



FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) in Lausanne, November 2014,

Report by Jean-Pierre Delmas, GAC President

1. Important activities, projects or events since last GAC Meeting

19th FAI World Rally Flying Championships 2014

Held in Torun, Poland, 17 – 21 August,
112 pilots and navigators from 16 countries took part.

Unlimited Class:

- Gold medal for the French crew: Julien Cherioux (Pilot) and David Le Gentil (Navigator)
- Team Trophy for the Polish Team

Advanced Class:

- Gold Medal for the Czech crew: Vala Tomas (Pilot) and Pokorny Ondrej (Navigator)
- Team Trophy for the Slovak Team

First International F1 Class Air Racing Series 2014

A FAI delegation attended, as observers, the First International F1 Class Air Racing Series, held in Lleida, Spain, 1st of June 2014.

Memorial Flight Hans Gutmann 2014

Unfortunately, the flight was cancelled due to unavailability of Jean Birgen who was grounded for medical reasons, short before departure.

Events/Meetings where GAC was represented by GAC President

CASI meeting, Commission President's Group meeting and General Conference, in Thailand, were attended by your President, in October 2014.

During General Conference, one of our GAC active delegates was awarded:

- Jesus Mas Menargues (ESP) with Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma.

Congratulations to Jesus.

2. Positive and Negative Result

In Rally Flying, the new Class Advanced, created two years ago, attracts new and young pilots and nations, as expected.

So, the Class Unlimited remains the most demanding competition with increasing requirements year after year.

Promotion videos for *Rally Flying*, *Precision Flying* and *Air Nav Race* are now available.

Germany organized its Open National Championship a week before the World Rally Championship in Poland, in a place very close to the German-Polish border. So many crews

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managed to have a stopover in Germany and used the German Open as a warm-up competition.

The First International Air Racings were organized by a private company and attracted more than 6000 paying spectators and TV Channels.

The organizer is considering how that competition could become a FAI world championship sanctioned by GAC and CIACA.

3. Main problem encountered and solution adopted :

Due to reduction of budgets of private pilots, there is only one FAI world championship each year for GAC competitors.

Since there are two classes in one event, GAC kept the concept of one team per Nation. The max number of participants in each class should be precised during next GAC meeting.

FAI issues

During CASI meeting and Commission President's Group meeting, some issues raised about sporting power and competition structures at FAI. Solutions are under progress but not finalized. The new appointed FAI Secretary General, Susanne SCHÖDEL, and FAI Sports and Marketing Manager, Markus HAGGENEY, are taking in charge these challenges.

At the FAI General Conference, the FAI budget was at the stake. Last year a request for a renewed way of presenting budget, incomes, expenses, investment, etc., was formally expressed. It remains unheard. The FAI Executive Director for Finance has not been re-elected. An advisory group has been created and the proposed budget accepted by the GC.

4. Planned activities and projects for next years

Anti-doping

The whereabouts process has been alleviated, as a consequence of a successful anti-doping plan conducted by the FAI which resulted in an efficient testing program and a trustful relationship with the WADA.

FAI World Events to come:

- 22nd World Precision Flying Championship, in July 2015, in Skive, Denmark.
- 4th World Air Games, in December 2015, in Dubai. (To be confirmed).
- 20th World Rally Flying Championship, in 2016, in Portugal.
- 23rd World Precision Flying Championship, in 2017, in Austria. (To be confirmed).

New bids are welcome for coming years after 2017.

5. President's Wishes for Next Years

- 1) First: to have more women involved in GAC competitions and organisation.

The Canadian female delegate to General Conference launched a first action last year. But, her proposal, this year, to set up a permanent working party on that matter was rejected. In the same GC meeting, a French-British woman was elected as executive director. So, nothing is impossible.

In our GAC community, I noticed that more women took part in Rally Flying competitions since we developed the Advanced Category.

In 2014, among 112 competitors, we had 11 female navigators: 3 in Unlimited Category, 8 in Advanced Category. And the more significant fact was that 3 women received 4 medals in the Advanced Category. The podium is open again to women!

The steps forward, I am dreaming of, are at least to have female in position of pilot, and then 100% female crews and more women in our meetings.

For the next year, I suggest we could start, without delay, to share, informally, our best practices which eventually improved women participation in our flying clubs and air sport associations.

2) Second point: to encourage private pilots, in their private planes, to beat world records.

Few pilots out of USA and Russia attempt world records. Few pilots out of the community of commercial pilots and airline transport pilots try to beat world records. Even commercial air transport flights can be the vector of a world record. Why not a private pilot, in a private plane, with friends and family?

I see two challenges for GAC:

- to make PPLs to discover that a private flight can be vectors of a world record;
- to make the procedure of filing a record claim a child's play on Internet.

The new technology, GPS, light flight recorders, e-tracking on Internet, instant communication with emails and social networks, etc., enables easy production of evidences. Probably, minor amendments are necessary in GAC rules to drop unnecessary hurdles to make some types of world records accessible and affordable for private pilots.

I suggest that GAC delegates address suggestions and proposals to Art Greenfield, our Chairman of Records Subcommittee.