

CIAM President Report from the FAI General Conference

The annual FAI General Conference hosted at the city of Pattaya (Thailand) in October.

During the GC we had also various other meetings and I would like to inform you also, about them.

On Wednesday October 15th, we had the ASCs Presidents Working Group meeting. During this meeting all the ASCs Presidents together with the FAI President and the FAI EB, had a daily meeting where a lot of information from the activities of the EB were acknowledged to all of us. I will inform you on the items that affect CIAM activity in short or long term.

1. Sporting Code General Section. Although this is a matter of CASI, what was discussed during this meeting, was the issue of members not in good standing which is a general issue. We all remember the Mongolia case with North Korea and then the appeal from Ukraine. All participants realized how important this issue is and also that the current provisions of the FAI Constitution are not covering all the aspects or possible implications. It was decided to wait for the CASI meeting which was scheduled for the day after and also for the General Conference.
2. Membership issues. This item was raised by CIAM in order to point out what are the problems that some of our members are phasing within their respective countries. There are cases where there are two entities with no good relations, there are cases where the NAC is charging a lot of money to delegate the sporting powers and also there are cases where the NAC is not cooperating at all with the federations. All cases are leading to the fact that there are a lot of unsatisfied airports persons and this has a big impact on CIAM activities.
3. In addition to the above there are also events running all over the world for aeromodelling "outside" FAI and even with the use of name World Championship. The MoU signed between FAI/CIAM and the German based company named CONTEST was announced by the EB as a success "win-win" case and the EB suggested to other ASC's to follow and do the same. However for CIAM issues like Jet Masters, Heli Masters etc, are still existing and FAI EB has to do something in order to protect the intellectual property of all FAI events.
4. Organizer Agreement. A new approach to this long standing issue was presented by FAI Sports and Marketing Director, Mr. Markus Haggene, which was highly appreciated by all participants because this new approach is much closer to the needs of all ASC's and it is more likely that the issue will find a solution within 2015. Of course this is not a 'one man show" so all ASC's have to assist Markus on this project and I am sure that CIAM will support this, since the number of events we are running every year is by far higher than any other ASC.

5. Anti-Doping. WADA based on the test they did for the last two years, decided that for airports there is no need to go on with the Registered Test Pool (RTP) for competitors. Of course this was achieved with the good reports provided by FAI in order to assist WADA to justify this decision. Of course in-contest tests are going to continue but this was not a problem for FAI and CIAM.
6. WAG 2015. This is the biggest opportunity for all FAI to take advantage of it. The selected organizer, NAC of United Arab Emirates is very willing to assist on all aspects and from our side we need to be very careful in order to provide whatever it is required. I have already informed you with a separate email and this will be an item of our agenda in December.
7. It was announced that FAME, FAI Marketing company, was put "on sleep" until it is required to be used again.

Then on Thursday we had the annual CASI meeting. It was good that also two other CIAM Bureau members were present also, Bruno Delor and Michael Ramel, since they can also have an idea of how things are happening in this FAI General Airsports Commission. Again please find below decisions which concern also aeromodelling.

1. International Appeals Tribunal Handbook. A new handbook was adopted which will facilitate the procedures.
2. CIAM initiative to control "UAV" activities was highly appreciated by CASI and FAI EB. The interim report prepared by CIAM WG was also presented and CASI is looking forward for our new development on the case.
3. Sporting Code General Section. The draft proposal of the new General Section was presented during the meeting. One of the provisions of this revision was the members in good standing. It was decided to remove those new provisions since the majority of the CASI believe that the "penalties" like no participation to competition or suspension of the Sporting license etc is a matter of the GC and the statutes to take care, although my position was that those provisions should not be considered as penalties but as prerequisites. There are some other remarks on the draft and finally it was decided that the General Sections with the amendments as decided by CASI Plenary was accepted with effective date January 1st, 2016. The new GS text will soon be published and be available so that all ASC's have the time to review their sections and make the necessary modifications in order to be in line with the revised version. As soon as the text will be available, I will forward it to you and definitely we will need to provide modifications mainly to our ABR volume, as Bureau proposals for the next Plenary.
4. WAG 2015. This subject was also discussed during CASI meeting and it was announced that all rules for all events have to be ready before end of March 2015.

5. FAI Sporting License Data Base. As announced close to 75% of the members had already updated the on line data base. It was decided and it will be a modification on the GS for 2015 that from now on, the old style paper format SL will not be valid or accepted from January 2015. The only valid SL will be the entry on the data base. The new development will affect also our ABR section. The data base includes couple of new fields and what it is really essential to understand is the fact that the unique number that is considered from FAI as the SL identification is the ID number assigned automatically by the system. Till now the unique identification field, used to be the National Sporting License number which was also present to the model stickers. So we need to think about this and how to handle it.

The next two days (Friday and Saturday) we had the General Conference.

Some of the issues discussed above were also discussed during the FAI General Conference sessions. As CIAM President I presented our report. In addition to the written report during the presentation I pointed out how urgent it is the case not only for CIAM but for the entire FAI to consider the issue of UAV/FPV/multicopters activity, which for the time being is a major problem in some countries with USA on top of them but definitely it will be a problem very soon to all countries very soon. This is not only a matter of airspace but it is a matter of Security as well. FAI President will meet with ICAO early next year and we need to provide him with all the details we can in order to discuss the issue in such a level. We need to be proactive for that, since as long as there are going to be new regulations from national or international authorities then maybe it is going to be too late.

The issue of the "Members not in good standing" was decided to be part of the tasks for the Statutes Working Group and the EB and we expect to have proposals for this during the next FAI General Conference.

It was elections year. Dr. John Grubbstrom was reelected President and three new members were also elected for the EB. As CIAM we are wishing them good success.

The new EB together with our new Secretary General, Mrs Susanne Schodel and the new Sports and Marketing Director Mr. Markus Haggene are forming a very promising team. We all have met Markus last April and I had met and cooperate with Susanne in many occasions. You will also have the chance to meet with her in December.

With this I conclude my report to you from the FAI General Conference and we will have the chance to discuss it during our next Meeting.

Antonis Papadopoulos

CIAM President