at the same time for their annual meetings, building up a big Conference, and even showcasing air sports, could attract sponsors and cities to host the Conference. RH said that this was just an idea and that other items were more urgent and needed to be discussed first.

After GW and DH had commented on how difficult communication sometimes was between Commissions and NACs, AOB reiterated that most of the problems seemed to arise at the NAC level. He gave examples of initiatives that could improve the situation :

- Ask a candidate to NAC Boards to sign a document stating that he/she would devote a certain amount of time to the job and do his/her best to fulfil the objectives.
- Provide a charter with minimum NAC performance obliging NACs to fulfil their commitments.
- Provide a NAC "ranking" at the GC or at NAC Presidents meeting.

JCW invited the Board not to make rules that would be difficult to implement. DH suggested that NACs should provide CVs of their Delegates in order to allow ASCs to assess their suitability. OL said that it could be difficult to have the same requirements for all NACs, since they all worked differently. AC suggested that whenever a new country wished to form a national air sports control, a code of conduct or practice should be provided to explain how a NAC should work. RH supported this idea and suggested that a draft would be presented at the next ASC Presidents meeting.

2.2. Regional Vice-Presidents

OL stressed again the benefits the RVPs would offer to the new management structure and encouraged the FAI to try out this new management "tool". A preliminary budget had been created; the implementation of the RVP concept could potentially result in countries becoming new members and therefore generate income. According to RMH there was no need for RVPs in Europe, America and Oceania but there was for one in Asia. He however suggested that one of the EB members be made responsible for Asia rather than creating a whole new layer of RVPs. OL reminded the participants that each EB member was a volunteer and that having one of them working as the Asian Vice-President would lead to some overload of work.

JCW spoke in favour of FAI regional representatives to improve the communication between NACs and ASCs in certain regions but that creating a new layer with RVPs was, in his opinion, diluting responsibilities. He suggested keeping it at the executive level; to have regional directors who would be EB members, instead of bringing new volunteers with whom the EB might have difficulties in communicating and coordinating.

AC asked how the Asian RVP would be selected. JG replied that Asian NACs would be invited to nominate candidates and that the EB would then appoint one of them. JG added that the intention was not to build up separate regions, but to provide a management tool for the EB.

JMB mentioned the example of the Asian Beach Games where pilots had to be announced through National Olympic Committees (NOC) : Having an RVP in Asia would have been very helpful to assist the FAI in coordinating between NOCs and NACs.

3. Update on FAI HQ Matters Involving Commissions

3.1. HQ Staffing

JG noted that the previous Secretary General, Mr. Stéphane Desprez, had left the FAI and that the period of time for the handover with JMB had been quite short. He then congratulated JMB on how he was dealing with the whole situation and invited him to report on the current situation in Lausanne. JMB showed the current list of staff members working at the FAI Office :

HQ Staffing

Situation as of 12 October 2012

Secretary General :	Jean-Marc BADAN	sec.gen@fai.org
Sports Director :	Vacant	
Sports Manager :	Vacant	sports-comm@fai.org
Competition Manager :	Christine ROUSSON	competitions@fai.org
Records Officer :	Marcel MEYER	records@fai.org
Office & Acc. Manager :	Cosette MAST	cosette@fai.org
Communication Manager :	Faustine CARRERA	communication@fai.org
Members & Services M. :	Jérôme KRIEG	members@fai.org
	Ségolène ROUILLON	(back on 20 Oct.)

With JMB appointed as the new Secretary General, and Rodric Neri leaving the FAI in September, the positions of Sports Director and Sports Manager were vacant. This explained why replies to questions and requests might have been less prompt than usual. He mentioned that a new email address had been created (sports-comm@fai.org), directed to Christine Rousson, until a new Sports Manager was hired, and that Christine would help organising Commissions' meetings following the GC. He also explained that, while Marcel Meyer had initially been hired as the Records Officer, his professional IT background had been very helpful in working on the IT problems the FAI had been facing; this partial reallocation of Marcel's duties explained why some delays had accumulated in the ratification of records claims. The pressure would be less once the new Website was launched. In the future, Christine would also start working on records administration, with the support of Marcel and Swiss astronaut Claude Nicolier when technical expertise would be needed. Cosette Mast had been working hard on the new budgeting and accounting software, which would provide a clearer vision in the mid-term of the FAI finances. Faustine Carrera, FAI Communication Manager, had been heavily involved in the development of the new website, and therefore could spend less time on publishing news and press releases. Ségolène Rouillon had been on a maternity leave since the beginning of July; she had been temporarily replaced by Jérôme Krieg, who was doing an internship, and who was with us today.

