



*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

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# **110<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference**

## **Minutes of Working Sessions**

**Held in Bali (Indonesia)  
14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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# FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

Founded in 1905 - Honorary Patron: Dr. Bertrand Piccard

## OFFICERS OF THE FAI 2016 / 2017

### Presidents of Honour

A. O. Dumas (Canada)  
Dr. C. Kepak (Czech Republic)  
G.A. Lloyd (Australia)  
C.F. von Kann (USA)

O.A. Rautio (Finland)  
Dr. H.P. Hirzel (Switzerland)  
E.J. Ness (Norway)  
W. Weinreich (Germany)

P. Portmann (France)  
J. Grubbström (Sweden)

### President

Frits Brink

### Executive Directors

Alvaro DE ORLEANS-BORBÓN  
Agust GUDMUNDSSON

Robert HENDERSON  
Bengt LINDGREN

Mary Anne STEVENS  
Jean-Claude WEBER

### Vice-Presidents

Australia – Mike CLOSE  
Austria - Michael FEINIG  
Belgium – Jo VAN DE WOESTYNE  
Canada - Mary Anne STEVENS  
Chinese Taipei - Dr. Elsa L.C. MAI  
Czech Rep. – Vladimir MACHULA  
Denmark – Hjalmar NIELSEN  
Egypt – Samir A. RAOUF Labib  
Finland – Petteri TARMA  
France - Bruno DELOR  
Greece – Christos MALAMAS  
Hong Kong, China - Andy CHAU  
Hungary – Laszlo MESZAROS  
India – Atul DEV  
Ireland – Tom MCCORMACK  
Italy - Giuseppe LEONI  
Japan - Hiroyasu HAGIO  
Korea – Youngduck LEE

Luxemburg - Claude ESCHETTE  
Mexico-Ing. José Peña  
BUENROSTRO  
Morocco – Si Mohamed HACHAMI  
Netherlands – Ronald SCHNITKER  
New Zealand - Elizabeth KING  
Norway – Rolf LILAND  
Russia - Vladimir IVANOV  
Spain - Pedro Cabañero MARIMÓN  
Sweden - Bengt LINDGREN  
Switzerland-Yves Joel  
BURKHARDT  
Thailand - Veerayuth DIDYASARIN  
Turkey – Kürsat ATILGAN  
United Kingdom – Rob HUGHES  
USA – Greg PRINCIPATO

### *Ex Officio*

Aerobatics – Nick BUCKENHAM  
Aeromodelling - Antonis  
PAPADOPOULOS  
Amateur-built & Experimental Aircraft -  
Alfons HUBMANN  
Astronautic Records – Anu OHJA  
Ballooning – Mark SULLIVAN  
General Aviation – Rodney BLOIS  
Gliding - Eric MOZER  
Hang Gliding & Paragliding –  
Stephane MALBOS  
Microlight & Paramotor – Wolfgang  
LINTL  
Parachuting – Rainer HOENLE  
Rotorcraft – Jacques BERLO

### Presidents of FAI Air Sport Commissions

A. PAPADOPOULOS (GRE) / CASI - Air Sport General  
Commission  
M. SULLIVAN (USA) / CIA - Ballooning  
A. HUBMANN (SUI) / CIACA - Amateur Built & Experimental  
Aircraft  
A. PAPADOPOULOS (GRE) / CIAM - Aeromodelling  
J. BERLO (BEL) / CIG - Rotorcraft

W. LINTL (GER) / CIMA – Microlight & Paramotor  
N. BUCKENHAM (GBR) / CIVA - Aerobatics  
S. MALBOS (FRA) / CIVL - Hang Gliding & Paragliding  
R. BLOIS (GBR) / GAC - General Aviation  
A. OHJA (GBR) / ICARE – Astro. Records  
E. MOZER (USA) / IGC - Gliding  
R. HOENLE (GER) / IPC - Parachuting

### Presidents of FAI Technical Commissions

P. DUVAL (FRA) / EnvC - Environment  
Dr. R. GARRISON (USA) / CIMP - Medico-Physiological

### HEADQUARTERS *(situation as of January 1st, 2017)*

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**Secretary General:** Susanne SCHÖDEL

**Communication Manager:** Faustine CARRERA  
**Sports & Marketing Director:** Markus HAGGENEY  
**Assistant Sports Manager:** Annick HAUSER  
**IT Manager:** Visa-Matti LEINIKKI  
**Office & Accounting Manager :** Cosette MAST

**Members & Services / Anti-Doping Manager:** Ségolène  
ROUILLON  
**Competitions Manager:** Christine ROUSSON  
**Team Assistant :** Milena SCHÖTZER

# FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

## 110<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

### MINUTES

OF THE WORKING SESSIONS  
HELD ON FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> AND SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016  
at Westin Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia

IN THE CHAIR..... Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM, FAI President

**FAI ACTIVE MEMBERS  
WITH VOTING RIGHTS**

**HEADS OF DELEGATIONS**

AUSTRALIA .....	Mr. Mike CLOSE
AUSTRIA.....	Mr. Michael FEINIG
BELGIUM .....	Mr. Jo Van de WOESTYNE
BRAZIL.....	Mrs Marina POSCH KALOUSDIAN
CANADA .....	Mrs. Mary-Anne STEVENS
CHINA .....	Mr. YANG Zhuoyue
CHINESE TAIPEI .....	Ms. Elsa L.C. MAI
CYPRUS.....	Mr. Demetrakis HADJIDEMETRIOU
CZECH REPUBLIC .....	Mr. Vladimir MACHULA
DPR KOREA .....	Mr. Hyo Nam KANG
DENMARK .....	Mr. Per Hjalmar NIELSEN
EGYPT.....	Mr. Mohamed Samir RAOUF
FINLAND.....	Mr. Timo LATIKKA
FRANCE.....	Mr. Bruno DELOR
GERMANY .....	Mr. Udo BERAN
HONK KONG, CHINA .....	Mr. Andy CHAU
HUNGARY.....	Mr. Erzsebet VIZAKNAI
INDONESIA.....	Mr. Chepy NAUSATION
INDIA.....	Mr. Sanjay THAPAR

