



**FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)**  
**Report to the 106<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference**  
**Antalya, 19-20 October 2012**

**Reported by :** *J.C. Weber, CIA President*

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**1. Important activities, projects or events since last FAI General Conference:**

- CIA Plenary Meeting 2012, 21-24 March, Birštonas/Lithuania  
The full Minutes are available at <http://www.fai.org/cia-documents>
- 1<sup>st</sup> FAI Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship, 22-27 May 2012, Marijampole/Lithuania
- 20<sup>th</sup> FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship, 17-25 August 2012, Battle Creek/Michigan (USA)
- 56<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, 31 August – 8 Sept. 2012, Toggenburg/Switzerland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> FAI Women European Hot Air Balloon Championship, 18-22 Sept. 2012, Frankenthal/Germany
- 12<sup>th</sup> International Ballooning Youth Camp, 28 July – August 4, 2012, Stuttgart/Germany
- Completed purchase of the target number of 120 CIA competition loggers to now supply the largest CIA championship events

**2. Positive and negative results:**

The Junior Event category was very well received and the 1<sup>st</sup> FAI Junior World Hot Air Championship was successfully run. Along with the recently created Women's Championship category of events, the CIA has seen good participation and is anticipating that new competitors will participate in Continental and World championships. This is encouraging and hopefully a sign that competitive ballooning will grow.

We experienced serious problems with the USA authorities (FAA) not validating non-ICAO issued balloon licenses and CofAs. However, with the help of all involved parties (FAI, CIA, NAA and the event organisers) the FAA saw reason and accepted to issue an exemption/waiver for the concerned pilots and balloons.

CIA Competition loggers continued to be in hot demand for many international and national Ballooning sporting events. The devices are highly appreciated by competitors, officials and organisers.

The 2007 CIA Plenary cancellation issue was still not resolved at FAI level. The 2013 CIA Plenary will therefore consider withdrawing the UAE NAC's Sporting Powers for Ballooning.

The CIA Hall of Fame officially opened on September 30 at the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, NM/USA. It is regretted that the FAI no longer continues the "FAI recognized Museum" scheme.

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### **3. Main problem(s) encountered and solutions adopted :**

Main problems encountered concerned the FAI Organiser Agreement for two of our major CAT1 events in 2012, namely the AX World Championship in Battle Creek/USA, and the 56<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett in Switzerland. After lengthy and assiduous discussions, the event organisers could finally be convinced, with the help of the FAI Secretary General and the respective NACs, to sign the FAI Organiser Agreement. It has however become obvious that the FAI Organiser Agreement needs to be urgently revised.

The FAI website is heavily criticized by CIA members for being down too often, for being very slow, and for being very difficult to navigate. So far, we do not see any improvement. It is however acknowledged that the FAI Head Office is now seriously looking into these problems and that we may eventually see an improvement in the near future. The design of the main FAI and ASC web pages should be reviewed as they are very busy and confusing to users. They should be simplified with improved navigation.

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

- Revision of the CIA Internal Regulations
- Continued efforts to develop public- and media friendly air-ship events
- Working with FAI Office on a new Organizers Agreement and procedures, then implementing it in CIA. Additionally, working with the FAI Office on the CIA Website and additional applications

### **5. Proposals (if any) to FAI Executive Board, FAI Head Office or for the next General Conference :**

As new policies and practices are developed by FAI, they should include an implementation plan with documents responsibilities, procedures and timelines for ASC's. Active volunteers in ASC's (delegates, subcommittee- and working group members) must be kept informed in order to guarantee implementation of new policies and procedures.

A continually updated organization chart should be available on the FAI website so that ASC officers, who deal with the FAI Office, are aware of who to contact for services.

### **6. Free reporting:**

N/A