In order to reduce the high workload each staff member had during the last few months, JMB reported that a new staff member would soon be hired (Sports Administrator) to work on administrative tasks and projects for ASCs. The new person would have a more administrative profile, but might not be an air sports specialist. JMB expressed his hopes that the situation would improve by the end of the year and that the EB would need to set clear priorities as it was not possible for the current FAI staff to deal with all projects immediately. He then asked the ASC Presidents for improved two-way communication with the FAI Office : It was too often too difficult to receive answers and documents from ASCs, and he hoped that better cooperation would help save time and the nerves of his team in Lausanne.

The recruitment process for a new Senior Sports Manager (future Sports Director) had been initiated. JMB hoped to find the right candidate by the end of the year or beginning of 2012. He invited the Presidents who might be aware of potential candidates to ask him for a copy of the job description that had been prepared.

JMB concluded his report by quoting four key words that would be very important for the future : Cooperation – Communication - Synergies - Common Goals.

He reminded everyone that we all belonged to the same big family sharing the same passion for flying and that he was here to help Commissions and NACs, to provide them with the best services possible, but that the support and help from Commission Presidents was also imperative.

Discussion :

RMH asked whether the office in Lausanne was a Headquarters or a Secretariat ? JG replied that the new term was the FAI Head Office. RMH added that the FAI employees were paid by the NACs and strongly recommended that the office be called "the Secretariat". AOB disagreed and stated that the Organisation belonged to the objectives that members had committed to and that the employees in the office in Lausanne were there to fulfil these objectives which were very different from just being their secretaries.

AC expressed his concerns that the term "Sports Director" had been used on the staff diagram. This term should be used at the Executive Board level only in order to clearly understand the responsibilities levels. JMB replied that his title had actually changed over the years and that he ended up with the title of "Sports and Development Director", before being appointed the new Secretary General. He confirmed that the Sports Director or Senior Sports Manager would be responsible to the Secretary General, and explained that the title of Sports Director was commonly used within other international federations. JMB added that this title had helped him on several occasions, giving him more credibility and "weight" when working with other organisations such as the World Games, for example.

JG again asked the Presidents Group to be part of the Management team and to advise what to do with the vacant positions and what competences were needed. BSm asked about Jerome Krieg. JMB replied that he would leave the FAI at the end of his internship on Ségolène's return. RMH had full understanding for the work overload and that Marcel Meyer had to spend a lot of time on the new website and other IT issues, but he expressed his opinion that a lot of work could have been handled by the IT Expert Group. However nothing had actually been communicated about Expert groups and RMH asked why. JMB replied that he had just taken over his new position, and that he would aim at launching the IT and Technology Expert Groups before the end of the year, and that information on new Expert Groups would be provided in due time.

3.2. Priorities – Communication

Item dealt with at 3.1 above.

3.3. Presentation of the new FAI Website



JG summarized what had happened earlier this year and explained that the crash of the old server in April had delayed the development of the new website. He then invited AG, whose company had been mandated to develop and implement the new website, to present it to the Presidents. AG explained that the original design of the website had been made by another company and that less of half of the work had been done when they took over. Basically the new website would have a more lively content. AG showed how it was structured and how to navigate in the website. He then asked the Presidents to have a look at it and give feedback to FAI Communication Manager Faustine Carrera, who was in charge of the content of the website.

Discussion :

JMB thanked AG for his work and the presentation. RMH pointed out that Facebook and Twitter were blocked in China and that embedding them on the FAI website could lead to some difficulties in such countries.

VML then asked whether a mobile interface was planned : AG answered that it was not the case for the time being. VML mentioned the need for external applications for scoring and tracking. AG replied that they were still at the first step which involved transferring information from the old website to the new one and of migrating the available database. Further developments, as suggested by VML, would be dealt with at a later stage with the support of future Expert Groups.

