



## **FAI Education Commission (EduC) 2023 Plenary Meeting Minutes**



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## 1 WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The FAI EduC Vice President, Mr Roland PRE, welcomed all attendees, delegates, experts and FAI observers.

### 1.1 ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1.1 Roll Call

Present

- Mr BERLO Jacques (BEL) Delegate
- Mr BRAGA Mauricio (BRA) Observer
- Mr PAPADOPOULOS Antonis (CASI) Observer
- Mr FINDAHL Per (CIAM) Invited speaker
- Mr FRANK Øjvind (DEN) Observer
- Mr USKA Urmaz (EST) Delegate
- Mrs LYDEN Hanna (FIN) Observer
- Mr PRE Roland (FRA) Delegate (EduC Vice President)
- Mr KASTELEIJN Michiel (NED) Delegate
- Mr THEODOLOZ Charles Henri (SUI) Alternate Delegate
- Mr PRINCIPATO Greg (USA) Delegate
- Mr David MONKS (FAI President)
- Mrs VIGORITO Marina (FAI EB Member)
- Mr HAGGENEY Markus (FAI Secretary General)
- Mrs VOKOUN HAJKOVA Kamila (FAI Members and Commissions Relations Manager)

#### 1.1.2 Apologies

- Prof. QUAGLIOTTI Fulvia (ITA) Delegate
- Mr CHARRON Jean-Luc (FRA ) Alternate Delegate
- Mrs. KING Elizabeth (NZL) Delegate
- Mr CHAU Andy (FAI EB Member)

#### 1.1.3 Proxy

- none

#### 1.1.4 Established Majorities 4 from 6 delegates present.

### 1.2 AGENDA

The agenda (v1.1, 22 May 2023) has been distributed to the delegates on 22 May 2023.

Agenda approved (unanimous)

### 1.3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts declared.

### 1.4 MINUTES OF EDUC 2022 PLENARY MEETING

*Annex 1 -2022 EduC Plenary Meeting Minutes*

Minutes approved (unanimous).

## 2 EDUC VICE PRESIDENT

### *Annex 2.1\_EduC Vice President Report*

### *Annex 2.2\_Team Paper Plane Challenge v2*

The FAI EduC Vice President Roland PRE opened the meeting. He pointed at the primary goal which is to inspire others and promote the values of air sports through education of aeronautical sports, particularly creating a sense of team spirit among youngsters. An annexed draft outlines the details of the proposed challenge to be submitted to the delegates for consideration – more details in annex 2.

Key points:

- Delegate's focus: To inspire and promote aeronautical sports' positive values, especially team spirit, among youngsters.
- Contextual differences: Acknowledgment that solutions may vary between countries due to diverse contexts.
- Proposed international challenge: A paper plane competition for teams, like classrooms, to foster teamwork and promote the values of the sport. More details in annex 2.2.
- Commission's broader aim: Emphasize the positive values gained through aeronautical sports and encourage youth involvement.
- Separate draft: Outlines the details of the proposed paper plane challenge for consideration by delegates.

## 3 FAI REPORT

### *Annex 3 FAI EduC Plenary Meeting -FAI SG Report (2023-June-21)*

Mr. Haggenev commented on extracts of the attached report. He summarised FAI activities, decisions taken by the 2022 General Conference, including elections. Financial results for FY 2021 show cost savings and some extra positive effects as presented. The auditor reported on FAI having addressed past observations and that no deficiencies had been identified.

In 2022, Category 1 & 2 events are now back to pre-pandemic levels, a particularly good sign.

He explained the timeline leading up to the GC 2023, to be held in October in the USA.

Finally, the commission was encouraged to be more visible, to promote education related activities more boldly.

## 4 REPORT OF THE DELEGATES

Delegates were invited to provide a report on activities in their countries.

### 4.1 USA

USA Delegate expressed significant concern about the state of aviation education in the United States, referring to it as a crisis. There are shortages of pilots, mechanics, and other aviation professionals. To address this, they emphasize the need to attract a diverse group of individuals to the industry from a young age. Waiting until children are 14 years old may be too late; the focus should start much earlier, around 11 or 12 years old. He believes in utilizing various engaging methods, such as model aviation, drones, and hands-on experiences, to inspire and interest young people in aviation. The US delegate mentioned a curriculum developed by his successor as NAC President that uses aviation concepts to teach elementary school kids, starting as young as age of four year. The goal is to foster interest and passion for aviation, especially with activities like the paper plane challenge, while also addressing future concerns like the need to lower carbon emissions. USA Delegate plans to stay involved in these efforts despite retiring soon (15 Sep 2023).

