

# REPORT OF GAC PRESIDENT

## ZOOM PLENARY MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

We all met the last time in Billund in very foggy weather which made aerial departures challenging.

We left after a good meeting with a full calendar of events scheduled for 2020.

How much has changed since then! We now all live in a very different world, with at present no certainty as to when normal life will resume.

During this time I and your Bureau have been busy planning for a normal 2021.

I am hugely grateful for the understanding and agreement of all our wonderful host nations to postpone all their scheduled events. You will hear, or read, shortly from everybody who has volunteered to host a Championship or a plenary meeting. I am pleased to say that the calendar is quite full with events and plenaries out to 2026.

The planning for hosting this Zoom plenary has been tricky with views on how best to do the necessary business and allow for questions and comment. It is all a compromise and I hope to get your forgiveness if we do not achieve all we are setting out to do.

I have also been very busily involved with the Air Sport Commission Presidents Group .We are all responsible for managing our individual sports; and all in many different ways. But we all have, in common, to maintain our relationships with the Executive Board and the President. While most of you here are primarily concerned with GAC sports in your own countries and selecting individuals and teams to represent your countries at International GAC events; all this comes to naught if FAI itself gets into difficulties. These can be management, financial control, overheads and so forth. At the 2019 General Conference the budget presented by the EB was rejected and the conference adopted a totally different budget presented by one of the Members. This led to the departing of the Secretary General, and the Finance

Director relinquishing his position. So, with Covid and the financial situation, life has not been easy in Lausanne and a desire to improve that has been a common theme of meetings of the Presidents Group.

I have been very pleased to see the very positive attitude now emanating from Lausanne and have every hope that some control over excess expenditure can be exerted, partially helped by having a new finance and accounting system in place.

The core functions of FAI, being delivering world class championships in all air sports, granting prestigious awards to worthy individuals and groups, and maintaining the world wide data base of records and awarding certificates to Record makers and breakers, must be the focus of FAI .

We should continue to focus on these core activities within our financial means and not get distracted by dreams and delusions of Olympic glory or World Air Games.

Thank you for reading this and let us all hope we meet again for Championship and Plenary meeting next November in Stellenbosch South Africa!