



**FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)  
in Ponta Delgada, Azores, November 2015,**

**Report by Jean-Pierre Delmas, GAC President**

**1) Important activities, projects or events since last FAI General Conference:**

GAC Plenary Meeting held in Lausanne, in Nov. 2014

FAI World Precision Flying Championship 2015 held in Skive, Denmark, 19-25 July.2015.

- 74 pilots, from 19 countries.
- World Precision Champion Damien Vadon, France.  
Team Champion: Poland  
Navigation Trophy: Mr. Marcin Skalik, Poland  
Landing Trophy: Mr. Mauri Halinen, Finland  
Team Landing Trophy: Czech Republic  
Best Woman trophy: Esther Rimensberger, Switzerland  
Best Low Experience Pilot trophy: Mr. Marcin Skalik, Poland

Hans Gutmann Memorial Flight 2015, in Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Austria, in June 2015.

- 15 teams enlisted from all 6 countries over Europe.
- Jakabszallas, in Hungary, was the meeting point and home base airfield for a series of cross boarder flights bringing crews and passengers to enthusiastic locations.

**CASI Meeting**

Not surprisingly, FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015 was at the agenda.

Inflation of appeals by NACs raise concerns about judiciarisation of air sports competitions. Some competitor/NAC seem to fight against the organizer. One NAC appealed the decision delivered by the International Appeal Tribunal, set up by CASI. But, before going to Court of Arbitration for Sports an agreement was passed between appealing NAC and FAI-HO.

For GAC matters, we faced a case where a NAC appealed decisions made by the organiser and the Jury. The Tribunal denied request but suggested to clarify Rules and Regulations for Air Rally Flying. A proposal for clarification is at the agenda of this Plenary Meeting.

**President's Meetings**

FAI WAG Dubai 2015 trigger many concerns for Air Sports Commissions, NACs and Athletes. Many items were put to the agenda. A half-day seminar was organised by FAI-HO, to initiate delegates and staff to multicultural working environment issues.

Other subjects, even long lasting ones, received lower priority from FAI HO.

*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

## **FAI General Conference**

FAI GC was held in Rotterdam, last September.

Official opening ceremony gave unique occasion to see exceptional airmen and airwomen on the stage, talking modestly of their outstanding achievements, as training paraplegic people to fly solo (!) balloons, as beating Baumgartner's stratospheric records with a "Scuba-like" suit, etc.

And last but not the least for GAC: our President of Honour, Vagn Jensen, received his Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma.

## **2) Positive and negative results:**

More pilots took part to the world precision championship, than in the previous years.

Long range flight successful organised, after cancellation the year before.

A CAT II event is going to be sanctioned by FAI: A flying rally across Africa, from Crete to Cape Town, for aircraft built before the 31st December 1939. An official event, of the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, which is supposed to start on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, for 5 weeks.

On-going international cooperation, aimed to have FAI Cat1 events organized in new countries.

China is in a constant move to develop GA activities.

- For Microlight, Parachuting and Ballooning, there are already achievements and famous competitions.
- For plane, the present air ops regulation prevents individuals to fly privately as we do in our skies. There are opportunities, but it could be developed only on a case by case basis.

## **3) Main problems encountered and solutions adopted:**

### **FAI issues**

Recurrent issues, about sporting power and competition structures at FAI, etc., have not found solutions. The FAI workforce has been absorbed by WAG Dubai 2015 preparation.

The FAI budget is still at the stake. An advisory group has been created and presented first recommendations.

But having a budget as a support to FAI policy and Air Sports Commission policies is not yet in line of sight. Breakdown of incomes, expenses, investment are not available in a common way. Some sources of incomes are confidential. The problem is that these confidential sources represent altogether a significant part of the total resources, so they became crucial for covering at least running costs. And everybody is aware that there is no long term guarantee for that sort of resources.

New competition agreement is still on work bench, but in long finals.

High-tech tools to ease work and communication of commission members, disseminated around the world, are expected, for storing, sharing and distributing

work documentation, for organising high quality WebEx conferences to save travel expenses and environment too, etc.

Visa-Matti, IT manager at FAI Head Office, will elaborate a little more in his presentation.

#### **4) Planned activities and projects for next years:**

1. FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015, discipline *Air Nav Race*, with 16 competing crews, next December.
2. Hans Gutmann Memorial Flight 2016, in Spring.
3. 20<sup>th</sup> FAI World Rally Flying Championship 2016, in Portugal, in September.
4. The Crete2Cape Vintage Air Rally, in Nov.-Dec. 2016.
5. 23<sup>rd</sup> FAI World Precision Flying Championship, in 2017, in Austria.

We have two World championships programmed. I hope we can secure two more events shortly.

#### **5) Follow-up of President's wishes expressed last Plenary Meeting**

1. More women in competitions: 5/72 in Skive, not enough.
2. Encouraging private pilots to beat world record: not commenced.

But, I read twice my wishes and noticed that they were expressed for next years (Plural). So, it was not mandatory to complete those 2 wishes in 2015.

I leave these two nice challenges to my successor.

#### **6) Future**

As President I am going to step down for personal reasons. I have to find a better trade-off between demanding activities, family life and flying. I have to pay more attention to my family, in particular to aging relatives and to new born great children. And flying? Since March: only two hours in VFR, zero hour in IFR. I just resumed flying before this meeting and you know what, I ... love to fly!

I was very happy to be involved in GA competitions and to contribute to GA Commission. I took part to my first World Rally Flying Championship 20 years ago, in Herning, Denmark. Ten years ago, I joined GA Commission as French delegate and spent the four latest years as President. Four years is the time of an Olympiad, the natural life cycle for sportsmen.

So I thank you all warmly to have given me the honour and the opportunity to chair your meetings.

It is the last one.

Let's go forward!