#### 4.2 BEL

Belgium Delegate, who was recently elected as the president of the Royal Belgium Aeroclub, acknowledges that there has not been much activity regarding air sport-related education in Belgium. He plans to come back next year with more information about collaborations with the education sector. He expresses a commitment to improving this situation and aiming to elicit reactions and feedback from his colleagues, the BEL Delegate intends to work diligently to foster better cooperation and engagement in the coming year.

#### 4.3 EST

Estonian Delegate expressed concern about the lack of growth in FAI membership and interest in aviation-related activities. He highlighted the need to engage young people from an early age and provide aviation-related educational opportunities starting from kindergarten. The commission should aim to develop a concrete plan with a local authority (NACs) to establish a visit centre and school class and integrating aviation knowledge into educational curricula. EST Delegate emphasized the importance of creating content that aligns with the interests of stakeholders (NACs) and suggests conducting a survey to understand their needs and preferences better. He seeks to communicate more effectively with members and stakeholders to determine whether the focus should be on education, awareness raising, or other forms of engagement to revitalize interest in their commission's activities. The goal is to understand the challenges and tailor the commission's efforts accordingly to enhance its impact within the world of aviation.

#### 4.4 NED

Nederland Delegate discussed their active involvement in the International Air Cadet Exchange and successful exchanges of civil youngsters with Asia in the past. He highlighted the current trend of some European countries resigning from the international air cadet exchange due to decreased links with aeroclubs and air forces, particularly in Anglo-Saxon countries. To address this issue, the speaker proposed the establishment of aviation camps. The goal is to generate more interest in aviation and space among youngsters and encourage them to choose careers in these fields. The speaker expressed the commitment to work on this initiative and hopes for support in moving this refreshed Commission forward.

#### 4.5 SUI

Swiss Delegate presented their involvement in the Swiss education programs related to aviation for the past 20 years. He mentioned six main programs, starting with the YES program, offering 20-minute flights to young people aged 12 to 18 across various aeronautical disciplines. The Flight for All program allows 8 to 15-year-olds to visit airports and experience flights, often for underprivileged families. The Airfield Visits program involves students and teachers visiting local airfields to learn about aviation activities. Educational material is existing and provides classroom information for those unable to participate in field activities. The National Aviation Camp, held in three languages (German, French, and Italian), accommodates around 180 young people aged 15 to 17 every year. These programs aim to introduce aviation to Swiss citizens between the ages of 6 and 18. The speaker will provide this report on the programs later.

#### 4.6 FRA

French Delegate, pointed at long-standing educational program for youngsters aged 14 and up, providing knowledge about aviation. The program involves both practical flying and classroom-based education, covering various topics related to aeronautics, weather, meteorology, regulations, aircraft construction, and more. The program has been successful, attracting around 20,000 participants annually. However, he acknowledged that at the age of 14 it might be too late already to engage youngsters and proposes collaboration with engineering and scientific associations to introduce aviation concepts to primary school pupils. The plan in France is to work with student associations to coordinate efforts and make aviation education more accessible to younger children. French delegate highlighted the need to expand education efforts and mentioned that CIAM is the only Air Sport Commission with an Education Subcommittee.

## 5 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEES OF FAI ASC

The FAI Air Sport Commissions Representatives were invited to provide a report on their activities.

### 5.1 CASI

CASI President expressed despite having educational programs in place, attendance and interest in air sports has decreased over the years in young generation as have more activities and distractions. He emphasized the need to adapt and reconsider the educational approach to align with the current generation's interests and challenges. He highlighted the importance of teamwork and collaboration between all FAI commissions, suggesting a possible change in the education commission's title to include the promotion of air sports. CASI President aims to enhance communication and coordination between the Education Commission and all Air Sport Commissions to foster education and promotion across all FAI activities.

### 5.2 CIAM

CIAM Education sub-commission Chair shared CIAM involvement in various air sports projects, including organizing contests and details how CIAM runs the Rookie project (<https://www.fai.org/rookieproject>). He also mentioned the CIAM scholarship for youngsters aged 16 to 21, based on flying results and educational plans. He emphasized the need to encourage strong competitors to apply for the scholarship and mention the possibility of extending it to the broader FAI community and mentioned discussions about conducting surveys to gather data from clubs and NACs to aid future developments in education. He introduced the "Rookie project", targeting young pilots from age 8-year-old and over. The project offers building instructions, workshops, and an online competition, and has been successfully promoted worldwide. CIAM Education sub-commission Chair expressed pride on the project's impact and hopes for its continued growth and success.

