

Proposals for Amendments to Statutes and By Laws

Austrian Proposal

Proposals for changes to the composition and methods of election for the FAI Executive Board and for meetings of FAI Vice Presidents have been made by the President of the Austrian Aero Club, Dr. Alois Roppert. His letter is at Appendix 1 to this Annex.

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations

Ann Welch Diploma

At the November 2005 FAI Microlight Commission (CIMA) meeting, it was agreed that a new Diploma called "The Ann Welch Diploma" should be created, to be awarded each year to the pilot or crew of a microlight who, in the opinion of CIMA, had made the most meritorious flight resulting in a Microlight World record claim ratified in the previous 12 months.

The following new By Law text has been submitted to the Statutes Working Group for consideration:

"12.11.2. THE ANN WELCH DIPLOMA

12.11.2.1. History. This Diploma was established by the FAI in 2006, on a proposal by the FAI Microlight Commission. Ann Welch, for many years FAI Vice President and Editor of the FAI Bulletin, played leading international roles in the development not only of microlight aviation, but also of gliding and hang-gliding. She was instrumental in creating the FAI Microlight Commission (CIMA) and formulating the microlight sporting code. She worked tirelessly for many years in the cause of microlight sport flying.

12.11.2.2. Eligibility. The Diploma may be awarded each year to the pilot or crew of a microlight who, in the opinion of CIMA, made the most meritorious flight which resulted in a Microlight World record claim ratified in the 12 months immediately preceding the CIMA meeting.

12.11.2.3. Frequency and Number. Only one Diploma shall be awarded annually.

12.11.2.4. Nomination and Approval. Procedures for nomination and approval shall be as described in Chapter 10, except that, notwithstanding the provisions of 10.1.2.2. above, the Diploma may be awarded to the same individual or crew more than once."

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

FAI Silver Medal

The FAI President, with full support from FAI Vice Presidents and the FAI Executive Board submits a proposal for the creation of a FAI Silver Medal.

The FAI currently has two general, high-level medals unrelated to any particular discipline: the Gold Air Medal (established in 1924) and the Bronze Medal (established in 1962). The Gold Air Medal is reserved for those who have contributed greatly to the development of aeronautics by their activities, work, achievements, initiative or devotion to the cause of Aviation. The Bronze Medal is reserved for

persons who have rendered eminent services to the FAI in administrative work, in Commissions, or in the organisation of FAI sporting events.

The FAI Gold Air Medal has been awarded to household names such as Cobham, Lindbergh, Hinckler, Balbo, Cierva, Mermoz, Batten, Sikorsky, Yeager, Whittle, Cochrane, Fossett, Piccard and Crossfield, public figures and pioneering pilots whose exploits are readily understood and admired by the general public.

The Bronze Medal is intended to be awarded to people within the FAI community who are the administrative backbone of the organisation, people who give their time and energy in the service of others without thought for reward.

Between these two categories of people, there is scope for recognition of a third category: people who have shown remarkable leadership and dedication to the international aviation community, most frequently, but not necessarily as high FAI office-holders of one sort or another.

Proposal:

Conference is invited to institute a FAI Silver Medal, the criteria for which are as in the following suggested new By Law 11.8:

11.8. THE FAI SILVER MEDAL

11.8.1. History. This Medal was established by the FAI in 2006.

11.8.2. Eligibility. The Medal is reserved for persons who have occupied high office in FAI or in an aeronautical organisation in one of its member countries, and in the discharge of their duties have shown exceptional powers of leadership and influence, to the benefit of the whole international air sport community.

11.8.3. Frequency and Number. Only one Silver Medal may be awarded annually.

11.8.4. Nomination and Approval Process. Procedures for nomination and approval shall be as laid down in Chapter 10. Proposals may cover any period of time up to 31st of December of the preceding year.