ITALY .....	Mr. Antonio DENTINI
JAPAN.....	Mr. Hiroyasu HAGGIO
KOREA.....	Mr. LEE Youngduck
LUXEMBURG.....	Mr. Carlo LECUIT
MOROCCO.....	Mr. Si Mohamed HACHAMI
NETHERLANDS.....	Mr. Ronald SCHNITKER
NORWAY .....	Mr. John Eirik LAUPSA
POLAND.....	Mr. Marcin Prusaczyk
PORTUGAL.....	Mr. Carlos TRIGO
RUSSIA .....	Mrs Khalide MAKAGONOVA
SAUDI ARABIA.....	Mr. Abdullah AL-JAWINI
SOUTH AFRICA.....	Mr. John Louis GAILLARD
SPAIN.....	Mr. Pedro CABANERO
SWEDEN .....	Mr. Bengt LINDGREN
SWITZERLAND.....	Mr. Alicia HIRZEL
THAILAND.....	Gp Capt Veerayuth DIDYASARIN
TURKEY.....	Mr. Kürşat ATILGAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.....	Mr. Yousif AL HAMMADI
UNITED KINGDOM.....	Mr. Patrick NAEGELI
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....	Mr. Arthur William GREENFIELD

**FAI ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

BAHRAIN .....	<b>Mr. Mohammed Alsabt</b>
EGYPT.....	Gen. Abd El Moein HASSAN

**FAI INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

ASIANIA.....	Mr. Mubarak ALSUWAILEM
ARAB AIRSPORTS FEDERATION.....	<b>Mr. Ismail DARWISH</b>
AFRICAN AIRSPORTS FEDERATION.....	<b>Mr. Mohamed ELSHAMAA</b>
OSTIV.....	Mr. Götz BRAMESFELD

**FAI TEMPORARY MEMBERS**

LAO.....	Mr. Ravansith THAMMARANGSY
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**PROXIES**

- Greece to Cyprus
- Iceland to Norway
- Israel to Italy
- Jordan to United Arab Emirates
- New Zealand to Australia
- Philippines to Thailand
- Serbia to France
- Slovakia to Czech Republic

## **Venezuela to Spain**

### **FAI EXECUTIVE BOARD**

FAI President.....	Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM
FAI Executive Director (Finance).....	Mr. Frits BRINK
FAI Executive Director .....	Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBÓN
FAI Executive Director .....	Mr. Agust GUDMUNDSSON
FAI Executive Director .....	Mr. Robert HENDERSON
FAI Executive Director .....	Mrs. Gillian RAYNER
FAI Secretary General .....	Ms Susanne SCHÖDEL

### **FAI AIR SPORT COMMISSIONS**

Mrs Alicia HIRZEL.....	Representing President, FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI)
Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER .....	Representing President, FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)
Mr. Alfons HUBMANN .....	President, FAI Amateur Built and Experimental Aircraft Commission (CIACA)
Mr. Antonis PAPADOPOULOS .....	President, FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM)
Dr. Jacques BERLO.....	President, FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG)
Mr. Wolfgang LINTL .....	President, FAI Microlight and Paramotor Commission (CIMA)
Mr. Nick BUCKENHAM .....	President, FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA)
Mr. Stephane MALBOS.....	President, FAI Hang Gliding & Paragliding Commission (CIVL)
Mr. Rodney BLOIS .....	President, FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)
Mr. Eric MOZER.....	President, FAI Gliding Commission (IGC)
Mr. Rainer HOENLE.....	President, FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)

### **FAI TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

Dr. Richard GARRISON.....	President, FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (CIMP)
Mr. Pierre DUVAL .....	President, FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)

### **FAI REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Mr. Tengku ABDILLAH.....	Regional Vice-President, East and South Asia
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### **FAI COMPANIONS OF HONOUR**

Mr. Hideo HIRASAWA (JAP)
Mr. Michiel KASTELEIJN (NED)
Mr. Tor JOHANNESSEN (NOR)
Mr. Bernald SMITH (USA)
Mr. Tormod VEIBY (NOR)

**FAI HEAD OFFICE**

Mr. Markus HAGGENEY ..... FAI Sports & Events Director  
Ms. Annick HAUSER..... FAI Assistant Sports Manager  
Mr. Visa-Matti LEINIKKI ..... FAI IT Manager  
Mrs. Segolene ROUILLON..... FAI Members and Services Manager

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM :**

Kepak CENEK  
NAC New Zealand

**SCRUTINEERS**

The Conference unanimously agreed the appointment of the following scrutineers:

Mr Michiel KASTELEIJN  
Mr Rob HUGHES  
Ms Marina VIGORITO

**1. Opening**

The FAI President, Dr John GRUBBSTRÖM, wished a warm welcome to the FAI members, and thanked the Indonesian NAC for their preparations.

**2. In Memoriam**

The FAI General Conference stood in silent remembrance of all the air sport persons and friends who had died since the 109th General Conference:

- Bhumibol Adulyadej
- Hannes Arch
- Jacques Godbille
- Rudi Hodzic
- Domagoj Juretic
- Lillian Leblanc
- Mike Mangold
- Nicholas Neve
- Manfred Reinhardt
- Gerard Rutten
- Ross Scherer
- Peter Sturz
- Yury Tarasov
- Arend Van Randen
- Fred Weinholz
- Piotr Zawada

### **3. Roll-Call of Delegations**

Mr Visa-Matti LEINIKKI (FAI IT Manager) conducted a roll-call of those present.

The Secretary General, Ms Susanne SCHÖDEL, confirmed that there were 339 votes present in the room, from 37 members, 9 proxies, 11 Air Sport Commissions and OSTIV. The majority was 170 votes, and a 2/3 majority required 226 votes.