## 6 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEES OF FAI TC

The FAI Technical Commission Representatives were invited to provide a report on their activities.

### 6.1 CIMP

Belgium Delegate is Vice President of CIMP (the FAI Medical Physiological Commission) and provided an overview of its objectives and activities. CIMP consists of approximately 30 members who study medical and physiological factors that can affect human performance and behaviour in aviation. The commission has been in existence for about 100 years and plays a crucial role in providing recommendations to FAI and NACs on various medical issues related to aviation.

During the COVID pandemic, CIMP provided regular updates on pandemic-related information, vaccines, and medications. The commission also works on flight safety, advises on regulations, and has a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) panel that evaluates the use of prohibited substances. Additionally, CIMP communicates externally with various organizations, such as EASA, to collaborate on aviation health and safety matters.

The commission conducted webinars and educational sessions on anti-doping (<https://www.fai.org/news/webinar-19-october-introduction-fly-clean>), nutrition, and human factors affecting aviation. The aim is to continue organizing such webinars to address specific medical topics and ensure close relationships with athletes and sports organizations.



## 7 REVIEW MISSION / SET OBJECTIVES OF EDUC

### *Annex 7- Promotion of Aviation and Education Report for EduC2023*

Delegates were invited to report on educational matters that impact on air sport activities (leisure flying / competitions) and how they are being addressed in their countries. Out of this communication the following outcomes were identified:

The main objective of the Education Commission:

- To address the challenges of reaching and engaging youngsters in aviation
- To emphasize the need for coordination and communication between different air sport commissions
- To share ideas and make education initiatives more effective.

During a discussion at the meeting, three working groups were proposed to address different aspects of the Education Commission's initiatives:

- **Working Group on Survey:** In the light of what was discussed since the EduC2022 meeting (see Annexe 7\_Promotion of Aviation and Education - Report for EduC2023), this group will aim to conduct a survey to understand the current state of education and engagement in aviation in different countries. This group will be led by Urmas Uska with support of Per Findahl and Charles-Henri Theodoloz.
- **Working Group on Coordination:** This group will aim to coordinate education efforts between the Education Commission and other FAI Commissions. The idea is to share best practices and promote education initiatives. It was suggested that coordination would occur directly with the next elected board of the Education Commission, without the need for a separate working group.
- **Working Group on the Team Paper Plane Challenge:** This group will work on the idea of promoting aviation among youngsters through a simple paper plane challenge. The challenge will be designed to be easy to implement in primary schools, with the aim of generating interest in flying. Antonis Papadopoulos and Roland Pre will lead this working group with the support of Per Findahl.

Additionally, it was mentioned that the Education Commission's ideas and initiatives should be presented at the FAI General Conference in Dayton in Oct 2023 to increase interest.

The FAI Education Commission should also focus on promoting the values by practicing sports, particularly team spirit, and suggest introducing a "team paper plane challenge" as an educational tool for primary school children. The challenge would encourage teamwork and link to other initiatives like the Rookie project.

Overall, the commission aims to be a platform for coordinating efforts, exchanging ideas, and implementing specific projects to engage youngsters in aviation and promote the values of sports.

## 8 EDUC AWARD

According to FAI By-Laws chapter 7.14.1

Not awarded.

## 9 YOUNG ARTIST CONTEST

### *Annex 9\_2023 YAC\_ Educ Plenary Meeting\_PPT*

Overview of and results presentation of 2023 edition and presentation of topic for 2024 was shared with the attendees. For more details, please see annex 4.

## 10 ELECTIONS

FAI By-Laws chapter 3.2 outlines the rules related to the composition, responsibilities and elections in a Commission.

FAI By-Law 3.3 specifies the 'Commission Voting Rules'.

### 10.1 EDUC PRESIDENT

Elected Roland PRE (FRA) for period of 2 years.

### 10.2 VICE-PRESIDENT

Elected Michiel KASTELEIJN (NED) for period of 2 years.

### 10.3 SECRETARY

Elected Urmas USKA (EST) for period of 2 years.

## 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Delegates were invited to propose items to be addressed.

Nothing proposed.

## 12 DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT PLENARY MEETING

Plenary meeting in April 2024, TBD.

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