

President's Speech, CIMA Plenary November 2017

Dear Delegates

I am very happy, that we see some new faces here at our plenary. We will come to that point later.

This year I can not start with some positive things.

Once again we have had a fatal accident in one of our Championships. Marius Kozarzewski, a young pilot from Poland died after a wing collapse in a thermal task during the EPC this year. The danger of our sport and the possibility of accidents needs to be in mind, when we have to decide about some rule changes in our SEC. 10. Cases like this will make it more difficult to reach our goal, having paramotor as a part of the future Air Games Series, World Air Games and of other multi-sport events.

As I have pointed out last year, the bureau and I believe, that this is - parallel to our classic championships - a very important issue for the future of our commission and it can be our contribution to the success of FAI, which we are a part of.

The safety aspect needs to be considered in every future development and planning.

We (CIMA) had been very successful participating in the multi-sport event called International World Games (Games of non-Olympic sports) in Wroclaw/Poland as one of only a few other air sports. It was not an easy process to set up the slalom event without extending the financial limitation. The workload for the bureau starts with the selection process as we agreed on last plenary. The communication process with pilots and their NAC had been not very easy. As well as the communication with the event director Adam Paska. But at the end we have had a good and fair competition with Wojciech BOGDAL from Poland as the Gold Medal winner. By the way, this was the first Gold Medal for the hosting country at that time of the event.

At the end, this was a great opportunity to show our paramotor sport together with the other selected air sports to a wider audience. And it as I said before, it was a lot of workload for those from FAI HO and CIMA, who are involved.

But there is a lot more work to do for CIMA and the future bureau. We need to guarantee, that this type of event can be presented much more efficiently and in a much more media friendly way.

We need to entertain the public, our tasks need to be easy to understand and our results need to be more quickly presented to the public and media.

We will have a chance again in China. About this topic, Barney Townsend our secretary will talk about later.

Shortly after our last plenary, the bureau received a bid from Egypt to host the World Paramotor Slalom Competitions as a CAT 1 category event. Our enthusiastic friends from Cairo seemed not know our rules in detail, that for a good reason the plenary has to decide about Cat 1 comps and all the necessary paperwork like bids, local regulations and task catalogue should be approved well in advance from you as our delegate.

To support the willingness of the Aeroclub of Egypt and to keep the slalom pilots flying, the bureau accepted this event as CAT 2. We had been confident, that with the hired event team from France of Jose Ortega and Joel Amiable the event can be successful. It was and as a consequence we have the bid from Egypt to host a WSPC next year. We have to talk about this later on the agenda.

Even in the second year as CIMA president I did not succeed in finishing all the tasks we have got from the plenary and from the daily business. I would take one example: Since a long time, we know, that our common AMOD loggers are not any longer available. These are a well tailored task for the IT working group and the FR subcommittee. These are the experts to look at and to consider, that other FAI commissions facing a similar problem. And to have in mind, that we need to find a solution. A solution, which gives us the opportunity to show – if we want – live tracking of our tasks. But not has happened. At the very last moment Richard Meredith-Hardy examined a new product, which is on the market and which is used by our friends from the glider commission. The report is published since Wednesday on our wiki and it is a topic on our agenda.

As I said, this is only one example. And I have to include myself in this criticism. I was not always able to respond quickly enough to requests and demands. I was away from civilisation for the last 3 months and could not attend the FAI General Conference in Lausanne a few weeks

before this plenary. Rob Hughes, the first VP, represented the commission and he will report about.

Last year I had described that we still suffer from low interest from some countries. At the moment, 18 countries are directly or with a proxy present at this meeting. But nearly 60 national Aeroclubs had nominated delegates and alternates for CIMA. More than half of those national representatives had never attended a CIMA plenary. They may argue, that their pilots are not interested in records and competition, but how can someone attract his pilots, if he know nothing about CIMA and FAI, because he did not take part in the discussion. From some of those absent delegates you even get no reply, if you try to contact them by mail.

But today we have a positive example. Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, two countries with enthusiastic and successful pilots, are present.

Those who are here at this plenary, please take your role as an ambassador for air sports in regards to competition flying and record flights. Promote the idea of getting the Colibri badges and implement the idea of our world aviation sport association FAI and CIMA between your pilots. This would help as well to establish a better understanding and relation between your NAC and FAI.

One other problem I have mentioned last year is the unreliability in regards of paying the sanction fee. FAI still needs to send more than one reminding letter to some organisers about outstanding payment. This should be embarrassing for those who did not pay in time.

FAI is trying to support us as commissions and our organiser with IT-based solutions. So far we have the SL database and a competition registration tool, both had been improved, but still away from being easy to use. There was a workshop nearly a year ago to collect the needs and ideas of all commissions and help to make a big step into the future. The bureau has decided to send our well known IT expert Jose Luis Esteban to this meeting. But we still waiting for his report and his recommendation. Although Jose Luis Esteban has an invaluable knowledge, we need to select someone with expertise AND more spare time as the next chair of the IT working group.

FAI HO did a big step forward to renew the official website. The bureau was not very active in following this development. There are some things to do. This will be an important task for the members of the next bureau. Hopefully we will then find an easy way to integrate our internal WIKI into the official website.

One of the positive signals is the development of paramotor sports in Brazil. Our friend Gustavo will report about this changes for sure. There is now a group of active competitors, who are keen to fly in competitions, to organise such competition and to gain for record flights. If I can dream, I would dream about a similar progress for the Paramotor sport in Latin America as we have had in Asia. Good on you.

This year we have used the opportunity to reduce the cost for organiser by having not all three Jury members on site. The system works without any problem. But to get new faces into this business as officials, the remote jury limited the way to train those new ones on site.

The CIMA bureau members and I had been dealing with much more CIMA related and FAI related issues during the last 12 months. But I will not bother you with the details. Some of these points are included into the agenda.

I would like to end my speech with a thank you to all the active bureau member and especially special thank you to my friend Rob Hughes, who takes over the business, while I had been three months in the Outback of Australia.