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*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

# Minutes

of the Annual Meeting  
**FAI Environmental Commission**

held in Neu-Isenburg, Germany  
**on 20 January 2007**  
at ERM GmbH

July 1, 2007

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## ATTENDEES

Chairman	Dr. Michael Goth, President (Germany)
Vice President & Delegate	Mr. Bernald Smith, Vice President (United States of America)
Vice President & Delegate	Mr. Kåre Liasjö, Vice President (Norway)
Secretary & Delegate	Mr. Robert (Bob) Carlson (Canada)
Delegate	Mr. Lars-Göran Arvidsson (Sweden)
Alternate Delegate	Dr. Wolfgang Scholze (Germany)
CIA Representative	Mr. Uwe Schneider (Germany)
CIVL Representative	Mr. Thomas Senac (France)
CIMA Representative	Mr. Jacek Kibinski (Poland)

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

President of Honour	Mr. Chris Nicholas (United Kingdom)
Delegate	Mr. Gerard Früh (France)

### 1. Opening Remarks by the President, Michael Goth

The President welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 h local.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland 2006-01-13/14

see also

#### AGENDA

MOVED by Bernald Smith, That the minutes be accepted as presented, without any corrections.

UNANIMOUS

Written reports were presented to the meeting. Synopsis' follows.

NOTE: These minutes are Synoptic. The full scope and extent of programs rest in the respective reports in the ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DATABASE.

### 3. Report: The Commission President, Michael Goth

The report was presented in slides which built up on the 2006 meeting.

The objectives of this commission as seen by the President are:

- a) Raise awareness of environmental issues by air sportsmen & women and the relevant clubs and associations,
- b) Support and publicize projects that are designed to help the environment,
- c) Ensure that commercial and sport commission programs are clearly defined and promoted appropriately, and
- d) Support the Website data base that is just beginning.

The thesis that will be followed, to achieve the results/goals defined and supported, and will include:

- Work on items of interest of the Board and Commissions.
- Identify issues for consideration of the full Environmental Commission.
- Define projects properly so that a full action plan can be developed and funded.
- Utilize local resources wherever possible.

The prime example is the Environmental Commission Website resident on the FAI website. Included therein are:

- An example of work undertaken, and results achieved, is the translation into English of five (5) articles of relevant environmental work. These articles are now available on the FAI website.
- The written FAI standard for Environmental Management of sport aviation activity sites (to be prepared). Such standard would be useful for the next World Air Games.
- The adjunct inclusion of environmental Issues, principles and needs at the recent Event Managers development meetings in Copenhagen.
- Notwithstanding the preceding achievements, there is much concern about the progress that was NOT MADE!

Air sport devotees are needed for environmental work in the UK and Germany as well as involvement by the Air Sport Commissions in the environmental issues that affect their sporting activities. As well, as taking advantage of the Air sport Education Committee involvement in promoting Sport Aviation. The recent poster competition of the issue of HARMONY of AIRSPORT with THE ENVIRONMENT is an opportunity to be exploited.

Similarly, the Commissions need to define and assess the environmental issues that are common to their activities, working jointly, commission to commission, then resolve.

The Commissions also need to look outside the FAI for solutions that are not resolvable within the FAI.

Two national air sport Commissions, **Germany and Norway**, have each established a full time entity, e.g. an Aero Club(s) employee, to facilitate the solution of common, often

repetitive, activity specific problems/challenges.

The Environmental Commission needs to advise the sport commissions as to the nature and importance of problems/challenges for which it has, or may have solutions, and/or methodology of benefit to the sport commissions.

In other words let's boast about what we can do.

We, the ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION of the FAI need CHALLENGES - and PARTNERSHIPS!

#### 4. Vice Presidents Reports

##### 4.1 BERNALD SMITH, Commission Vice President, Activities in 2006

Worked with the Education Committee and their current program for paintings by children of the notion of Harmony of Sport Aviation and the environment.

Attended Presidents Commissions meetings, addressing the aviation aspect of global warming. Bernald believes that more participation by the Sports Commissions in environmental issues/ activities is needed to demonstrate to the public and government that we care, thereby, minimizing/mitigating claims that our activities are environmentally destructive.

##### 4.2 KARE LIASJÖ, Commission Vice President, Activities in 2006

The Norwegian government "Aviation Group" now requires that any airport with > 25 aircraft movements per day in the busiest 3 month period to be mapped as to frequency and noise assessments. This includes a prognosis over the next 10 years.

