

FAI PRESIDENT'S REPORT
SANTIAGO DE CHILE / 26-27 OCTOBER 2006

Dear Presidents of Honour,
Dear Companions of Honour,
Dear Vice Presidents, Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A warm welcome to all of you for the 100th General Conference in Chile.

One year ago in Paris, we celebrated our centenary. It was my first General Conference as your President.

I told you that in the first year of my Presidency, a certain time was dedicated to studying, listening, observing and analyzing.

In the second year, I wanted to make proposals to this conference for statute changes, to improve our capacity to react and our efficiency.

This has been possible for a few subjects, but much still remains to be done to streamline our organization.

During the last two years, some important projects have been started or continued, and a few concluded or are still under discussion.

We have to distinguish between 3 types :

- 1- Projects linked to our internal organization or reorganization,
- 2- Projects in connection with the development of FAI, which need General Conference approval,
- 3- Business projects, aimed at creating value and media exposure.

In the first category, I just want to mention the central data base project which will be operational in 2007.

The 2nd category includes particularly statute changes and decisions to be taken by the General Conference in conformity with our statutes.

In the 3rd category are :

- World Air Games 2009,
- The Internet-based decentralized contest project , for which a contract was signed with Naviter from Slovenia,
- The Peter Newport/Air Sports Ltd project for the media coverage of gliding and other Air Sports,
- Red Bull cooperation

I hope you agree with me that the successful implementation of these projects is of great importance for our FAI.

As you will hear from the Secretary General, the FAI Central office is overloaded. There are more and more time-consuming daily problems to solve which already take a major part of the labour hours available.

The projects I mentioned before are bringing even more work to Lausanne than in the past. An increase of staff members cannot be avoided if we want to be successful.

Since the Board was created in 2000, we managed to avoid any general increase in subscription, but this period has come to an end if we do not find some complementary income from other sources, a subscription increase will be necessary.

I feel there is a good chance to find other incomes today, but this needs confirmation in the coming months.

We pushed forward a closer cooperation and understanding with ASC Presidents and Commissions, installing two annual meetings.

I had the opportunity to visit the following members last year : Austria, Greece, Kazakhstan, Korea, Philippines, Russia and Turkey.

I also had top level discussion with NAC's of China, France, Switzerland and USA.

I made an effort to bring FAI closer to our membership, to have personal contacts with the President and the management of our member organizations and to confirm to their members, FAI wants to help them to fly, to break records, to win competitions and last but not least "to enjoy their Air Sport".

I am happy to respond to invitations from any member, where possible.

As NAC of Austria President Roppert said last year, the new FAI organisation, by abolishing the annual Vice-Presidents meeting, may have brought lack of cohesion between our members and the FAI.

We are still thinking about how to improve this, without generating financial problems for all sides.

These reflections show that the nomination of Vice-Presidents, and of Delegates to commissions by our members are very important, as well as the selection of board members.

Our Secretary General will point out, later on, the role of a Vice-President, and his duty.

The survey we made in the board asking questions of our members was very useful. MB will give a synopsis later on.

It showed and confirmed certain elements :

- very different situations among our members,
- certain members still get substantial financial help from their governments,
- there is a confirmation of the general desire to keep the "one member, one country" principle.

The meetings with the Air Sport Commission Presidents showed that they often feel they do not have the necessary support from certain NACs for the correct structuring and organizing of the different Air Sports in their country. I urge all NACs to consult with all their national associations to improve this situation.

I do not want to repeat certain points I made already last year but most of them are still valid and have to be solved.

The "one member, one country" principle is basically a good one, but to be efficient and helpful to the Air-Sport persons in our different disciplines, it needs an efficient internal organization, involving close cooperation and understanding with the organizations that look after the different individual Air Sports.

Due to the diversity of our members, it is not possible to provide a unique concept for everybody.

Each member has to find and propose a fair, viable and efficient solution, tailored to his needs and taking in account all air sports practised in their country.

We must never forget that we are elected to help the sport and the air sport persons to fly, to enjoy their sport and to compete.

That is the supreme reason why FAI is the World Air Sports Federation and has to do everything possible to remain in this position for many more years.

I would like to continue my work as your President, if this is your wish, for another mandate, hoping to bring to a successful conclusion with your help and the new board the important projects I mentioned before and help to prepare FAI for the next century.

I come to the end of my speech and shall conclude as my predecessors did before, by expressing my thanks to our Secretary General and his staff.

But I want to tell you, this is not just a matter of form.

Mr. Bishop has since 1993 done extraordinary work for our Federation Aéronautique Internationale ; he is fully dedicated to FAI, sacrificing time, week-ends and sometimes, family life for FAI.

He was for me, when I was Finance Director and now as President, an extraordinary support.

He is respected and appreciated by everyone. During my visits I always hear the same story, only compliments for his work, efficiency and kindness.

But I want also to express publicly my thanks to our staff in Lausanne. We have the good luck to have an excellent team, dedicated to FAI. Each of them does an excellent job in his or her domain.

Two of them are here today : Cosette Mast and JM Badan, and I ask them to transmit to their colleagues our recognition for the work done.

And now ladies and gentlemen, Dear Friends, I wish us all a good, efficient and nice conference in this wonderful country.

Thank you for your attention.

20-10-2006