AC asked if the Commissions could update their website sections themselves instead of providing all the data to Lausanne. AG answered that most of the Commissions had their own webmasters in charge of updating their website sections in close cooperation with Faustine.

RMH mentioned that it would make it easier if Commissions had access to the database. AG replied that one of the next steps was to open access to NACs and ASCs for certain tasks, like the nomination of the delegates or committee members.

VML asked if it could be possible for a Commission to provide their own experts, or an outside company, to help on specific issues. AG reminded that one of the aims was to have a uniform website and that this uniformity could potentially be broken if external programming work was done on the site.

JMB confirmed that the Commissions could have a webmaster allowed to directly modify and publish information on the FAI website. It was already the case for Commissions such as IGC, CIA, IPC and CIVL for example. Direct access to the database was a different problem : It would be technically possible but would need further investigation, in particular to guarantee data integrity. JMB emphasised that present target was to have a new website and a new working tool and that the objective was to go "live" the following week and then to fine-tune it. The next steps would be to provide and implement new project management and document sharing tools, etc. Regarding other future IT developments, JMB mentioned :

- A new email distribution system
- The merging of databases
- The integration of tracking into the FAI website
- The implementation of web-based services (i.e. to event organisers for online registration or for direct uploading of results)

He finally concluded by saying that he was aware of the fact that the the IT and Technology Expert Groups were needed urgently to work on these future projects and thanked the Presidents for their input.

3.4. FAI Branding Guide

JMB reminded the Presidents that this subject had already been mentioned during the last Commission Presidents meeting and that the intention was to provide Event Organisers with new logos, new templates for documents and websites in order to have a common branding for our events. Priorities however needed to be set on the development of the new website, and further work on this project had been postponed.

Going forward, the FAI President wished to bring up what he called "bush fires".

One of them related to a recent World Championship where 3 pilots had competed without being selected by their NAC. The representative of the Commission concerned explained that there had been some misinformation, that the pilots had flown "Hors Concours", and that their names had appeared in the final ranking with the "H/C" mention. AOB responded that pictures showed that the pilots had marched under their country's flag and that a top Italian aviation magazine had published the competition results with the H/C pilots included in the results. JG had received a lot of mails and letters voicing concern that the NAC sovereignty had not been respected. He asked the Presidents to inform the EB should similar situations arise in the future. This might lead to clarification and modification of the Statutes. He finally invited the Presidents to speak about this issue outside the meeting room in general terms, without mentioning the sport or the NAC concerned.

4. Commission Reports

The FAI President invited each Commission President to briefly report on their latest activities, on-going projects and concerns for the near future.

4.1. Specific Projects planned by Commissions

Richard MEREDITH-HARDY / President of the FAI Microlight Commission (CIMA)

RMH reported on the 3rd Asian Beach Games to be held next year in Haiyang (CHN), and at which paramotors had been included as an official sport. Entries had to be done through NOCs. In fact, 17 countries involved were not FAI Members. Since there was no NAC for these countries, RMH raised the question of Sporting Licences : Would the FAI deliver licences in such cases ?

AC mentioned art. 8.1.3.5 of the Sporting Code General Section that authorised the Secretary General to issue Sporting Licences in accordance with the EB or the ASC concerned to individuals who cannot obtain a Sporting License through a NAC.

JG confirmed that the FAI would most probably issue Sporting Licences to these pilots. JMB however reminded the Presidents that holders of Sporting Licences issued by the FAI should fly under the FAI Flag and said that the EB needed to be careful not to create a precedent by allowing them to compete under their own flag. The best solution would be to encourage those countries to apply for FAI Membership, as new members could be admitted by the EB on short-notice, subject to further ratification by the next Conference.

The second issue RMH raised was the difficulties in getting some NACs and NOCs talk to each other. JMB said that this could be a situation where a RVP could help. RMH mentioned the need to be proactive on this and that there was a great future in this event with three air sports represented in the Asian Beach Games 2014. JG concluded by saying that he would try to get more information and assist NAC Japan during his next trip to Japan later this year.

Jean-Claude WEBER / President of the FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)

JCW said there were no "bush fires" in his Commission but a few on-going projects.

