

Report to the CIA on the 2019 meeting of CIMP

This meeting of the Medical Commission of the FAI (CIMP) was held in Budapest through the weekend 7th – 8th September to precede the 67th International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine, ICASM which was held in Debrecen starting the next day. CIMP was attended by 12 delegates. Geoff McCarthy, Acting President, chaired the meeting after the unexpected death of the President, Dr. Richard Garrison on the 30th July 2019 at the age of 65. Our President of Honour, Dr Peter Saundby (UK) still remains incapacitated due to illness and sent his apologies.

As usual there were two main meetings, a technical meeting all day Saturday and a formal plenary session on the Sunday morning.

The subjects addressed at the Technical meeting were four; recommendations and advice to flight safety in air-sports, clinical aviation medicine and regulations, WADA and anti-doping, and FAA and EASA developments.

Jacques Berlo (Vice President CIMP and Belgium Delegate) gave a telecom presentation on “Safety in Helicopters” explaining the goal to standardize the guidelines in competitions with check lists. Juergen Knüppel, Honorary President, gave information on safety in gliding. In Germany there were 25 fatalities in gliding out of 26,000 pilots making the risk of death 20 times that of driving. There was a need for a better “Safety Management System” based on that for Red Bull Air races flights where there have been no fatalities. Matthew Wilkes gave an excellent and well received telecom presentation from the UK entitled “Paragliding & Aviation Medicine”. He illustrated the high number of fatalities in paragliding and had carried out research at the University of Portsmouth on how training such as in reserve parachute deployment could help in reducing deaths (see <https://www.freeflightphysiology.org/>). Dr Grégoire Schrago, Swiss delegate, talked about the physiological considerations of the PERLAN Project and the need for better preparation of flights in hot weather.

Mention was made of the European Plan for Aviation Safety (EPAS) which constitutes the regional aviation safety plan for EASA Member States, setting out the strategic priorities, strategic enablers and main risks affecting the European aviation system and the necessary actions to mitigate those risks and to further improve aviation safety. The main objective of EPAS is to further improve aviation safety throughout Europe, while ensuring a level playing field, as well as efficiency/proportionality in regulatory processes. Dr Gábor Hardicsay (invited speaker, Hungary) gave an interesting talk on “Aeromedical history in his country”.

There was general agreement that flight safety could be improved by better education, checklists and better analysis of previous accidents.

On the topic of WADA and anti-doping, Dr Geoff McCarthy talked about transgender cases in FAI sports referring to the Olympic standards. It was agreed to make a study of consequences of implementing rules on issues such as exogenous testosterone on different air sports. After discussion a medical consensus and opinion of FAI CIMP will be presented to the FAI EB.

Ansa Jordaan, CMO ICAO, joined in a telecom conference on a "Review of international safety regulations", answering questions of present CIMP Delegates. She was very receptive to CIMP proposing to ICAO that it should adopt lower medical standards for lower risk air sports if we could provide robust evidence to make the case.

The formal plenary, after mention of the past achievements and comradeship of our deceased President Richard T. Garrison, opened with a discussion over the problem of sufficient attendance at CIMP. Representation was also rather limited to gliding, helicopter and ballooning with no great input from other air sports.

National reports included the challenge of more space for gliders and paragliders, and new challenge of drones in Switzerland. Marja Osinga (NED) talked of the problem of implementation of EASA with LAPL. Geoff McCarthy (USA) mentioned that with marijuana now legal in US for recreational use, the problem for flying with no information available about risk management and human performances. He also gave a detailed review of US air accidents. David Bareford (UK) discussed the proposition of an ICAO Med-Class 4 using data from Peter Saundby. Martti Lepojärvi (FIN) mentioned a reduction in accidents with fatalities in gliding, probably due to improvement of safety. Bernhard Schober (AUS) talked about a particular gliding accident in the mountains and implementation of EMPIC in Austria.

It was agreed that we cooperate with AOPA for more suitable aeromedical certifications in air sports and using comments from Peter Saundby CIMP would develop an Expert Opinion to the FAI EB Board on specific medical requirements in air sports, for EASA and ICAO.

Marja Osinga was nominated as the next President of CIMP and she accepted.

The next CIMP meeting will be in Paris after AsMA / ICASM / ECAM congress, from Sunday 27 to Monday 28th September

Dr David Bareford, UK and CIA delegate to CIMP.

26.1.20