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

Two-year Terms for Commission Officials

The FAI Gliding Commission (IGC) has proposed that Commissions should be permitted to elect Presidents and other officials for two-year terms instead of one-year terms, so as to ensure better continuity and stability for project management. The IGC suggests the following By-Law amendments:

5.4.4. Annually or biennially, as decided by the Commission, each FAI Air Sport Commission and Technical Commission ~~Commission~~ shall elect a President from among its approved Delegates or the existing President by secret ballot. If an absolute majority is not obtained on the first vote, a second vote shall be taken at which a plurality shall carry the election.

5.4.8. Annually or biennially ~~the Members of~~, as decided by the Commission, each FAI Air Sport Commission and Technical Commission shall elect by secret ballot and plurality vote one or more Vice-Presidents from among its approved Delegates.

- 5.7.1. The presidency of subcommittees and working groups shall usually be held by Delegates to the Commission which created the subcommittee or working group. Presidents shall be elected by the parent body annually or biennially, as decided by the Commission, and may be re-elected.

New By Law:

- 5.4.15 A Commission may, at any Plenary meeting, decide to elect a President and Vice-Presidents for two-year terms of office. Having changed from annual to biennial elections, a Commission shall maintain a biennial election process for at least two-years from the date of the initial decision to change. This procedure shall also apply to the election of Presidents of subcommittees and working groups.

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

Discharge of the Executive Board by the General Conference

Having been so tasked by the 2005 General Conference in Paris (Minute 16.2.3.4.), the Statutes Working Group is considering the following proposal for Statute amendments aimed at clarifying the role of the General Conference with respect to releasing the Executive Board from responsibility:

Change:

- 3.4.1.3 - *approval of the FAI accounts ~~and the actions of the Executive Board,~~ and of the financial statements prepared by the Auditor;*

New Statute:

- 3.4.1.17 - *approval of the actions of the Executive Board and release of responsibility for those actions*

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

FAI Gold Space Medal

The Minutes of the 2006 ICARE meeting record as follows:

"The US delegate, Mr Collins, noting that the FAI Gold Space Medal was deemed to be of equal status and prestige as the FAI Gold Air Medal, proposed that the final decision on the award of the Gold Space Medal be made by the assembly of FAI Vice Presidents, on the basis of a recommendation made by ICARE.

He felt that the perceived value of the Medal could be undermined if the final decision was made by ICARE. Although Vice Presidents did not all have expert knowledge of astronautics, most took a general interest in space, and would in any case be very likely to follow advice given by ICARE.

The FAI Secretary General pointed out that this proposal, if adopted, would necessitate a small modification to FAI By Laws, which could be achieved in at least two ways: by transferring the By Law concerning the Gold Space Medal from Chapter 12 (awards made by Commissions) to Chapter 11 (awards subject to the approval of Vice Presidents); or by amending the existing By Law to contain a provision that Vice Presidents' approval was needed.

The US delegate stated that he was content to allow the Statutes Working Group to recommend how this change should best be implemented."

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

Procedures Concerning Deadline for FAI Awards Nominations

By Law 10.1.3.3. reads as follows:

"Nominations for all FAI awards shall be sent to the FAI Secretariat together with citations not exceeding 100 words, and other supporting information required in these By-Laws, to arrive no later than two months before the FAI Commission meeting concerned (by 15 November each year for CIAM Medals and Diplomas) or **four months before the General Conference** in the case of the General Awards shown in Chapter 11."

In the case of the General Awards (which relate to achievements in the previous calendar year), this 4-month deadline has proven to be inadequate. The FAI Secretariat needs to obtain Vice Presidents' approval, have the medals struck and engraved, and advise NACs so that the award winners can make plans in good time to travel to the Conference to receive the award.

It is therefore proposed to delete "~~...four months before the General Conference...~~" and to substitute "...by 31 May each year...".