In response to a question from Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS, Mr LEINIKKI confirmed that the total number of active FAI members was 87.

The Secretary General noted that these figures were subject to approval of the membership report.

The President offered those delegates who were attending the General Conference for the first time the opportunity to introduce themselves.

#### **3.1. Apologies for absence**

Those apologising for absence were as recorded above.

#### **3.2. Verification of representatives' authority**

A delegate noted that the votes of the affiliated organisations had not been mentioned.

The Secretary General explained that they did not have a vote. One vote was granted to OSTIV, which was primarily a research organisation, and had been affiliated with the FAI for many years. As a matter of principle, the rights of affiliated organisations were decided at the time of the affiliation. In the case of the African and Arab air sports federations, they had not been granted the right to vote by the General Conference.

Mr Sanjay THAPAR (India) would like to make a proposal that all affiliated organisations should be treated equally: either they all had a vote or none of them did.

The Secretary General noted that items for discussion by the General Conference should be notified three months ahead of the General Conference, which was not the case here. The issue of regional organisations would nevertheless be discussed later under item 22: Regional Developments.

#### **3.3. Announcement of proxies**

Proxies were as recorded above.

Mr LEINIKKI confirmed that the nine proxies represented a total of 17 votes.

#### **3.4. Adoption of Modifications to Agenda**

The President said he had agreed to a request by the Statutes Working Group to move item 32 to before Session 2, because there was a proposed statute change that affected the first item of Session 2.

#### **3.5. Appointment of scrutineers**

The scrutineers were unanimously appointed as recorded above.

#### **3.6. Reminder of voting procedures**

Mr LEINIKKI noted that the procedure would be familiar to most of those present, with the slight twist of a hybrid system, where the Air Sports Commission presidents would vote on paper. This was due to the fact that, because of the large number of last-minute entries (19 after the official registration time) there were not enough voting kits. This would slow down the process slightly, but would still be much faster than a 100% paper vote.

Three types of vote would be used. Absolute majority votes would have three options: YES, ABSTAIN and NO. During the vote, these options would be displayed on the voters' LCD displays.

In the event that anyone did not vote, or chose to abstain, their vote would not contribute to the absolute majority, which meant in practice that they would have voted against the proposal. A simple majority vote would have two options: YES and NO. The result of this vote was decided on the votes cast, which meant that it did not require 50% or more of the votes in the room. The third option was multiple choice, where members were presented with a number of choices, and could vote on more than one of them. After every vote, the text "RECEIVED" would be displayed on the handset to show that the vote had been registered.

Mr LEINIKKI gave several examples, and invited the delegates to practise.

### **3.7. Call for items for Open Forum**

The President explained that the Open Forum gave members the opportunity to bring up topics for discussion.

Mr Sanjay THAPAR suggested that the issue of support for those countries where general aviation and air sports had not achieved the desired level be discussed.

## **4. Voting system**

### **4.1. Presentation of the electronic voting system**

## **5. Minutes of the 109th FAI General Conference 2015**

The President invited the General Conference to approve the minutes of the 109th General Conference 2015.

Mr. GREENFIELD had some corrections to changes made to the Statutes the previous year regarding commission responsibilities, specifically between CIACA and the GAC, which had been published incorrectly in Annex 33b. He had brought this to the attention of the FAI administration and the Statutes Working Group.

The President thanked him for his comments and said they would review the corrections and come back to this point later in the meeting.

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The President noted that there had been a misunderstanding and subsequent miswording in Annex 33 of the minutes of the 2015 General Conference. If the GC accepted the minutes with the proposed correction (**ANNEX 1**), it would affect the wording of the Statutes, and this would have to be dealt with by the new Executive Board. The USA delegate had pointed out that some of the modifications to the Statutes referenced in the minutes were taken from the original proposals and not the modified proposals as passed by the Conference. The original proposals were shown on the screen, along with the modified proposals.

The members were invited to approve the minutes of the 109th FAI General Conference 2015 with this change to Annex 33.

**The FAI General Conference approved the Minutes of the 109th FAI General Conference held in Rotterdam (Netherlands) in 2015 with the proposed changes to Annex 33 by 321 votes for, 10 against and 8 abstentions.**



## 6. Report of the FAI President

The President introduced the Executive Board, and greeted the director of the Asian Games from the Olympic Council of Asia, Mr Haider FARMAN. Various meetings were taking place during the conference to stabilise relations with the OCA and ensure that air sports would be part of the coming games.

The President presented his report, which would be his final report to the General Conference as President (**ANNEX 2**).

## 7. Situation of FAI Membership

### 7.1. Suspensions, resignations and expulsions

The Secretary General reported the situation of FAI membership at 30 September 2016.

#### a. Resignations

There was no resignation in 2016.

#### b. Suspensions

At 30 September 2016, the following FAI Members had not paid their subscription fee for 2016.

### **ACTIVE MEMBERS**

#### **Non-payment of full membership fee**

- **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - Vazduhoplovni Savez Bosne I Hercegovine** - Active Member Class 10
- **CUBA - Aviation Club of Cuba** - Active Member Class 10
- **FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA - Vozduhoplovna Federacija Na Makedonija** - Active Member Class 10
- **IRELAND - National Aero Club of Ireland** - Active Member Class 9
- **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN - Kanoone Havanavardiye Iran** - Active Member Class 10
- **LEBANON - Aero Club Du Liban** - Active Member Class 10
- **MEXICO - Federacion Mexicana De Aeronautica, A.C.** - Active Member Class 9
- **MONGOLIA - Mongolian Air Sports Federation** - Active Member Class 10
- **MONTENEGRO - Vazduhoplovni Savez Crne Gore** - Active Member Class 10
- **NEPAL - Nepal Airsports Association** - Active Member Class 10
- **SINGAPORE - Air Sports Federation of Singapore** - Active Member Class 10

The following country paid its membership but after the deadline of 30 September 2016 and was therefore not allowed to vote at GC:

- **GUATEMALA - Asociacion Guatemalteca De Deportes Aereos** - Active Member Class 10

### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

#### **Non-payment of full membership fee**

- **BRAZIL - Confederação Brasileira De Aeromodelismo**
- **OMAN - Oman National Free Fall Team**

## **TEMPORARY MEMBERS**

### **Non-payment of full membership fee**

- **PARAGUAY - Asociacion Paraguaya Paracaidismo Deportivo**

The FAI Conference was invited to take note that, if subscriptions were not paid by 31 December 2016, these FAI Members would be suspended.