The main project was Competition loggers : The Commission had already bought 90 devices and was expecting a final number of 120 in order to have all major events run with loggers. The challenge at this stage was the absence of any obligation for Event Organisers to use loggers, and that CIA had little support from NACs or ballooning federations to convince organisers using the loggers. He added that these loggers were very easy to use and well accepted, and that their costs would be covered in the future.

He added that the trackers used by CIA were not helpful for other air sports since the intervals between signals transmitted were much longer than other sports required (20 minutes for gas balloons), but he emphasised the potential of these technologies.

The second project the CIA was working on was event development (competition, marketing and media). Organisers were well structured to run events, but poor efforts were made in marketing and media. CIA wanted to better control these two last aspects.

Graeme WINDSOR / President of the FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)

GW briefly mentioned the media rights problems with Flying Aces, and reported on the 2012 "Mondial" in Dubai where all World Parachuting Championships would be held at the same time and venue. Even Paraski would be present as a demonstration sport (indoor skiing facilities). This event had great potential and had raised the interest of sponsors, but he stressed that resolving the Flying Aces situation was crucial.

GW then raised the general difficulty faced by Air Sports to achieve breakthroughs and develop new types of competitions. He also stressed the competition between air sports with all the ASCs promoting their own sports and wanting to enter multi-sports events such as the SportAccord Games or The World Games.

JG said that coordination was required and that the idea of cities hosting air sports events would more and more imply a multi-sport approach of events. RH said that the interest of cities was to advertise their city through events, and that combining different air sports might help meeting these needs.

JMB agreed with the multi-sport approach but pointed out that, for the time being, the FAI did not have real products to show and sell to cities or potential organisers. Developing attractive products and events in close cooperation with Commissions was crucial and should end up with a catalogue of saleable events; this catalogue of events should provide a clear description of the costs involved, the infrastructure needed and practical operational aspects.

Alan CASSIDY / Representing the President of the FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA)

AC reported on the two major events held in 2011 and mentioned the growing interest of China to host special events. CIVA had developed a new part of its Sporting Code to allow "Special Events" and provide description of the basic ideas to be shown to event promoters. The main challenge for this type of events was the budget (approx. 0.5 million CHF). The creation of a world series wouldn't be possible without the support from the private sector, a qualitative product and the will of a city to showcase air sports.

Visa-Matti LEINIKKI / Representing the President of the FAI Gliding Commission (IGC)

The main IGC project was currently the design of a website for the Sailplane Grand Prix events and other gliding competitions. This website could then be offered to other Air Sport Commissions, and the involvement of other Commissions was welcome. The 2nd objective was to create a software package to display live races and produce highlights package after the events. None of the existing software products was suitable. The 3rd objective was, in the future, to own trackers that could be rented to organisers at a reasonable price. The 4th objective was to find the best solution to transfer the data from the trackers to the

presentation website. The whole idea was to provide a single access point for all viewers, media, etc. JG noted that tracking was one of the keys to increase media and sponsors' interest.

JCW asked what had happened with the trackers used in Turin during the World Air Games ? JG replied that the FAI owned the trackers, but that the complete software package had not been made available. JMB added that the trackers had been evaluated by specialists and that, even if they were of good quality, they were not suitable for all air sports and rather expensive to use (data transmission being via satellite). JMB's opinion was that the contribution of the future Technology Expert Group might be helpful to find the best solution. VML said that the IGC had been working with the tracking system providers to develop hybrid transmitters that would use mobile networks, when available, or satellites, depending of the location of gliders. This technology would significantly reduce costs. AG observed that each Commission was doing its own project in tracking and therefore invited the Commissions to work together and share experience.

Vagn JENSEN / President of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)

GAC had been working on "Tracking and software", similar to the other Commissions, and was fine-tuning a software system for the GAC Air & Navigation Race.

Bob SKINNER / President of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM)

One project consisted of harmonizing their Sporting Code to better cope with the emergence of new classes of model planes. A second project was the integration of "jet models" into FAI activities, but CIAM was still facing problems in finding agreement with the activities held outside of FAI.

Alfons HUBMANN / President of the FAI Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft Comm. (CIACA)

Their first effort was to increase NAC participation to CIACA activities, as he knew that homebuilt aircraft activities were conducted in several FAI member countries. The second objective was to find a way to attract young people from aeromodelling and to encourage them building their own aircraft. Finally, AH pointed out the financial difficulties the Commission was facing, and JG expressed his hopes that CIACA would soon become an Air Sport Commission.

