



2021 CIVL PLENARY – ANNEXE 12
WORLD AIR GAMES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Stéphane Malbos

On January 16, 2020, Bob Henderson, the FAI President implemented a Working Group in these terms:

‘This debate started in Lausanne in December and I would like to start it here by asking that the future shape and style of the FAI World Air Games be considered with the objectives of deciding: (a) the aim of the event; (b) what sports disciplines participate; (c) the style (size, proximity of disciplines, number of participants); and (d) the financing of the event.’

The Working Group included all ASC Presidents and, for the Executive Board, Bob Henderson, Agust Gudmundsson, Alvaro de Orleans-Borbon, Mary Anne Stevens and Marina Vigoreta.

After a short exchange, there was a consensus amongst ASC President that ASCs may be ready to support the WAGs ethic if they could be proved to be worth the effort.

First and foremost, a proper evaluation of the recent WAGs – Dubai and Turkey – should be done. What did they bring? How much did they cost? The financial aspect was considered as crucial, no precise report including the involvement of the secretariat having ever been presented.

Marina Vigoreto pointed out that the financially catastrophic Torino WAG should be part of the evaluation.

There was no input from the FAI President or other Executive Board members.

The evaluation of the WAG did not happen.

On December 21, 2020, the new FAI President, David Monk, met the Commission President for a first meeting. The ‘record of discussions and decisions’ stated:

World Air Games or similar projects

— Do they have a future? A dedicated seminar took place in August 2016. A working group assessed the matter earlier this year. Stéphane Malbos will sum up what happened.

Air sports in other established Games

— Olympism. When it concerns events organised under the Olympic umbrella, FAI must concentrate on not losing its rules and values. This is especially true for events happening in Asia. The role of the EB is then essential.

— World Games. FAI has been part of the World Games since 1997, initially just skydiving, other disciplines have come and gone over time. The 2022 event, to be held in Birmingham, USA will include Canopy Piloting and Drone Racing.

CIVL’s President analysis

I didn’t have time to complete the WAG analysis. I need to have access to the FAI archives before 2005, especially the General Conference reports since 1988, as the birth of the WAG concept, also called *Icarjada*, dates from then. These archives are not yet online and direct access is made difficult by the pandemic.

The WAG analysis can be done only in relation with the FAI Olympic projects (that came before) and Air Games Series projects (that came after). These projects failed, but there are certainly lessons to be learned from these failures.

So the global analysis of the WAG and other 'special events' is still to be done and discussed with other Presidents of Commissions and members of the Executive Board. It is a worthwhile mission and it should be completed in the first half of the 2021.