### **c. Expulsions**

At 30 September 2016, the following FAI Members, suspended beginning 2016 for non-payment of subscriptions in 2015, had also not paid their 2016 subscriptions fee.

- **AZERBAIJAN- Azarbaycan Hava Va Ekstremal Idman Növlaci Federasiyasi** - Active Member Class 10
- **EL SALVADOR - Federacion Salvadoreña De Paracaidismo Y Aerodeportes** – Temporary Member
- **MALAYSIA - Persekutuan Sukan Udara Malaysia** - Active Member Class 10

The FAI Conference agreed that, if outstanding debts were not paid by 31 December 2016, the memberships of the above mentioned NACs would be terminated at the end of 2016.

## **7.2. Consideration of applications for admission of new FAI members**

The FAI family continued to grow. During the course of the year applications had been received from the following federations:

- Iraqi Aero Federation (IRQ) – Active Member, Class 10
- Armenian Federation of Aeromodelling (ARM) – Associate Member
- Parachute Association of Botswana (BOT) – Associate Member
- Asociación Uruguaya de Vuela a Vela (URU) – Associate Member
- Trinidad & Tobago Paragliding Association (TRI) – Associate Member
- Kuwait Air Sports Committee (KUW) – Associate Member (subject to NAC approval and payment of fee)

The Executive Board recommended that the General Conference approve these applications with immediate effect.

## **7.3. Re-approval of existing temporary members**

The General Conference was invited to renew the Temporary Membership of the following federations (provided membership dues were paid before 31 December 2016):

- El Salvador (1998)
- Laos (2013)
- Paraguay (2003)
- Vietnam (2012)

## **7.4. Class change requests**

The FAI members listed below had requested the following class changes for 2017.

**Italy** – change from Class 1 to Class 2

**Brazil** – change from Class 5 to Class 9

**Turkey** – change from Class 4 to Class 7

All of these changes taken together had the effect of reducing the FAI's income for the year by around CHF 60,000. This had been incorporated into the budget.

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The FAI Executive Board recommended that the General Conference approve this report as presented.

A delegate asked if it was possible to know the number of air sports persons affected by the suspensions and expulsions, and if they knew, could they do anything about it?

The Secretary General replied that she did not have the numbers, but she could find out.

The President noted that those countries that had requested a reduction in their class reported substantially decreased participation. He wished to remind the members that the class of a NAC was based on the figures the NAC submitted to the FAI, and this was based on trust. The number of air sports persons in a country was the number associated with air sports in a general sense, not the number of sporting licences. In cases where the figures submitted were questionable, the FAI would look into the matter more closely.

Mr Sanjay THAPAR asked about the voting rights of the associate members that were being admitted.

The Secretary General replied that associate members had the right to vote within the commission meetings, and the right to participate in the General Conference.

The President suggested that all items under 7 be ratified as a whole.

**The General Conference unanimously approved the Membership Report** by show of hands.

The Secretary General welcomed the new members to the FAI.

A delegate wished to express his disapproval of the voting procedure. He proposed that all the following votes be conducted by secret ballot. The proposal was not seconded.

A delegate noted that it was clear from the Statutes that votes could be conducted in the way that had just occurred. The vote had been concluded and it was not necessary to repeat it.

## **8. Election of FAI Vice-Presidents for 2016/2017**

The Secretary General reported that some late names had been received as candidates for Vice-Presidency. She proposed that the names be added to the list.

The candidates were:

- Mary Anne STEVENS (Canada)
- Andy CHAU (Hong Kong, China)
- Youngduck LEE (Korea)
- Bengt LINDGREN (Sweden)
- Si Mohamed HACHAMI (Morocco)
- Sanjay THAPAR (India) – subject to NAC approval

She asked if there were any requests to hold a secret ballot.

There being none, the President proposed that they elect the FAI Vice-Presidents as presented.

**The General Conference unanimously approved the list of persons nominated to serve as FAI Vice-Presidents for 2016-2017 (ANNEX 3).**

## 9. Presentation & Election of Active Members on Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

The principal representatives of each country were invited to make a short presentation. There were five vacant positions and eight candidate countries.

The candidates were: Mike CLOSE (Australia), Stephen SZIKORA (Canada), Andrea TOMASI (Italy), Erzsébet VIZAKNAI (Hungary), Sergey ANANOV (Russia), Juan Ramon Alvarez CARAMAZANA (Spain), Bengt LINDGREN (Sweden) and Art GREENFIELD (USA).

Given that Mr Lindgren was also standing for election to the Executive Board, the President supposed his alternate, Anders AKVIST, would replace him on the CASI if necessary. He invited Mr AKVIST to introduce himself briefly.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that the Air Sports Commissions would be voting on paper, and the remaining members with their electronic kits. He explained the voting procedure. In answer to a question from the floor, he confirmed that, according to Article 5.2.3.2.8 of the FAI Statutes, only ballots containing the exact number of candidate names corresponding to the number of declared vacancies would be considered valid. However, this applied only to the pre-printed paper ballots. Those using voting machines could vote for fewer than five if they wished.

A delegate asked why they were voting for five candidates, given that they had just approved the principle of six countries for 2017. Administratively, 2017 began now and ended with the next General Conference.

The President explained that the statute change they had just approved had not yet come into effect. It would come into effect in January and would therefore apply to the 2017 vote.