David HAMILTON / President of the FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG)

DH reported that the next FAI World Rotorcraft Championship (Russia, 2012) was being staged very close to the Olympic Games and that media coverage of the Rotorcraft event would be very difficult. CIG had considered non-competitive events at which manufacturers would be involved to present their products. He finally said that he would have hoped that the Expert Group "Marketing and Communication" would have been placed at the top of the list, as this was the most important Group to him.

Agust GUDMUNDSSON / Acting President of the FAI Hang Gliding & Paragliding Commission (CIVL)

AG mentioned the efforts made by CIVL on IT projects, especially to develop a tracking system enabling live scoring; some 5000 people had followed a single competition task, and he invited all Commissions to join forces on these important tracking projects.

The most important issue CIVL was currently working on was the review of the Open Class Paragliders after the fatal accidents that occurred at the last world championship.

Bernald SMITH / President of the FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)

BS invited the Presidents to refer to the written report he had provided.

Michiel KASTELEIJN / President of the FAI Aviation & Space Education Commission (CIEA)

MK asked for better interaction between the Commissions and invited more Air Sport Commissions to attend CIEA annual meetings; he added that, should CIEA be invited to ASC meetings, CIEA would do its best to attend. MK would like to involve ASCs in the CIEA "Why Fly?" project, which was aiming at promoting aviation in general. MK expressed his regrets that few responses had been received to the annual questionnaire : Even if participation was increasing, better collaboration was needed to get better results. He encouraged the initiatives some countries such as the Netherlands were taking to approach young people, explain aviation and create a fascination for aviation .

The FAI President thanked the Presidents for their reports and expressed his confidence that solutions would be found by future Expert Groups, in particular on the tracking projects that should allow spectators to better follow races.

4.2. Identification of outcomes from World / Continental Championships that may affect other Commissions

JG invited the Presidents to share the lessons learned by their Commission as their experience might be useful for other Commissions (successes or failures).

RMH mentioned the cancellation of the 2011 Microlight World Championship for financial reasons and low number of pilots entered. Shortly before this meeting, he had discovered that organisers had never paid the deposit. He asked whether it was the duty of the FAI Office to track such payments or CIMA's ? JMB reminded him that the Organiser Agreement for this competition had been retained by the Organisers and NAC Israel for a long time without signing it. Tracking and recording payments was of course one of the FAI Office's duties, and information on payments was available at any time from the FAI. In order to avoid similar cases in the future, clear procedures should be agreed between FAI Office and CIMA, and JMB repeated that communication and cooperation were required to avoid this kind of surprises in the future.

AG mentioned again that CIVL had decided to ban Open Class paragliders at first category events after two fatal accidents had occurred at the 2011 World Championship. This type of wing represented 80-90% of the gliders, resulting in the shutting down of the competition. Neither CIVL nor FAI was considered liable for reimbursing the entry fees to the pilots. JG commented by saying that stopping a world championship after two tasks for safety reasons was a difficult decision that could have had major economic consequences and thanked the CIVL Bureau for having managed this delicate situation.

JK mentioned the case of an apparently drunk pilot trying to take off and crashing his glider. He asked for solutions regarding alcohol and recreational drugs to avoid liabilities for the organisers and avoid this kind of situation happening again in the future. He suggested that there should be more information on this matter in the Organiser Agreements (OA). AG mentioned that in paragliding competitions, there was a Safety Officer who should stop pilots from flying if a pilot was found not to be fit to fly. He also raised the question whether a Safety Officer had enough background know-how to be capable to say if a pilot was fit to fly or not.

JCW suggested a revision of the standard Organiser Agreement to have a more flexible document instead of having the same one for each sport. RMH agreed and stated that the current OA was too complicated. JG confirmed that it was a priority for the FAI Office to develop a new OA in 2012 that should also better address media rights and other issues.

4.3. Identification of other ways in which FAI and Commissions can integrate activities to benefit the sports

VML mentioned the difficulties the IGC had to attract spectators at qualifying rounds of the Sailplane Grand Prix and that the IGC had thought of integrating other air sports during these events (aeromodelling or parachuting for example) to provide activities between the start and the end of the race.

