

## 2018 CIMA Plenary – President’s opening comments

Wolfgang Lintl

First of all I would like to thank our hosts for arranging this meeting here in the capitol City of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As we all noticed, your country is not open for usual tourism and it is indeed not simple, to get access. But at the end, those who want to join us, are here. We all are looking forward to the following days. Thanks for having the chance, to see a small piece of this country, which is at the moment very much observed in other parts of the world.

Coming back to the agenda item: I would like to say again thank you very much or shokran to support our very special sport to become more popular in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other parts of this region. We as sportsmen and sportswoman can bring people form different parts of the world together, giving the opportunity of competing against each other to find out, who will be the best aviation. This all will be done in peace and friendship and should help to reinforce friendship between nations as it is stated in our statutes.

While preparing this speech, I fear that this will be a depressing one. But without pointed out the difficult parts of our CIMA business it would be an incomplete speech.

In my former job I try to work under the following motto: “instead of call something a problem, I should name it challenge. And if I face a challenge, I should concentrate on to find solutions.” But CIMA is not a one man show or a bureau show – we are many more experienced experts to find the right conclusion.

- Our biggest challenge at the moment is to get us ready to participate at the WAG in 2020. We have less than 30 days to present FAI and Turkey, what we want to contribute and probably more important, what we can contribute. During our plenary we all together need to find a solution.
- Since a few years we have a lack of nations and more important a lack of persons who are willing and able to organize a competition. One consequence is that we received bids far after the deadline. This increase the workload for the bureau, because the bureau is usually tasked to deal with several details of these bids. And this time pressure and workload leads to mistakes and failures. This causes frustration at all sides.

- In addition, we can see a decreasing number of participants. For example, this year two of our - let me say – mayor countries France and UK did not participate in the EMC, UK was missed at the WPSC. While listen to the participants, they raise several reasons for probably not coming next time: entry fee is the main reason. CIMA did some steps to reduce the cost burden for the organizer. But still after that, I don't think, that the past organizer makes a profit. Most of them made a deficit.
- And I have heard some concerns about too much and too complicating rules. When I start as a competitor, I shared this view. But after many years involving in CIMA issues, I know, why we need to have so many and so detailed rules. On this battlefield I can see no relief.

Rule is the final keyword to raise another important topic: we need to adapt our definition of a microlight to the modern world. The crucial factor is the definition change done by EASA, the European Aviation Safety Agency. There is a wide common sense by several European countries and European microlight association to use this new limit for a rule change. But not all agree. France for example want to go a different way. Our discussion about this change forces us to think about our tasks. What is our aim? Do we have a competition not only between pilots but also between manufacturers or models like in Formular 1?

We have now the chance to focus our sport more and more towards good airmanship, good piloting, regardless how much money you spend for the aircraft.

Probably we need to postpone the date, when this rule coming into effect Und we should use the next 12 months to carry this discussion to our members or better to our competition pilots. And we need to talk to at least two other commissions.

We will discuss this at a later stage according to our agenda.

I don't want to bother you any longer with my thoughts and concerns.

Until tomorrow we should try to discuss open and fair our topics.

We should have in mind, that apart from our problems we all are sharing the same passion. We are pilots, we are using the nicest playground of any sport.

Thank you for your attention.