Mr LEINIKKI explained that this was a simple majority vote, which meant that, in order to be elected, candidates needed more than 50% of votes cast. If not enough candidates received a simple majority on the first round, a second round of voting would take place between those candidates that had not reached a majority.

While waiting for the results of the vote, the President showed a short highlight video, noting that the purpose of such professionally produced films was to increase worldwide awareness of air sports. Any members who wished to use the films should contact the FAI Communication Manager. Longer 26-minute films were also available.

**Australia, Italy, Russia and USA** were elected on the first round.

Mr LEINIKKI reported that there was no majority after the second round of voting. They would therefore proceed to a third round of voting, with the three candidates that had secured the most votes on the second round: Hungary, Spain and Sweden.

On the third round of voting, no candidate had received a simple majority. They would therefore proceed to a fourth round of voting, with the two candidates that had secured the most votes on the second round: Hungary and Sweden.

**Hungary** was elected after the fourth round.

The President thanked Canada, Spain and Sweden for making themselves available.

The acting President of CASI, Alicia HIRZEL, invited all the CASI members to join her immediately after the end of the General Conference to vote for the new Bureau. The new members would also be included in the CASI working groups.

## 10. Report of the FAI Secretary General

The Secretary General, Susanne SCHÖDEL, presented her report (**ANNEX 4**). On the topic of air sports statistics, last year there had been 48 Category 1 events in 25 different countries in all regions of the world. The FAI had been working with local organisers over the past two years. She warmly

thanked these local organisers for their passionate commitment to running FAI events. 75 countries had taken part with a total of 3,236 competitors. There were still some issues to do with receiving the results of the competitions, and IT solutions to this issue were being explored. In 2015, 373 international records had been ratified, almost 70% of them World Records. The FAI focused on the particularly outstanding achievements and tried to promote them while the effort was taking place. She urged members to inform the FAI of any of these events.

The Secretary General introduced the FAI administrative team, and thanked the FAI members for their appreciation of the team's hard work throughout the year.

In terms of the FAI's strategic goals, she thought the guiding principle should be to improve relations between the FAI EB and staff, on the one hand, with the NACs, the Airsport Commissions and individuals on the other. This was an ongoing effort because of the complex nature of the organisation and its changing personnel. The NACs were vital in encouraging cross-disciplinary communication.

The Secretary General drew attention to the World Air Games photo book, which was available from the e-shop. It was an invaluable communication tool, showing all the disciplines present in Dubai. The event had not been easy to stage, but the benefits were clear: the positive spirit of the competitors had had a positive effect on the event organisers and NACs, and this should be built on. The idea of bringing the air sports together also highlighted another aspect of their work: they needed to push for innovation. Many different technologies were in place across the disciplines to present, organise, score, register competitors and manage results, and synergies were possible. Tracking systems and results systems used in one sport could be used in another. There would be a workshop later in the year for the Airsport Commissions' experts to explain the technology they were using, which would give them an overview of what was available and what further synergies were possible.

In terms of the budget, she expressed her sincere thanks to the Finance Advisory Group, especially Sergey ANANOV. Over the past weeks and months, the FiAG had been closely involved in monitoring the project strategy and Air Games Event Series. The process could be improved further but it was probably on the right track.

Drones were the new popular sport, with much investment and many activities, as well as lots of dangers for general aviation, all air sports and the aeromodelling community. A workshop had taken place, which had attracted great interest from the FAI members. She asked that they combine their efforts to develop drone sports in a way that did not harm their existing air sports structures, as well as using it as an opportunity to attract new membership, and embrace this new development. The hype might be over within five years, but they should not miss the opportunity.

As far as the elections of the Executive Board were concerned, the Secretary General wished to express her gratitude for the good contacts and cooperation she had enjoyed with the current Board members. She also offered warm thanks to the President, who was about to retire. It had been a pleasure working with him, and she appreciated his availability, positive spirit and drive for consensus.

**The General Conference unanimously adopted the Secretary General's report.**

## **11. Commission Reports**

### ***FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM) – ANNEX 5 + 5b***

Mr Antonis PAPADOPOULOS (CIAM President) gave his report, mentioning some highlights of the Commission's activities, including sporting events in 2015 and 2016, and cases for consideration.

In 2015 14 Cat 1 events and 320 Cat 2 events had taken place, and he particularly wished to mention the four CIAM classes featured in the World Air Games. He thanked the Emirates Aerosports Federation for the opportunity to take part in the WAG, as well as the opportunity to understand the possibilities for the future, and weaknesses that had to be improved.

In 2016 there had been 13 Cat 1 events and 350 Cat 2 events, including the new World Cup for FPV Racing. At the successful plenary meeting in Lausanne the new CIAM General Rules had been adopted, to replace the outdated ABR Volume. A decision had been taken to establish a new permanent subcommittee for "FPV Racing and Similar Activities". With the CASI decision that had been made the previous year, Section 12 (UAV Records) would now be covered by CIAM.

The CIAM was working with the FAI Executive Board to implement the FAI Common Strategy for Drones, approved at the Heraklion meeting earlier in the year. They also faced some challenges with governance of this activity, which was difficult to deal with because of the different authorities and perceptions, and different measures in Europe, the USA etc.

CIAM was looking to replace paperwork with online applications, and he thanked the FAI Executive Board for its assistance in this matter.

Finally, CIAM had tried to adjust its existing sporting code to reflect the concept they needed to have for the WAG and the Air Games Series.

### ***FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission (CIVL) – ANNEX 6***

Mr Stéphane MALBOS (CIVL President) noted that hang gliding and paragliding were disciplines that carried a great deal of risk, since they involved travelling long distances under the power of just the sun and the wind. The Paragliding World Open Distance record had been beaten just the day before in Brazil: 564 km in 12 hours of flight.