It was suggested to have a list available of all on-going bids to allow each Commission to see where other air sports events would be held and to evaluate the possibility of combining sports at the same event. The idea was actually to "marry them up" before the formal bids were made. JMB agreed that the idea was good and reminded all that, two years ago, he had asked the Commissions to provide their bid schedule for the next 2 or 3 years to see where forces could be joined and potentially approach potential host cities. Unfortunately, the number of responses remained very low.

5. Specific FAI Activities relating to Commissions

5.1. Consolidated Budgeting and Expense Approval Process

The principles of a consolidated budgeting process, to provide more transparency and allow the Executive Board to better fulfil its statutory duties, had been announced at the General Conference 2010 and implemented in 2011. RC provided a brief overview of what would be presented and explained during this year's Conference.

Discussion :

GW stated that IPC was against the principle of sharing resources, but that IPC would however be open to help another Commission on a case by case basis and after appropriate consultation.

AC commented that the mechanisms to allocate money to common projects for the development of air sports had to be published to ensure a better understanding.

AC asked how the money would be allocated and spent and how it would impact on the Commissions. He also required that the correct words were used when communicating on this delicate issue.

Even though a huge work had been done, JG agreed that the new budgeting mechanism still needed fine-tuning and better communication. He invited the Presidents to continue the dialogue with our Finance Director to help make the system more effective.

5.2. CASI : Sporting Code General Section & Board of Appeal

RMH commented on the proposal to abolish CASI and create a Board of Appeal with proper procedures; while he was in favour of the Board of Appeal, he invited the Executive Board to consider how "orphan" activities (UAV, electric-powered aircraft, etc.) would be dealt with in the future without CASI. JG explained that CASI activities (except for the Board of Appeal) would be transferred to the Presidents Group. BN mentioned the duplication of duties between CASI and the ASCs. The abolition of CASI would save extra work and provide more efficiency. JMB thanked RMH for his valuable comments, but reminded him that we were still in a consultation phase, and these issues would be dealt with during the development phase of the project.

JCW mentioned that the structure of the ASCs Presidents Group was not adapted to deal with the new responsibilities if CASI was abolished (no follow-up, no bureau, no chairman). A structure would then have to be clearly defined.

5.3. Expert Groups

JG said that transforming some Technical Commissions into Expert Groups would have a positive economic influence, thus reducing costs for NACs to send delegates to Commission meetings.

BN reminded the Presidents that, after the information/discussion phase initiated at the last Commission Presidents meeting in May 2011, the implementation phase had started in August 2011 : Two Expert Groups had been established (Airspace and Navigation), and their mission and objectives defined. The next step would be the IT and Technology Expert Groups, but this work had been put on hold due to the understaffing situation at the FAI Office. Information letters would be sent to NACs and ASCs by the end of the year. The next Group to be established would be "Marketing and Communication".

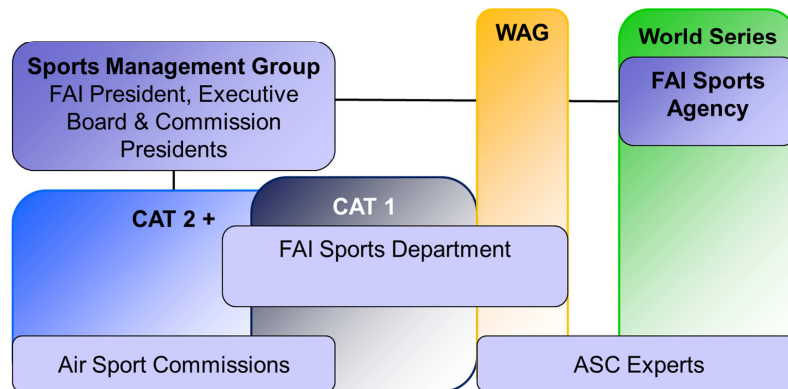
RMH mentioned the need for an Expert Group dealing with media matters and pointed out that there were media experts available within the FAI community.

