

Dear honourable president of the GAC,
vice presidents,
delegates,
alternate delegates and observers,
ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all here today in Funchal/Madeira for our annual general meeting.

Thank you for attending this meeting. It is good to be together again.

Last year 2023 we had only one very successful championship which was the FAI World Rally Flying Championship, hosted by the FFA in Macon, France from the 30th of July till the 5th August 2023. The very excellent organization and successful Championship was run by the championship director Philippe Muller and his team. Thank you so much Philippe. During the championship Philippe Muller had a medical incident, which was of great concern. Thankfully he received some immediate medical help and attention on site. We are very grateful for his good recovery. Philippe we are happy to have you here with us. A big thank you to Jacki Carriquiriberry and Loic Logeais for taking over to finish the championship.

Thank you also to all the Jury and Intern. Judges and all helpers for making the championship a success.

Our competition plan for 2024 was to hold the FAI/WPFC in Poland and FAI/WANR in Slovakia. Unfortunately, Poland cancelled the event, due to unforeseen circumstances and no other country was prepared to take over at such short notice.

The WANR in Slovakia is going ahead from the 12th to the 25th of August 2024 at Kamenica nad Cirochou.

In 2025 the FAI /WRFC is to be held in Italy. This will go ahead as planned.

For the future - the GAC bureau decided that we will have a 3-year cycle for our competitions. That means that we will have the WANR in 2024, WRFC in 2025 and the WPFC in 2026. This cycle will then in future be repeated in this order.

I urge all delegates and their countries to come forward with bids to host these events, to keep our aviation sport alive.

We also have in 2024 2 CAT. 2 long range rally's.

1. Rally Toulouse (France) - Tarfay (Marocco) -Toulouse from the 09.5.to the18.5. 2024
 2. Rally Toulouse (France) – Saint-Louis du Senegal – Toulouse from the 21.09.to the 04.10.2024.
- GAC wish all participants a successful Rally.

The GAC bureau and the extended bureau had regular zoom meetings to discuss championships and related issues.

For your information, I attended all the commission presidents' Zoom meetings under the leadership of the FAI president David Monks.

I have also attended the FAI general conference in October 2023 in Dayton, Ohio. I'm sure Markus will give you a full report on this.

Thank you to Art Greenfield who attended the CASI meetings on behalf of the GAC. CASI has also updated the Jury handbook and it was approved at the FAI conference. CASI will hold a training Webinar for FAI Officials, date 23/24 March, 2024. Jury and Intern. Judges please enter for this important training.

I would like to thank my bureau vice president Ralf Grunwald (Treasurer) and Vice President Manfred Kunschitz (Secretary)

And the sub-committee chairmen Esther Rimenberger (Precision), Frank Eckard (Rally) Maurice Ducret (ANR) and Art Greenfield (Records) for their support and input for the last year.

I would also like to thank the FAI bureau, under the leadership of the FAI secretary general Markus Haggerty as well as Kamila Hajkova for their support during the last year.

May the year ahead be a good and successful one.

And to all of you here, thank you for your presence and support. My best wishes to you all for 2024 and safe flying!

Best Regards
Hans Schwebel
FAI/GAC President

04.03.2024