It had been difficult finding volunteers to perform the bureaucratic duties to run the discipline and its competitions, which was one of the commission's main worries. CIVL nevertheless organised more than 40% of FAI competitions, so they were well aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the FAI, because they were in touch every day. The organisation's main strengths were its well-organised structure, well-appointed head office and a budget in the millions that should enable its members to achieve their goals if the right choices were made. The biggest choice they had to make today was how to build the road to the 2020 World Air Games. He was a big supporter of the Air Games Series and saw it as a stepping stone on which they could build their sports. If they built them right even the smallest 2nd-category event would profit from their investment. The events were also for attracting sponsors, but the road to the Air Games Series represented a unique opportunity to support and strengthen their sports. If they did not take it, not only would they have missed a unique opportunity, but they would lose the trust of their sports persons, from volunteers to competition organisers to pilots. He therefore encouraged everyone to support the Air Games Series project when they voted on the budget – not only because it would bring in more money, but because every franc they invested in the new competition format, technologies and equipment, would trickle down to the smallest of everyone's competitions and would benefit the most anonymous of their pilots. The earlier those investments were made, the earlier the entire competition structure would benefit.

### ***FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA) – ANNEX 7***

Mr Nick BUCKENHAM (CIVA President) noted that CIVA had 56 years' experience putting together World and European championships. Aerobatics had come a long way from the early wood and fabric-covered aeroplanes, to the extraordinary, almost unbreakable planes they had today. The World Air Games had been wonderful, and top level events had been successfully staged in Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. The Sky Grand Prix in Durban had been a different, more commercially orientated event. An agreement had been put together with a new Chinese company, which was expected to collaborate in an administrative sense in China with solo aerobatics and formation aerobatics. It was hoped that in May, in cooperation with a company called World Air Carnival, they would run a formation championship. For 2017 there would be a world glider championship in Poland; European Advanced would take place in the Czech Republic, the World Aerobatic Championships would be in South Africa, and there would probably be a Yak-52 event in Russia.

He had enjoyed his first year as CIVA President. Aerobatics were alive and well, and he was looking forward to a great year in 2017.

### ***FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) – ANNEX 8***

Mr Rodney BLOIS (GAC President) noted that for the World Air Games in Dubai they had produced a new event called an Air Navigation Race (ANR), which had been less successful than they had hoped. The lessons they had learned were to cooperate with the other commissions and work on a common formula for live tracking. The future for this kind of sport would depend on what could be seen on a big screen, and they had to work on that. The sport of precision flying had hitherto been conducted with a map, stopwatch and compass, but they had decided to move with the times. GPS was now integral to every aircraft and its systems, so they would be permitting GPS in their competitions, which would encourage new people to enter, as from the next Precision Flying Championships in Austria.

### ***FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (CIMP) – ANNEX 9***

Dr Richard T. GARRISON (CIMP President) introduced himself to the delegates. The medical symposium that had taken place at the World Air Games had been attended by at least 120 physicians, and they had had an excellent international faculty. The conference had been well received, and they were hoping to plan similar events at future WAGs. As well as focusing on anti-doping and aeromedical certifications, the commission was turning increasingly towards accident investigation, human factors, and looking into high-level incidents that occurred at air games. One of the commission's activities was to keep track of all aeromedical certification worldwide. They were currently working on a WADA request to delete alcohol as a prohibited substance. Along with three other sporting federations, the FAI had made alcohol a prohibited substance. WADA now took the position that it was a safety issue rather than an anti-doping issue, but CIMP disagreed. He urged the NACs and delegates to bear in mind that, if they had any people, particularly young people, from the fields of health or physiology, who would like to be on the CIMP, they would be welcome.

### ***FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC) – ANNEX 10***

Mr Pierre DUVAL (EnvC President) noted that the EnvC had provided the tools to support event organisers in making their events "green". Unfortunately, the certification seemed to be unpopular, so the EnvC was working on ways of promoting it. The Sporting Code had been reformulated, after a great deal of work by Diana King and the team, and had been presented to CASI. The Commission would be fully betting on electric flying for the future, which would provide lower noise and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The commission would be communicating further on electric flying, and would share information with all the air sports. EnvC was available for conferences on the subject. They were hoping to organise some long-distance electric flight challenges in the future. The Commission would work with all the air sports with the aim of organising the first electric flying competition, to take into account speed, distance and economy, as a showcase for the high technology they could expect to see in the next generation of air games. He would also like to explore how to organise races with other vehicles such as cars and motorbikes. EnvC would also work further with CIACA. He noted that none of those who currently held SEP or MEP pilot's licences were qualified to pilot electric aircraft.

## **12. FAI Sports and Branding Strategy / Air Games event series**

### **12.1. FAI Sports and Branding Strategy (ANNEXES 11 and 12)**

The Secretary General noted that at the previous General Conference the members had been given an outline of the FAI's overall sports and branding strategy. She would go through the highlights of the strategy, taking a closer look at the FAI World Air Games in Dubai and the current situation as regards the bidding process, and providing an insight into the Air Games Event Series.

One of the key elements of the FAI's strategy was to promote high-profile records and encourage record attempts, but it also had access to a vast archive of historical records, which should be exploited far more widely. Since the last GC, communication efforts had been dedicated to promoting them, and were seeing positive results. They were also working with the ASCs to improve competition record formats, because the usual process of ratifying a record could take weeks or months. In order to be able to publish records immediately, they had to establish a quality control process. On the issue of improving the quality of air sports competitions, the main focus was to work with local organisers and help them with IT resources, communication, event formats, protocol, disciplinary procedures, etc. to achieve a higher level of FAI-sanctioned events. There was a long way to go, because with 60 championships per year it was not possible to be in contact with all of them. The FAI therefore selected a few events annually, and worked closely with the organisers to provide support.

For the purposes of driving forward competitions, events had been divided into three areas. 1) ASC-led competition development, which was related to the strategies that some of the ASCs had developed. Where did they want to be in 5 or 10 years' time? 2) FAI-led multi-sports events such as the World Games, where they were growing closer than ever to the Olympic Movement with its Agenda 2020, participation in the Asian Games and perhaps ultimately in the Olympic Games. 3) FAI-led air sport, which reached across all air sports.

