



CIVL 2018 PLENARY – ANNEXE 6 CIVL PRESIDENT REPORT – V1

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To be updated before the Plenary.

It's been a busy year again at CIVL. I will not go through everything we did. It is detailed here and there in the 50+ annexes to the Agenda, and in particular:

- The Bureau activity report and decisions (annexe 7)
- Reports on our championships and test events (annexe 11)
- Reports from our Committees and Officers (Annexes 13 to 22)

Our actions to move CIVL forward can be evaluated in the Bureau's, Committees' and Officers' proposals (annexes 23 to 32).

There are also proposals from NACs, bids from championships and a nomination for award. We will be busy! So please take the time to go carefully through everything before the Plenary, do your homework, come prepared and we will be productive.

I will state here our actions, what they mean and the main issues we are facing.

Overall states of CIVL as reported to the FAI General Conference

- We had 358 Second Category events (359 in 2016, 383 in 2014 and 2013).
- Paragliding Cross Country and Aerobatic and Hang Gliding are stable, Paragliding accuracy is slightly on the slow.
- We had 4 World championships, all successful, showing a very interesting diversity.
- Our Salzburg, Austria, Plenary was also successful (45 delegates and assistants). Bureau and Committee Chairs were elected without opposition by acclamation: there is a strong feeling that people in charge are doing a good job and this is encouraging.
- CIVL created its own certification program for competition paragliders. 2015 and 2016 saw the first CIVL certified gliders. The second version was implemented in 2017 and is again successful with pilots, manufacturers and safety records. Next version will be implemented in 2019.
- Paragliding Cross Country and Accuracy will be a discipline of the 2018 Asian Games, an event owned by the Olympic Committee of Asia. It has been a struggle for CIVL to be involved. One test event ran, one to go. We hope that next year's events will be successful.
- Paragliding Accuracy is developing fast. A lot of work – still going on – has been dedicated to reorganise the discipline (rules, requirements for databases and equipment, judging code...).
- CIVL hired an Administrator. The aim is to build a sustainable CIVL where the administrative and communication work are run on a day to day basis by a paid person, as counting on volunteers only has proved to be not always efficient.
- CIVL has created its own Facebook page. They are successful so far.

Positive and negative results:

- Positive
- Cat 1 and Cat 2 events still going strong.
—First Category Events level of organisation. More nations represented.
—Very strong world ranking system in all disciplines.
—Paraglider CCC certification program successful.

- Development of software (change initiated).
- Stability in Bureau and Committees.
 - Negative
- The way we got involved in the Asian Games.
- Development of software (a long way to go).

Activities

See the Bureau activity report and decisions (Annexe 7).

Being President means representing CIVL in various FAI meetings.

- July in Wroclaw, Poland:

On the first day, the Air Sport Commission (ASC) Presidents meet FAI Executive Board (EB) and some FAI Head Office (HO) staff for one day. The meeting started with each Prez explaining his Commission specific issues, then we scrolled down the agenda: finances; membership issues; Sporting licences; new organisers' agreements; regional development; multisport events; drones; IT development; anti-doping; partners...

On the second day, CASI meeting. CASI consists of 11 ASC President and 11 representatives of NAC. The FAI EB and top HO staff are also present. CASI is the body that writes the General Section of the Sporting Code and other key documents. On the agenda: FAI President and Secretary General updates; report from working groups (multisport events, sporting licences, Jury handbook, records and classes; review of documents – sporting codes, code of ethics, ceremonies, organisers' agreement... –

- September in Coupe Icare and in Paris, France:

Discussion with some French federations on the 2024 Paris Olympics prospects for airports.

- October in Lausanne, Switzerland:

To meet Susanne Schödel – Secretary General – and Markus Haggene – Sports and Events Director – and discuss all current issues.

- October in Lausanne, Switzerland:

The big one, the FAI General Conference – GC – . Five days, very intense.

Two days of ASC/EB/HO and CASI meetings, with very much the same program as in July at Wroclaw, but this time to finalise.

One day of working shops: anti-doping, air sports development, IT services, organisers' agreement, drones.

Two days for the conference itself, with 30 points on the agenda, divided in general business, strategy and finances. The GC is certainly a good place to meet, network and lobby. I met in particular the delegates of a few countries from the Airsport Federation of Asia – AFA – to discuss Asian development and sporting licences.

Going to these meetings cost time and money. Is it worth it? Certainly!

We understand better how FAI works; the intricacy of relations between NAC, Commissions, Executive Board and Head Office; what and where the political powers are; the working forces available... You have to know the system if you want to use it in the best possible way.

Also, FAI Executive Board and Head Office are counting on us to help them develop their policies and projects. We are an important commission, organising 40% or so of FAI competitions, always active and responsive. This give us respectability and a certain degree of influence.

Sometimes the results are frustrating. FAI is a complex institution with 11 Commissions and complex issues to deal with. The amount of work required is staggering. So it goes. We have to keep trudging and pushing while respecting the work and priorities of all involved: a nice balancing act.

In conclusion: meeting physically people is the best way to work. Irreplaceable.

Being President also means working for CIVL here and there.