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

Corporate Patrons

The Corporate Patrons scheme has so far produced no Patrons, despite all efforts made by Commission Presidents, Board Members and staff. The Executive Board has reached the following conclusions:

- The requirement for an annual subscription (eliminating the possibility of a one-off payment) is unnecessarily restrictive.
- FAI needs to have the option of offering Corporate Patron status to a company that helps FAI in some way (eg in kind), even if they do not take the initiative to apply for such a status.
- It is unnecessarily restrictive if the privileges of being a Patron are described extensively in By Laws. These should instead be listed in a separate document, to be approved by Conference and displayed on the FAI web-site. Subsequent changes to this document should be decided by the Executive Board in the light of experience, under authority delegated by Conference.
- The Board should have the flexibility to decide on a case-by-case basis which category to allocate a Patron to, and for how long, depending on what financial support he is prepared to offer.
- A third ("Silver") category is probably necessary at a lower cost than the present Gold and Platinum Patrons.
- The Board should have the power to accept a Corporate Patron with finality. Having to wait for the next General Conference for approval could mean that a promising Patron is lost.

In the light of these conclusions, the following amendments are proposed to Chapter 16 of By Laws:

CORPORATE PATRONS OF FAI

16.1. GENERAL

- 16.1.1. FAI may give recognition to companies and other institutions, such as research institutes, ~~active in the fields of aeronautics and/or astronautics~~ that wish to support FAI and the federation's aims and objectives, as detailed in Statute 1.2., by appointing them as "Silver", "Gold" or "Platinum" Corporate Patrons of FAI.
- 16.1.2. The procedures for application, and the privileges and benefits offered to Corporate Patrons of FAI are set forth below.

16.2. APPLICATION

- 16.2.1. To obtain the status of Corporate Patron of FAI, the applicant company or institution shall forward to the FAI Secretariat a letter of application appropriately signed by one or more duly authorised signatories. This application shall be accompanied by :
- 16.2.1.1. the company's latest annual report,
- 16.2.1.2. the names and contact details of the primary Contact Person(s) to whom all correspondence will be addressed,
- 16.2.1.3. the address of its headquarters,
- 16.2.1.4. a reply to the FAI Corporate Patron questionnaire,
- 16.2.1.5. the payment for the ~~first year's~~ support fees for the category in which the application is made. If the application is not accepted, the payment shall be returned in full. If the application is referred to a different category than the one requested, and the applicant agrees to this, the balance of dues shall be paid by the applicant or refunded by the FAI as the case may be.
- 16.2.2. Acceptance of these applications shall be decided by the FAI Executive Board.
- 16.2.3. FAI may also initiate the designation of a company as a Corporate Patron for a defined period of time, in recognition of services rendered.

16.3. PRIVILEGES

- 16.3.1. Each Corporate Patron of FAI shall enjoy ~~the following~~ Platinum, Gold, or Silver **privileges** as defined by the General Conference and published on the FAI website, for a period of time proportional to the support fees paid. The General Conference shall normally delegate to the Executive Board the power to modify these privileges in the light of developing circumstances.
- ~~16.3.1.1. to have FAI approved world records which were sponsored and/or organised by the Patron, and/or flown using equipment manufactured or developed by the Patron ratified also in the name of the Patron, three per year free of charge;~~
- ~~16.3.1.2. to be able to use the FAI logo and name at discount rates;~~
- ~~16.3.1.3. to send a delegation of up to three individuals to attend General Conferences of FAI as observers;~~
- ~~16.3.1.4. to be invited to the annual FAI Awards Ceremony at which special corporate recognition will be given to Patrons;~~
- ~~16.3.1.5. to benefit from VIP reception facilities at designated FAI Championships;~~

- ~~16.3.1.6. to have opportunities for exclusive sponsorship of FAI Events;~~
~~16.3.1.7. to be duly credited and presented on the FAI web site;~~
~~16.3.1.8. to receive a regular newsletter about FAI World Record Activities.~~

~~16.3.2. Corporate Patrons which support FAI at the 'Platinum' support fee level will enjoy the following additional benefits :~~

~~16.3.2.1. to have a set of web pages on the FAI web site, co-branded with FAI, presenting the history of world records ratified, and of championship achievements set by aircraft manufactured or developed by the Corporate Patron, or of any other projects carried out in support of the aims and objectives of FAI;~~

~~16.3.2.2. to have the opportunity to organise company/product presentations, and set up booths at FAI General Conferences and other FAI designated events;~~

~~16.3.2.3. to have the opportunity to submit feedback and suggestions to FAI and the relevant FAI Commissions on rules governing World Records. These feedback and suggestions will be channelled through a Patron representative nominated for that purpose to an FAI 'World Records Advisory Forum'.~~

16.4. SUPPORT FEES

16.4.1. The support fees payable by each category of Corporate Patrons of FAI shall be established by the General Conference ~~and paid by March 31 of each year~~

16.4.2. Only Corporate Patrons of FAI that have satisfied all their financial obligations to the FAI will be able to enjoy the privileges listed in 16.3.

