



FAI International Gliding Commission (IGC) Presidents Report to the IGC Plenary 3rd to 5th March 2022

The new Bureau, elected in March 2021, has benefitted from the common use of electronic meeting platforms, and is now having monthly meetings. This has led to a dynamic development and quick follow-up on actions and projects. One physical meeting was conducted in October, hosted by the Dutch Aeroclub. At this meeting we focused on the future priorities of IGC.

The IGC-tracker project has been completed. We now have 120 secure trackers that can provide online tracking at CAT-1 events with a managed delay of tracking information through a secure protocol and we are now able to provide tracking to a public audience without competing teams being able to misuse the information. The plan is to further develop the tracking system to provide online preliminary scoring while the task is flown. This can lead to additional increase in public interest.

Two FAI World Gliding Championships (WGC) were successfully organized in France, with good support from organizers, local and national authorities. The 36th FAI WGC in the 15-meter, Standard and Club Class in Montluçon and the 10th FAI Sailplane Grand Prix Final (SGP Final) in Sant Auban.

I would like to congratulate the World Champions:

15-meter Class: Sebastian Kawa, Poland
Standard Class: Simon Schröder, Germany
Club Class: Uwe Wahlig, Germany
FAI Sailplane Grand Prix World Final: Sebastian Kawa, Poland

One Continental Championship was also successfully conducted, the 5th FAI Junior European Championships in Pociunai, Lithuania. Congratulations to

Standard Class: Simon Briel, Germany
Club Class: Finn Sleigh, United Kingdom

A Virtual Gliding competition was organized in parallel with the SGP Final with more than 400 participants worldwide. These virtual pilots, some of them glider pilots, some only virtual pilots, flew the same tasks in similar weather conditions on their PC with live commentary from the “real” pilots participating in the Grand Prix.

The winner was Ben Fest, Germany

Unfortunately, the 36th FAI WGC planned in Stendal, Germany, for the Open, 20-meter double-seater and 18-meter classes, was cancelled. The restrictions caused by the Pandemic were too severe, causing additional cost and too many limitations for the participators.

The main objectives for the coming years, pending IGC Plenary support, approval are:

- Further development of the Virtual Gliding concept to become a series of competitions, still linked to “real” gliding events and eventually with status as World Gliding Championships.
- Formalization of Electric Gliding Championships, most likely to become a world series similar to the Sailplane Grand Prix with a World Final.
- Further improvement of the quality of CAT-1 events through definition of measurable performance criteria based on the objectives in the Sporting Code and follow up before and after the event.
- Reinforce the work of the Gliding Development Group to support countries and regions where we see a potential for development, in particular aiming at youth gliding and more female glider pilots.
- Reinforcement of the safety work related to competitions in cooperation with OSTIV, The International Scientific and Technical Soaring Organisation.

The appeal to the FAI International Appeals Tribunal lodged by Australia against the decision as confirmed by the International Jury at the WWGC 2019 with the main request that all penalties against the Australian Team Pilots be completely removed and United Kingdom and Germany with the main request that all Australian pilots’ results obtained in the Championships be invalidated and the pilots be disqualified from the championships was finalized and a report published. Australia then decided to go further and filed an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). CAS has in February 2022 informed FAI that the appeal is considered withdrawn. Consequently, the verdict of the FAI International Appeals Tribunal is upheld.

The Air Sports Commissions Presidents have established a strong and useful cooperation headed by the FAI President. This gives us a good insight and possibility to express our views on issues being discussed in FAI, and to express a common view of the Air Sports Commissions.

Finally, I would like to thank the IGC Bureau members, the Commissions, Working Groups and Experts for their work and support to IGC. I feel honored to work with such a large and dedicated group of volunteers. I also would like to thank the staff in the FAI office for their high-quality support to IGC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Eriksen'.

Peter Eriksen
IGC President