- February in Mira, Italy:

To meet and train Elena Filonova, our new Administrator and Communication Officer.

- May in Albania, June in Thailand, July in Italy, August in France:

All for Jury's duty, but not only! These trips allow me to meet many people – including many pilots, team leaders, NAC presidents ... and one Minister of Sport – , to network and lobby.

- November in Sao Jao de Madeira, Portugal:

To meet Flymaster and define the conditions in which we could buy a fleet of live-trackers.

Not only the President moves around...

- August in Puncak, Indonesia:

Igor Erzen and Zeljko Ovuka were called on short notice to be the meet director and the technical delegate at the Asian Games PG XC test event.

- September in Vrsac, Serbia:

Five days of meeting for the Bureau. The Chairs of Committees and our CIVL Administrator were invited. It lasted 2 days longer than usual, so we had time to go very thoroughly through every item, and more!

- October in Lausanne, Switzerland:

Goran Dimiskovski also went to meet the FAI Head Office.

- November in Wuhan, China:

Claudio Cattaneo and Andy Cowley were invited at the World Fly-in Expo to discuss the FAI Air Games Serie and to meet potential organisers of the FAI Air Games Tour.

- November in Sao Jao de Madeira, Portugal:

Goran Dimiskovski also went to meet Flymaster.

- December in Turkey:

- Igor Erzen is to check the possibilities for our disciplines if the 2020 World Air Games take part there.

- May in Albania, June in Thailand, July in Italy, August in Brazil:

Bureau members and Committee Chair were on the road for steward or jury duties.

Current issues

In alphabetical order, why not?!

Accuracy

The much needed reset is still in full blast. A lot of work done this year. A lot more to come.

Administrator

The idea of a paid CIVL Administrator is not new. Making it a reality is a small revolution. So far, we are happy we took this decision and chose the right person. We are moving forward on many issues much faster than we could have done without Elena.

Aerobatic

Our most mediatic discipline has a hard time finding organisers. 2018 and a hoped-for international tour might bring solutions.

Africa

The next FAI General Conference will be in Egypt. The one after in Marocco. We will be welcoming Algeria at our plenary, like in 2015. What can we do to develop the sport in Africa?

Asia

The Airsport Federation of Asia – AFA – needs our support to develop our disciplines on all level, administrative and operative. We added half-day to the pre-plenary meetings to analyse the issues and see what we can do.

Asian Games

A lot of higher-level politics have made the Games a bumpy road. Our aim: that they are as safe, fair and satisfying as possible for our pilots. This is why we are getting involved.

Competition Class Paragliders

The schedule we decided on earlier – revision of the CCC requirements every other year – give us very little time to analyse the current version and work on the next one. At the time of publication of the Agenda, we were not ready with a new proposal, which is bothering. We have two ways of imagining the future: going progressively Open, or staying controlled and simplifying. We may also want to revise the requirements every 3 years iso 2.

Competition Management System

Noosphere, a FAI partner, is working on a global solution from registration to publication of results, including website, instant results, media solutions... We are lobbying so it can be adapted to CIVL needs quickly.

Cross Country

No issue really, good competitions, we are on on a roll.

Equipment

Live-trackers for XC, big target for Accuracy: we are investing in top-level equipment to provide in First Category events a better and cheaper service to our customers, the pilots and organisers.

Facebook

Do you like it?

Judges

PG Accuracy and Aerobatic request judges that need to be trained. We should not be shy when investing in training seminars: they insure the highest level of quality for our competitions.

Live-trackers

We decided to buy our own fleet of live-trackers and to hire a manager to make sure that they are managed at their full potential. We will make both available at a low cost to Cat 1 and test events.

Sanctioning Cat 1 events

The new organiser agreement will push us to have more effective bid documents and procedures. We have to be more careful when we review the bids before the plenary to smooth out any potential problems.

Sanctioning Cat 2 events

We badly need an automated sanctioning process for our 300+ competitions. We are losing time and money doing everything by hand, involving too many people, all prone to make mistakes or be absent. FAI agreed to build such a system for us.

Software

Although a lot of work is being done, we have a hard time implementing efficient management and procedures.

Will SeeYou be ready – i.e. well tested by all – for this Summer Cat 1? If not, we will rely on good old FS.

Many projects are now linked to FAI IT. It might slow us, but this is the best long-term solution.

Special Events

Air Games Tour and World Air Games are continually shifting projects and we are following them closely. We will adapt to whatever is finalised.

Target for Accuracy

Buying targets for accuracy proceeds of the same philosophy as buying live-trackers for XC. Buy the best product, make sure it is used at its best, make it available at low cost.

As a provisional conclusion

As I proofread this report for grammatical errors and plain stupidities, I realise I have insisted just as much on a few meetings as on our many issues. I guess it shows that a lot of our energy this year was spent on understanding and working within the 'system', the 'higher game', while the rest – CIVL and business as usual – was on a ('let the good times') roll, even when the roll is bumpy (see above for Accuracy and Aerobatic).

This shows in fact how strong we are, thanks to the many people that worked 40+ years to build CIVL, thanks to the many talented people that, today, accept to volunteer and work on a bit or a lot of bureaucracy to help run the show.