



## FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) Cordoba, November 2013

### Report by Jean-Pierre Delmas, GAC President

#### 1. Important activities, projects or events since last GAC Meeting

##### GAC Annual Meeting in 2012

The GAC annual meeting was held in Larnaca, Cyprus. 28 countries were present or represented.

At the last CASI meeting, main decisions were following:

- For Rally Flying: shortage of navigations and a second competition category created to attract younger and new crews
- Electrically-powered aircraft now included in Sporting Code 2
- The Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma was awarded to Jiri DODAL (CZE).

A motion was also passed to produce videos, of high quality, to promote our air sports.

##### 9th European Rally Flying Championship, in Dubnica-nad-Vahom, Slovakia, with the two categories

Unlimited category: 18 crews.

Individual results: FRA, CZE, POL. Team results: POL, CZE, FRA.

Advanced (**new**) category: 19 crews.

Individual results: FRA, CZE, SVK. Team results: SVK, RUS, ESP.

##### 21st World Precision Flying Championship, in Bautzen, Germany

59 pilots from 16 countries.

Individual results: POL, POL, CZE. Team results: POL, CZE, FRA.

##### Air Navigation Race

Discovery flight for participants to GAC Championships.

Air Navigation Race (ANR) has been designed to be public and press friendly. Main characteristics are:

- it is a sort of parallel slaloms for two to four planes, with series, quarter-finals, **semi-finals and finals**,
- a narrow corridor is assigned to each plane. All corridors are at safety distance from each others,
- crews received penalties for escaping from corridors and for time gaps when crossing start line and finish line,
- a precision landing contest can count for the final results,
- real time tracking is available in the public and press room on large video screen.

##### Hans Gutmann Memorial Flight

Visited countries: Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary.

Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale

Events/meetings where GAC was represented by GAC President  
CASI meeting, Air Sports Commission Presidents, General Conference were attended by your President.

During General Conference, three GAC active delegates were awarded:

- Art GREENFIELD (USA) with a FAI Silver Medal;
- Juan Ramón Álvarez CARAMAZANA (ESP) with a Paul Tissandier Diploma;
- Jiri DODAL (CZE) with a Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma.

Congratulations to all of them.

## **2. Positive and negative result**

The two international championships, Rally and Precision, were very well organised and the new category in Rally Flying was the most welcomed by competitors who are not (already) at the top. Lessons learnt have to be taken into account for next occurrences.

GAC pilots, included in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP), according to FAI Anti Doping Policy, had to indicate a one 60-minute time period a day, where they will be available for testing, all along the year 2013. They fulfilled their mission, were randomly tested during the year, and were declared clean. Thanks to them for having accepted to endure this burden. The out-competition tests are all clean, until now, for all FAI Competitors, which could lead to renegotiation with the World Anti Doping Agency of this part of the Anti Doping Policy.

Air Navigation Race had no international championship planned, only demonstrations were scheduled during interim periods in the international championships agendas. But few crews took the occasion to make a first trial.

The Hans Gutmann Memorial Flight was well organised, optimizing border crossing flights to involve a maximum of countries and pilots, but suffered from late cancelations due to personal or mechanical problems. Promoting flight trough all European countries and closed neighbours is part of GA mission, especially in countries where GA is to be gaining a larger audience.

The three videos on Rally Precision and ANR, produced by Celeste Goschen, a former international rally navigator, were highly appreciated. Filmed in a professional manner, the qualities of the messages, of the pictures, were unanimously applauded. The standard videos on Rally Flying, Precision Flying and Air Navigation Race are about twelve minutes long. Shortend versions for social media, as Facebook or Tweeter, will be produced for 2014.

## **3. Main problem encountered and solution adopted :**

### GAC issues.

There is less money for GA sportmen, in many countries, and flying hours are getting more and more expansive.

This has an impact on the figures of participation to the latest GAC competitions, in comparison with figures ten or fifteen years ago.

Expecting more money from governmental agencies is not a valid option in the largest part of Europe. Having big and generous sponsors on GAC side is impeded by the low level of public and media friendliness of our legacy disciplines. And ANR is slow to gain the expected audience form pilots and press.

Some NAC organised parade in the cities hosting our events. This is important and festive for competitors, local population and press; it has to be continued but will not be sufficient for inverting the participation trend.

Having two major events the same year: a world championship and a European one, attracting the same population of competitors is to be challenging issue too.

Solutions have to be explored this meeting by GAC delegates.

#### FAI issues

During CASI meeting and Air Sports Commission Presidents meetings some issues raised about sporting power and competition structures at FAI.

Some Air Sport commissions are dealing with large amounts of money. Their sports are really media and public friendly and wealthy cities/countries are welcoming these types of competition, putting a lot of money on the table.

This is leading to compelling changes in FAI old habits, in FAI events classification, in power sharing inside FAI community and in formal organiser's agreements.

FAI Head Office, NACs, Commissions and Hosting/Organising Partners have to adapt their way to cooperate.

Solutions are under progress but not finalized: new version of organiser's agreement, FAME's deliveries, structure of FAI events in 4 layers, WAG Committee, etc.

At the FAI General Conference, the FAI budget was approved by only 158 votes, 157 were against! It is a strong alarm, calling on a renewed way of presenting budget, expenses and investments. The arrival of a big sponsor, Breitling, on the side of FAI Head Office, has not been enough to balance costs and resources.

The Environmental Commission has a new chairman, who proposed a new policy addressing "Survival of sports aviation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century". We have to accept the fact that we are flying in a world which no longer promotes our values. Thus, we have to work to make our activities still acceptable and accepted.

#### **4. Planned activities and projects for next year :**

##### Anti-doping

GAC is not requested to nominate 4 GAC pilots, for year 2014.

##### FAI Championships to come

- 19<sup>th</sup> World Rally Flying Championship, in Poland, in 2014, already awarded.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> World Precision Flying Championship, in 2015, no bid at the moment.
- 10<sup>th</sup> European Rally Flying Championship, in Portugal, in 2015, preliminary bid received last year, to be confirmed this year.

All of them are to be confirmed, during the present GAC annual meeting.

New bids are welcomed for coming years 2016 and 2017 at least.