A summary of a study of aircraft noise in local outdoor recreational areas was handed out to participants of meeting.

Also, generally, the noise standard for the interior of any home, anywhere it is located, on average for the day, 42 dB(A). This is aimed for nuisance by rail and car traffic but is applicable also for aviation. Norway has harmonized its' noise calculation standard with European regulations.

The Norwegian AeroClub provides a manual on environmental issues to its member clubs.

#### 5. Reports from Air Sport Commissions

##### 5.1 THOMAS SENAC, CIVL Delegate, France

Government environmental agencies are looking closely at environmental issues. Their goal is to be one step ahead of everyone. They are assessing protected wildlife, recreation sporting areas.

Hanggliders are worried that they will be site restricted. The problems is the launch from spots in nature, especially, if such spots are protected areas such as "Nature 2000" (European Regulation). They are anxious to ensure that their activities prevent forced

change. They are adopting the policy that nature must be respected, thus, being able to discuss, on an equal skills level, with nature groups, areas of concern for established sensitive or fragile areas, - habitat for birds, animals, and plants. Scientific data are needed to provide objective data on impact on nature by hanggliding/paragliding.

One problem/circumstance are individual activities by hangglider pilots, in undeveloped areas, who are not member of any NAC, "the true solo pilot" who are difficult to be informed and taught.

Launching from spots in nature is differently regulated:

- France - permit of landowner is needed, the mayor of the community has to be notified;
- Germany - the mayor of the community has to be notified;
- Switzerland – no notification is needed.

Thomas noted that he is aware of activities being undertaken by Canadian interests. NAV Canada or Transport Canada, likely.

Codes of conduct are being used in the assessment of a sport with respect to environmental management.

#### 5.2 WOLFGANG SCHOLZE, Alternate Delegate, Deutscher Aero Club, Activities in 2006 (report moved forward from agenda item#9 at this time as Wolfgang had to leave early)

Very small airports are being exempted from noise regulation in Germany. This may be, in part, due to the voluntary adoption of noise reduction technology as a consequence, or in anticipation or regulation, of prior complaints.

The German AeroClub has developed an Environmental and Quality Management System for air sports flying sites. This system is operational and will be an integrated audit for airport/aeroclub use and analysis. The document has 250 line items, and the fee for issue of a certificate is Euro 250.

Extensive activity in the sheparding of birds to assist their recovery of migration skills, specifically the "Lessor Whitefront" goose. This has lead to extensive TV activity/coverage of the enroute flight of the geese. (Comment at date of preparing these minutes – The action had to be cancelled for 2007 due to protest of Swedish groups to the EU Commission).

ICAO aeronautical maps in Germany from 2007 on show aircraft relevant bird protection areas. This is to inform pilots of such areas for flight preparation. Flying altitudes of > 2000 ft and no landings away from airfields are recommended.

#### 5.3 UWE SCHNEIDER, CIA Delegate, Germany

Environmentally, the problem of hot air balloons is the noise: 85 - 105 dB(A) with peaks over a period of 5 – 10 sec and often low level flight patterns applied by pilots. These characteristics of hot air balloons and their environmental impact are of concern.

The noise levels, and performance characteristics of these aircraft, are being revised extensively to reduce noise and pollution.

Damage to farmland when landing is another concern. Especially in the UK this has impacted reputation of hot air ballooning especially with farmers.

Zeppelins and the like airships are considered to be balloons. Zeppelins are valuable platforms for scientific studies. New to know: gases lighter than air used for ballooning include H, He, NH<sub>3</sub>, Ar. Natural sources of He are being used where available but are becoming less abundant. If air is used to source He, there a high cost.

Motor types (2 vs 4 stroke), multi-bladed propellers, turboprops, are being examined as replacements to current practice, to forstall adverse regulation of flight location and style.

#### 5.4 JACEK KIBINSKI, CIMA Delegate, Poland

Jacek presented some basic facts about microlights regarding operation modes, engines and competitions. In view of environmental considerations, air pollution and noise are considered relevant, e.g. 2 stroke engines are not energy and emission effective, therefore, there is a trend to use 4 stroke engines, mufflers. However, noise measurements are not performed.

Noise issues are being addressed using new quiet motors, e.g. electric, propellers and mufflers.