5.4. Sports Strategy and FAI Sports Agency

RH presented the status of the FAI Sports Strategy which was currently under development. He referred to the strategies recommended in the AiSTS Report and explained the methodologies used for this report. One of the main recommendations was to focus on the most promising disciplines in terms of popularity and marketability. RH invited the Presidents to think about that and to identify what these disciplines could be for their sport. For the marketing and promoting side, the FAI Sports agency concept was presented (see scheme on next page). Having an independent agency to market and promote events would prevent the FAI from being exposed to high financial risks. ASC experts would work in cooperation with the FAI Sports Agency. He clarified how the current and future events would be managed and showed the potential benefits of the sports strategy.

The AiSTS Report would be distributed to the Presidents after the Conference, and RH added that, since nothing substantial had been released on paper, he would work on this and provide further information with the AiSTS Report. Among the sports/disciplines that could belong to the most attractive events, the Presidents mentioned Canopy Piloting, Indoor AeroMusicals and Paramotors : These disciplines should be easy to package and might even take place in the middle of a city. RMH and AG expressed their interest for being involved in the restructuring of Category 2 events.

FAI Sports Management



5.5. Anti-Doping – Registered Testing Pool (RTP)

JK reported on the current situation of the FAI anti-doping program. He reminded the Presidents about the need to comply with the WADA code, encouraged everyone to read the FAI Anti-Doping Rules and to consider attending a meeting organised by their National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO). He also insisted on the fact that each athlete should be “educated” on anti-doping issues, for example when applying for a Sporting Licence.

JG confirmed the FAI's intention to comply with the WADA Code and agreed that an effort should be made to educate athletes. Even though there was a general feeling that doping was not present in air sports, he insisted on the need for athletes to be better aware of anti-doping rules and on the importance of asking for a TUE when taking medications for therapeutical reasons. The intention was not to punish competitors, but to help them practise clean sports

RMH objected that no information on TUEs was available on the FAI website, but JMB showed where these documents were available (<http://www.fai.org/anti-doping-programme/therapeutic-use-exemptions>). Information on the RTP had not been updated yet, but detailed information was available on the WADA website. JG reminded the Presidents about the importance of immediately reporting any doping case/issue to the FAI Office, as some support and advice might be provided.

RMH stated that if microlight pilots were to be part of the RTP, they would simply quit the sport.

JG concluded by saying that, even though the FAI would keep the out-of-competition testing to a minimum, a limited number of competitors would still have to submit their whereabouts in the ADAMS system and be part of the RTP. If at least the “60-minute daily slot” was provided in ADAMS, the likelihood of FAI Competitors being caught for not being available would be very low. The criteria for being part of the RTP would be reviewed by the Executive Board.

RMH asked how long a pilot could be on the list. JK answered that it was normally one year, but that should also be addressed and discussed.

5.6. World Air Games

JMB reported on the bid process for the World Air Games 2013. Three potential hosts had expressed their interest, but due to political and economic reasons, no firm bid had been provided. Considering the absence of firm commitments and the changes at the FAI Office, the EB had therefore decided to cancel the World Air Games 2013.

The next possible year would be 2015. In order to avoid potential conflicts with the IWGA World Games, the EB also decided to revert the World Air Games to a 4-year cycle (2015, 2019, etc.). The bid process for 2015 would be open by the end of 2011 or the beginning of 2012, depending on the development of the economic situation. Expressions of interest had already been received from three to five potential bidders for 2015.

5.7. Other international multi-sport events

JMB reported on the three multisport events where the FAI was currently involved :

- a) The IWGA World Games, Cali 2013 (30 July – 5 August 2013) : A test event would be held from 7 to 11 August 2012. Parachuting Canopy Piloting and Paragliding Accuracy Landing had been included in the sports program with up to 36 competitors each. In addition, Indoor AeroMusicals would be featured as a demonstration sport with 5-6 pilots invited. The idea was to run these demonstrations in arenas or stadia where other competitions would be held, thus providing a potentially high exposure to public. The FAI was in contact with the organising committee; the “ideal” layout of the venue had been provided, and a draft competition schedule would soon be available. The next steps would be technical matters such as winches to launch paragliders and the Canopy Piloting pond.
- b) The Asian Beach Games 2012 in China where a paramotor competition was on the program thanks to the effort of the NAC China. RMH had been appointed as the FAI Technical Delegate to this event.
- c) The SportAccord World Artistic Games taking place in November 2012 in China where Aeromodelling Indoor AeroMusicals would be part of the official programme. The host city would be announced later this year and CIAM would soon need to decide on the athletes' selection process.

