

GAC PRESIDENT REPORT

15th – 17th October 2004

ALICANTE

Dear Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

We held our annual commission meeting on the 23rd-26th of October 2003 in Luxembourg, hosted by the Luxembourg Federation, with a very good organisation and excellent hospitality. The Bureau met before the meeting.

Another Bureau meeting took place in Zurich in March 2004.

We organised for the first time this year the combined FAI World Flying Championship for Precision and Rally at the same time at Herning in Denmark.

The level of participation showed clearly that this new concept was well accepted by the competitors.

In fact the fixed costs for the organiser are not doubled by organising two competitions at the same time.

For the competitors flying both competitions, they can save expenses on travelling.

The Royal Danish Aero club made a big effort proposing to the competitors participating in both Championships a very interesting entry fee.

We had 70 competitors for precision flying with 41 of these taking part in both competitions and 50 crews (100 competitors) for the Rally.

This very encouraging result will be repeated in Slovakia in 2005 for the combined FAI European Championships.

In 2006 we shall again have combined FAI World Championships.

Entry – fees – level.

During the Bureau meeting in Zurich it was decided to think over the Rally rules.

In Herning a questionnaire was circulated among the participants and the subject was discussed during the Rally subcommittee. I feel personally we should go in the direction for adapting more friendly rules.

The GAC bureau proposes to organise a star fly-in to Lausanne in June 2005. To commemorate the FAI centenary, details will be given later on.

We hope to have at least one plane from each of our European members participating in this event.

The increased central regulations put in place by EASA and Eurocontrol are not in favour of our activities.

The cost increase in the last years for power flying on all levels represents a big handicap to our development.

Nevertheless we shall continue to fight for our activity having the support of our members and pilots.

The fact that FAI will celebrate next year the 100th anniversary of his foundation

shows that inspite of all sort of difficulties and problems during the last 100 years we are still here.

That is the proof that we overcame the bureaucratic systems some people try to impose to our sport.

The dream of ICARUS is alive with millions of people around the world.

You know I was honoured in Madrid during the 97th General Conference to become the FAI President.

That brings the consequence, I can't be a candidate as President for a new mandate of our commission.

I was elected in Toronto in the year 1999 heaving joined GAC in 1996 as Delegate for France.

It was a wonderful time to work for the GAC commission, to have a good teamwork between the Bureau, the sub-committees and the delegates.

I was quickly integrated to this commission thanks to the friendly atmosphere which prints our organisation.

Thanks to you my friends we made all this happen in an efficient teamwork as volunteers for our common passion.

A part of my heart stays with you. GAC was my start with FAI and I shall never forget.

My new function as President makes it possible to keep the contact with you.

I firmly intend to be present in Dubnica next year for our European Combined Precision and Rally Flying Championships and I hope to see you in Lausanne and Paris for the celebration of the centenary.

Thank you for your friendship, for your work as volunteers and the wonderful time we spent together.

Many thanks to my colleagues of the Bureau, delegates of all countries and to our Secretary General, Max BISHOP and his staff in Lausanne, they do a very good job and give us full support all the time.

Please bring my message to your NAC or FEDERATIONS. We, GAC of FAI represent the aeronautical culture of powerflying, and thanks to the volunteers all over the world we are still present and can fly.

Thank you for your attention.

Pierre PORTMANN

President

General Aviation Commission