



FAI Secretary General's report to the 106th General Conference Antalya, Turkey, 19-20 October 2012

Mr. President, dear Delegates, Ladies & Gentlemen,

A year ago, as I jumped into my new position as your Secretary General and reported to this Conference for the first time in Belgrade, I was not expecting the next 12 months to present quite so many different tasks, problems and challenges.

But, before reporting on the problems we had to face at our office in Lausanne, I would like to give you some statistics on the activities held in 2011 :

FAI Membership

Without counting the decisions the Conference will make later today, the FAI Membership stands at :

- 85 Active Members
- 7 Associate Members
- 10 Temporary Members
- 3 International Affiliate Members
- For a total of 105 Members

Competitions

In 2011,

- 39 First category events (including 18 World Championships)
- were held in 21 different countries
- on 6 continents.
- 66 FAI Member countries participated in FAI First category events,
- with a total of 2875 participating athletes.
- Results were provided to the FAI in the best cases on the last day of the competition, in the worst case after ... 148 days, or 5 months later !

International Records

In 2011,

- 143 International Records have been ratified,
- 78 % of them being World Records.

Flight Safety

The annual questionnaires received from our national member federations reported a total of 253 fatalities in air sports in 2011, compared to 236 in 2010 and 192 in 2009. Again a very worrying and sad figure !

FAI Head Office Activities

Coming back to the FAI Head Office in Lausanne, the slide below provides an insight into the many activities that had to be carried out by our staff since the last General Conference. In addition to the daily operations (shown in the left column), the FAI Head Office has been involved in the development of the many strategic projects initiated by the Executive Board and shown in the second column. And earlier this

year, two unexpected projects were initiated, the creation of FAME and the development of the Breitling sponsorship contract, which added significant workload to the whole staff.

When you add to this long list of activities and projects, the technical problems that emerged along the year to further improve and fine-tune the new FAI website, to keep alive the ageing main database system, or to try making workable the accounting software introduced last year, you will understand why, sometimes during the last few months, we have not always been in a position to reply to your requests and e-mails as promptly as we would have wished.

Agenda # 7 – Report of the Secretary General

FAI Head Office Activities

<u>DAILY OPERATIONS</u>	<u>SUPPORT / WORK ON STRATEGIC PROJECTS</u>	<u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support to ASCs ➤ Members Management ➤ Support to EB ➤ Office and Staff Management ➤ Finance ➤ Organisation of Meetings ➤ General Conference ➤ Admin. of Competitions ➤ Records & Awards ➤ IOC / IF Relations ➤ Website & Networks ➤ New e-mail system ➤ «Bush-fires» / Pressures ➤ Etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Anti-Doping Advisory Group ➤ Sports Strategy ➤ Reg. Management System ➤ Expert groups ➤ New Website ➤ New accounting system and software ➤ Sporting Licences DB ➤ IWGA World Games ➤ OCA Asian Beach Games ➤ FAI World Air Games ➤ New Organiser Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breitling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negotiation ▪ Test Phase ▪ Development ➤ FAME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constitution ▪ Management Structure ▪ Start of operation



 FAI 22

106th FAI General Conference

On top of that, the number of staff working at the FAI Office went down from 7.5 to only 5 staff positions in late summer 2011, thus creating a very high workload on everybody, an increased risk of mistakes, and unfortunately delaying some projects such as the development of a new Organiser Agreement or the launch of the bid process for the World Air Games 2015.

If we wish the FAI Head Office to continue providing the services you are expecting, we now need to be given the opportunity and resources to consolidate and finalise the projects currently under development, to improve our working tools, and allow the time required for some of our ambitious projects such as FAME or Breitling to progressively grow to success.

Immediately after the last General Conference, one of my first priorities was to recruit new staff members. Today, I am very glad to report that we again have a full team working at the FAI Office.

- Our new Senior Sports Manager Rob HUGHES joined the team in March to take over my previous position;
- Our new full-time IT Manager Visa-Matti LEINIKKI arrived in May and replaced Marcel Meyer who had reached the age of retirement.
- And our new Sports Assistant Annick HAUSER completed our team in September to provide administrative support to our Air Sport Commissions and relieve Rob of some administrative tasks.

FAI Head Office Staffing



At this stage, I would like to express my warmest thanks to my colleagues in Lausanne. The last few months have not been easy, but I am very thankful for all the work they have achieved, the strong and competent support they have provided me. I also would like to thank Agust Gudmundsson who, through his company Softverk, significantly contributed to the development and improvement of our new website.

We are now looking forward with a very positive attitude. There are a number of highly promising projects under way and I have great confidence in the team in Lausanne. We have started what I expect to be a strong collaboration with an external marketing agency, our partnership with Breitling could well open up new opportunities for our sports and competition organisers, and I hope that we are now heading towards a very productive period. I look forward to continuing working with you on the many ambitious and motivating projects currently under development.

Thank you for your attention.