GW asked whether there would be some FAI funding for the Beach and Artistic Games. JMB replied that all costs would be covered by the organisers. However, there would be some costs for the World Games.

5.8. FAI Media Agreement – Flying Aces Ltd

JMB noted that media agreement issues had already been discussed at the last ASC Presidents meeting. They were relating to problems of coordination between Event Organisers and Flying Aces. He reported on the current situation and said that, in close cooperation with FAI lawyers, a letter had been sent to Flying Aces to terminate the contract. Plans on media coverage in 2012 were not yet available, but media rights would be brought back to the FAI in accordance with the standard Organiser Agreement, and would again open the door for the FAI and Event Organisers to discuss and agree on the exploitation of rights.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Amendments to FAI By-Laws (Proposal by CIMA President)

RMH reminded the Presidents that the FAI By-Laws had been placed under the control of the Executive Board at the last General Conference and complained that some By-Laws affecting Commissions had been introduced without proper ASC consultation. JG took note of RMH's comments and confirmed that, in the future, the Board would better involve the ASC Presidents in the management level.

AC commented on the wording used in the paragraph stating that ASC meetings should be held in Lausanne at least once every 3 years (“shall” instead of “should”). AG said that meetings in Lausanne were expensive, that it made no difference if the meeting was held in Lausanne or elsewhere, and that the Delegates had never seen the office and the FAI Staff. JG explained that the purpose of this By-Laws change was to give more freedom to the ASC, as the 2/3 majority previously required to meet outside of Lausanne had been removed.

While AG said that renting meeting rooms was expensive, JMB replied that meeting rooms for up to 40 persons were available free of charge at the MSI.

6.2. ASC Internal Rules & Commission Procedures

Various administrative problems had been identified in the past and would need discussion with ASCs to clarify and simplify some procedures :

- a) ASC Internal Rules vs. FAI Constitution and Sporting Code General Section : JG invited the Presidents to review their internal rules on a regular basis and make sure that they are in accordance with the FAI Constitution and Sporting Code.
- b) Nomination of Delegates and replacement during the year : Significant problems had occurred earlier this year with NACs withdrawing their support to, or changing, Delegates holding official functions within Commissions (Secretary, Vice President, etc.). Such changes involved significant negative

consequences for the Commissions concerned. To avoid such situations, the Board and the ASCs should discuss options and possible By-Laws changes, for example to allow a Delegate carrying an official function with an ASC to retain, under specific conditions, their function until the next ASC Meeting.

- c) Designation of Delegates' types : The definition of the various types of Delegates (approved, acting, etc.) would need to be clarified in the By-Laws.
- d) Commission Vice Presidents - Absence of / Voting rights if a VP is acting as President : JMB reminded the Presidents that, should a Commission Vice-President need to replace the President, then he couldn't represent his country anymore. However, there was always a solution for the country represented by that Vice President to give proxy to another country if there was no Alternative Delegate available.
- e) Harmonization of titles of Commissions positions : The development of the new website had shown that harmonisation would be needed on how titles and functions were used within ASCs. Such harmonisation would make the management of database significantly easier.
- f) FAI Statutes Working Group : JG informed the Presidents about the persons he would propose to the Conference for election in the Statutes Working Group (SWG). SWG elections occur every second year. The list of names had been prepared in close cooperation with the proposed new SWG Chairman Paulo de Moura Marques. JG thanked the outgoing Chairman Jean-Claude Weber and the SWG Members for their work during the last few years.
- g) ICG : JG informed the Presidents that, thanks to Mr. Bernald Smith, the FAI had joined the United Nations International Committee on GNSS (ICG). The goal of ICG was to promote the use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) infrastructure on a global basis and to facilitate exchange of information.

The FAI President thanked the participants for their contributions. He would leave this meeting with the conviction that the FAI was on the right track, but stated once again how important it would be in the future to continue improving cooperation between the Executive Board and the Air Sport Commissions, and to better involve ASC Presidents in the management of FAI.

7. Date and Place of Next Meeting
--

Next ASC Meeting : 11 May 2012, Lausanne

END