The Secretary General outlined the achievements since the last GC. The WAG in Dubai had been very successful, despite the problems along the way. An evaluation workshop had been held after the event in April, with the participation of ASC representatives, heads of delegations, FAI staff and EB members, along with moderators, to establish what went wrong. Through open discussion they had identified areas that could be improved, discussed how they could be improved and decided on the next steps. One issue was how this kind of FAI-led multi-air sport event should be managed. The bidding documents were unclear as to the decision process and which entities were responsible for what. It was also vital to define a budget, so that, if they found partners willing to host the event, they could cover part of the organisation. A framework had to be defined, in terms of how many competitors and officials were needed, what kind of infrastructure etc. Because the classic events could often not be included in the WAG, the competition format had had to be adjusted; consequently, it was important to be sure what the point of the event was, and how the events were presented. The possibility of having live scoring, or at least results by the end of the day, would be a definite plus.

Because of the success of the WAG, they had already begun the bidding process for the next event. They had refined the bidding documents based on their experience and were now at a stage where there were two potential bidders for the next WAG in 2019/20. They had also dedicated resources for communication and media work to the WAG project. When there were no World Air Games, these funds would be used to promote premier Category 1 events. They had a lot of media data from four events that had been covered this year, and by the end of the year a thorough review would be conducted into the effects on the events of media distribution. They would look to work more in this vein next year, provided the GC approved the budget.

As a result of this strategy, the FAI's media profile had improved considerably since 2015. Facebook followers, for example, had grown from 10,000 to over 64,000.

With the input of Tony Webb, they now had more sports marketing expertise, and they had looked primarily at the question of the FAI's rights at the events, and what they could make of them. This was an ongoing discussion and a challenge. Sponsorship acquisition efforts would be redirected away from the classic idea towards a situation where the FAI could genuinely give exposure, looking at providers that could support the FAI and its constituents.

It was important to keep looking forward to new event formats, and identify those that were a useful addition to their sports practice.

In terms of new FAI service provider partners, they were in contact with providers of aviation fuel, which could potentially save pilots and organisers a considerable amount of money per event.



## **12.2. FAI WAG 2015, Bidding process next WAG (ANNEX 13)**

FAI Sports and Event Director Marcus HAGGENEY noted that H.E. Yousif Al HAMMADI was the face of the WAG; he had had confidence in the FAI, the people representing the FAI and the staff, and they had done it together. Without Dubai they would not now be in a position to discuss strategy and look into new opportunities. All the WAGs built on each other and assisted the FAI in getting better and promoting air sports.

Looking at preparations for future WAGs, Mr HAGGENEY thanked the Air Sports Commissions for their work to shape the future of the FAI WAG.

The two bids for the next WAG, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA and Malaysia, would be evaluated over the coming year, and he hoped to report back with the positive results at the next GC.

Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS was puzzled, because she thought that Malaysia's membership had been suspended.

Mr HAGGENEY replied that the FAI WAG was not necessarily a NAC-approved activity, since it was not a classical Category 1 sanctioned event. The EB had accepted this intention from an aviation organiser within the country, which was not the NAC. His personal hope was that, with this intention to bid, developments might be encouraged within the NAC.

The President said he was excited to see that they were likely to have the next WAG at one of these two locations, and that things were moving ahead.

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Returning the discussion, the President noted that, according to the FAI Statutes, the appointment of the WAG should be made by the General Conference. The next World Air Games were in the pipeline, and next year might be an appropriate time to sign a contract with the next organiser. He hoped the GC would consider adding this item to the agenda, in order to give the EB and presidents greater liberty going forward, rather than waiting for the next conference before the contract could be signed.

Mr Bengt LINDGREN (Sweden) noted that Mr Art GREENFIELD had pointed out the discrepancy in the protocol from the previous GC the day before. He asked if they could act on this now.

The President replied that they would act on this during the day. It was being refined so that they could see what was in the minutes and what the proposed change would be. It was rather complex, however. When he had the material it would go on the agenda.

Mrs Mary-Anne STEVENS pointed out that they had run into the same issue they had encountered already. Because of the provisions of the Statutes, they could vote to add this item to the agenda, but the Statutes did not allow them to vote on the item without 50% of active members present.

The President noted that they were not changing the Statutes, they were merely delegating an issue from the GC to the EB.

Mrs STEVENS said that a vote on any matter not appearing on the agenda was valid only if at least half of active members were present, and unfortunately they did not meet that criterion.

The President asked if the wording was "present" or "represented"?

Mrs STEVENS replied that it was present only.

Mr Bruno DELOR understood the statutory issues, but he felt that on such an important subject they had to be efficient. He therefore supported the idea that they find a way to delegate the decision to the EB. This was better than deciding too late.

Mrs STEVENS noted that there was another section of the Statutes that said that the GC could decide that voting by mail was appropriate to settle a specific matter. They could put it on the agenda and have the discussion, then have a vote afterwards in which all active members could participate.

Mr Sanjay THAPAR thought they should not get bogged down in bureaucracy. The way the Statutes were written, the General Conference was supreme. If some decision needed to be taken that was not on the agenda, or notice was not given, they should nevertheless be able to make a decision, perhaps by a 2/3 majority.

Mr Bengt LINDGREN thought they could open point 12.2 and discuss the matter, and give approval for the EB to make the decision; the agenda item already covered the bidding process for the next WAG. They could debate this point and make a decision without violating the Statutes.

The President asked if the Statutes Working Group wished to comment on putting this question into item 12.2.

Mrs STEVENS felt that strictly speaking there would still be a problem, but she understood the dilemma they were placed in by the way the Statutes were currently written.

The President asked if anyone knew the exact reference in the Statutes that stipulated the GC had to decide on the location of the WAG.

Mrs STEVENS replied that this was not in Statutes, it was in the General Section.

The Secretary General asked for a proposal to be put up on the screen. The first question they had to clarify was whether this was covered by the agenda or not. Mr Lindgren had said it was covered, because the bidding process was an item on the agenda.