Based on this meeting, Jacek proposed to go back to CIMA to recommend a clause on environmental protection in the statutes of CIMA. Further, he recommended that all FAI air sports commissions should establish an environmental commissioner.

### 6. Status of On-Going Projects

Website – LP Arvidsson recommended to have a news page on the FAI EnvC website. Bernald Smith recommended to establish a direct link from Air Sport Commission websites to EnvC website.

World Air Games – It was agreed that EnvC needs to assess the attention and commitment of the bidder to the environmental standards. RIC to discuss with RAC.  
Comment LG Arvidsson: Swedish practice was to judge a bidder, in the past, by their plans for promotion, and the inclusion of commitment to environmentally sound activities.

Other agenda #6 points were discussed elsewhere.

### 7. General Objectives and Targets of EnvC

LP Arvidsson reported of the environmental plan concept adopted by Swedish air sports representatives to inform authorities and the public. Such plans were submitted in Sweden for a number of air sports events and showed to be well received.

LP Arvidsson further suggested the use of the FAI logo for green events and the judgments of None-Governmental-Organizations (NGOs) to approve our environmental approaches.

It was agreed that the stated long term environmental goals of the FAI and the individual

commissions should be reviewed and that environmental protection considerations should be integrated.

Should there be a pamphlet of the goals - short, and long term that is created by each of the commissions and the FAI as an entity, for the next convention in 2007 in RHODES? E.g. the Rhodes Environmental Manifest of the FAI and its' constituents".

#### 8. Assignment of Delegates to Projects

No action achieved.

#### 9. Reports of Delegates

LARS-GÖRAN ARVIDSSON, Delegate (Sweden)

In his capacity as Delegate and Vice President of the Aerobatics Commission, Lars-Göran reported that noise and fuel consumption are seen as the main environmental problems of conducting motor engine powered aerobatics. The Scandinavian countries are quite sensitive in this respect and act pro-actively. A Swiss designed aircraft with muffler and 4 blade propeller appears competitive with other aerobatic aircrafts on the market.

WOLFGANG SCHOLZE, Alternate Delegate, Germany

The report presented by Wolfgang Scholze, Alternate Delegate Germany is reported under agenda item #5.

CHRIS NICOLAS, President of Honour, Delegate UK

A report was received from Chris Nicolas, President of Honour, Delegate UK. Topics include:

- Flying Site Noise Measurement in UK – continues to be a very long saga,
- Airfields as "Brownfield" sites – converting airfields to housing or industrial estates,
- Carbon Emission by Commercial Aviation – public concern in UK about government attitudes on consuming fuel for long distance air travel,
- Noise Measurement – a layman's guide to the difficult subject of noise measurement was provided – to be published on the EnvC website.

GERARD FRÜH, Delegate France

Attached to the apology for absence was a statement regarding noise on small airfields and global warming.

RIIKKA VILKUNA, former Delegate, Sweden

A written statement was received regarding participation at the Global Forum for Sport and Environment organized by UNEP, held November 30 – December 1, 2006 in Lausanne, Olympic Museum. Interesting concepts were presented and the conclusion is to link more closely to other sport organizations with regard to environmental considerations.

## 10. Finances

The current financial situation is that proposals for projects of EnvC require a presentation of the need for each program to the FAI board for their prior approval.

LP Arvidsson commented that the main source of income are the NACs and that it may be in the interest of some NACs to assign some of their financial contributions for environmental projects.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

Global Warming - Multiple descriptions and suggestions. All should review Sporting Codes and Practices to assess where contributions can be defined and made.

Measurement of Greenhouse Gases Air Profiles using Microlights (Jacek Kubinski) – Presentation had to be omitted due to time constraints.

## 12. ELECTIONS

All serving members were re-elected unanimously to their present tasks.

## 13. NEXT MEETING

Bernald Smith recommends EnvC meetings at FAI General Conferences. Proposal rejected due to high potential of non-attendance of delegates. Further recommendation is to prepare meetings by sending out contributions prior to meeting. A recommendation for start of meeting was at 11:00 h local (which would require adjournment on the next day).

Planned meeting: 12 January 2008 - Frankfurt am Main (Neu-Isenburg), Germany, ERM GmbH office (availability of the ERM facility to be confirmed)

Respectively submitted

R.I. Carlson  
Secretary,  
FAI Environmental Commission  
17 June 2007  
E. & O.E.

Edited

Michael Goth  
President,  
FAI Environmental Commission  
1 July 2007