16.5. RESIGNATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

16.5.1. Submittal by Corporate Patron

16.5.1.1. Resignation may be submitted to the FAI Secretariat not later than the last day of December of any year by registered letter signed by the authorised signing officials of the resigning Corporate Patron. For those paying annually, the support fees for the current year, if not paid yet, shall be due. If resignations are received after the first day of January, support fees for the following year shall be payable.

16.5.2. Cancellation by FAI

16.5.2.1. General Conference may cancel the appointment of a Corporate Patron if the Patron has failed to satisfy its financial obligations to the FAI, or has opposed the ideals, concepts or Statutes of FAI."

The Executive Board's proposals for support fees and privileges will be distributed separately in due course.

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

Duties of FAI Air Sport Commissions

In Statute 5.6.2.2, which lays down requirements for the content of specialised sections of FAI Sporting Codes, the word "security" is used where the writers of the Statute probably intended "safety". The word "security" in English in the context of sporting events means control of entry, crowd restraint, checking of identity etc, not ensuring safe operations of aircraft. It is therefore proposed to substitute "safety" for "security" as follows:

5.6.2.2 - *establish and keep current their respective sections of the Sporting Code which shall include rules and criteria for FAI air activities and records, FAI badges, safety at world sporting events, and technical standards ;*

The Statutes Working Group will make recommendations.

END



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Vienna, March, 2006/GG

Federation Aeronautique Internationale
Secretary General Max BISHOP
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Dear Mr. Secretary General,

You will remember what I said at the FAI General Conference in Paris last year about the problems arising from members' lack of identification with FAI, and the inadequate flow of information between the FAI leadership and the members. I pointed out that until 6 years ago FAI had regular Council meetings. At that time, only 6 months elapsed between initial and final discussions on a given topic. The Executive Board certainly works hard, but the members now feel much less involved. I discussed this further with the FAI President and yourself during your recent visit to Vienna.

For want of the annual Council Meetings of former times and with the new Board Directors' management structure, it has for some years been our observation and experience that weaknesses in the FAI System and its overall image have become obvious. No doubt the influence of the NAC Presidents/Vice Presidents, and with it their ability to identify with the FAI, have been weakened since the days when they used to serve as delegates and members of the Council.

The President's leadership role that is necessary in an organisation as big as the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale has been broken down by the Board System. Putting control and guidance measures into effect has become very difficult, despite the fact that overall responsibility for the work of the FAI has remained with the President. Taking all these things into account, the ÖAeC recommends more robust leadership from the Head of the FAI and requests that the following recommendations should be passed on to the Statutes Commission, and then that the outcome of their consultation should be referred to the delegates of the General Conference of 2006.

- 1) That the number of Board Directors should be reduced to a maximum of 4 (four), as originally proposed by the Structural Working Group to the Linköping Conference in 2000.
- 2) That each of the Executive Director positions should carry specific responsibilities, and that separate elections be held for each of the posts. Three candidates for each post should be presented to the Conference by the incoming President, and the Conference should be asked to choose one of the 3 candidates in each case.
- 3) That Meetings of FAI Vice Presidents should be re-established, on a biennial basis, in addition to the annual General Conferences. It would be desirable for these meetings to be held in member states that did not have by a Board Director.

Apart from the Statutes Regulations we would press for FAI President and the FAI Secretary General to continue with their information tours to member states, that were launched in Austria.

With friendly flyer's greetings and

Good luck in take-off – happy landings

Alois Roppert, President