This was agreed.

Next, the General Section of the Sporting Code 4.4.1.1 defined that events on the FAI sporting calendar (which included the WAG) were approved by the General Conference. As far as the timing was concerned, the EB was currently negotiating with two bidders, and they needed to conclude an agreement with one of these bidders by spring 2017. If they waited until the autumn, it would be too late to ensure thorough preparation. The EB therefore asked that the GC task the EB with continuing the negotiations and concluding the agreement, and that they then put the ratification of this on the agenda of the next GC.

Mr Bruno DELOR agreed with the proposal, which he felt was very important.

Mr Robert HENDERSON noted that Statute 3.6.1.1.5 stated: "During its proceedings, the General Conference may decide by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members in good standing and Air Sport Commissions present or represented to discuss action items not appearing on the agenda or to alter the order of the items." The provision for voting the location of the WAG was in the Sporting Code, which was subservient to the Statutes. He believed they could vote to put this issue on the table, and then those delegates present, because they were only voting on a provision in the Sporting Code, could agree to delegate the power to decide on the location to the EB.

A delegate asked what then was the point of the last sentence, "The decision is to be ratified", if the contract was signed in the spring of 2017.

The President agreed that the final sentence of the proposal should be deleted. He read out the final proposal.

First, he opened the discussion on the procedure.

Mrs STEVENS pointed out to Mr Henderson that, looking at 3.6.1.3.2, they were stuck in the same conundrum as yesterday. This highlighted the need for the important work on completely realigning and revising the Statutes, By-Laws and General Section. She thought the matter was clear, but she left it to the wisdom of the General Conference.

Mr Pierre PORTMANN, President of Honour, noted that this was the 110th General Conference of the FAI. One of the reasons their organisation still existed was that they had always stuck to the rules and the Statutes. In every company of the world, the moment they started to interpret their Statutes in whatever way suited them, it was dangerous. Although he was unclear about Mrs Stevens' arguments, he thought she was probably right. He also had respect for Mr Henderson, who

had found a way through. But finding loopholes was dangerous in itself. It was up to the General Conference to decide, but he felt they should beware.

Mr Bruno DELOR noted that, with the clarification given by Mr Lindgren, there was no problem with the Statutes. They had an agenda item "Bidding process next WAG", so a motion could be proposed to decide how this decision should be taken.

Ms Alicia HIRZEL (Switzerland) thought that the item mentioned by Mr Henderson was saying that they were allowed to discuss the agenda item. But she believed there was a difference between discussing and voting. The paragraph mentioned by Mr Henderson was more about discussion than voting.

The Secretary General wondered what the decision would have been if they had done this two months before they had sent out the agenda, which was the statutory deadline for proposals to be made. They would probably have put exactly the same sentence. According to the event schedule it was not possible to follow the dates of the GC and adjust the opportunity of hosting the WAG to these scheduling needs. This was why the bidding process topic had been put on the agenda, so that they could report where they stood and ask the General Conference to delegate the decision to the EB.

The President could not see that they were in violation of the Statutes. They had the agenda item on the bidding process. They had heard a report on the bidding process and the GC was now invited to take a decision on the procedure going forward. This was not in violation of the Statutes, since the allocation of the WAG was a Sporting Code issue. He asked for the support of the GC to open the motion under 12.2.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that there were new countries in the room, whom he invited to collect their voting kits. There were now 338 votes in the room, giving an absolute majority requirement of 170 votes.

The General Conference was invited to vote on the motion: "That the discussion under 12.2 be reopened."

**The FAI General Conference voted to reopen discussion under 12.2** by 301 votes for, 25 against and 10 abstentions.

The President asked if there was any discussion on the second motion: "That the General Conference take note of the 2 bidders for the next World Air Games and task the Executive Board to award the next World Air Games." There being none, voting was opened.

**Approved** by 232 votes for, 96 against and 19 abstentions.

### **12.3. Air Games event series (ANNEX 14)**

The President invited FAI Marketing Consultant Mr Tony Webb and special consultant Mr Matthew OSMON onto the stage.

Mr Tony WEBB noted that he and Mr OSMON had more than 50 years' experience in sports marketing between them, and they hoped to apply this experience for the benefit of the FAI.

He outlined the principles of sports marketing, and how the discipline had developed over the years. The business of sports sponsorship was now far more sophisticated, focusing on the objectives of the commercial companies.

He and Mr OSMON were addressing the needs of the FAI from a commercial marketing point of view. They had to ask what was the FAI's product, in terms of inventory and story. It was important to communicate with young people not necessarily familiar with air sports. Currently, although the FAI had events, it did not own anything. With this in mind, they had looked at possible new ventures.

Mr Matthew OSMON noted that over the previous months they had identified the brief, the strategic context and the objectives. They had looked at market trends in television, sponsorship, hosting, and digital and social media. They had considered the stakeholder perspectives. From this they had deduced 11 key drivers that would drive them towards defining what they needed to create – an Air

Games Series. Then they had looked at the commercial aspects: how it would be paid for, how it would generate revenues and what sort of commercial models would be needed to make it happen.

Air sports fans had to be given the chance to be fans. There were no successful global sports that did not have major showcase events that people could watch on television and follow through the media. Without this engine the sport would struggle, and would struggle to make money. They had therefore set four objectives: to showcase the excitement and diversity of air sports regularly to a global audience; to generate income; to build competitors' profiles and bring them together regularly; and to give the NACs the opportunity to generate funds.

Although television ratings were generally falling, high-profile sports events continued to generate ever-higher rights fees because viewers continued to watch them live. However, less popular events were struggling, and production costs remained high. Although sponsorship was growing faster than world inflation and advertising, there were more properties looking for a sponsor. Hosting was becoming another sophisticated part of the marketing mix.

The series could be hosted according to a number of different commercial models, which would be evaluated more closely over the coming months. Potential revenues to the FAI were conservatively estimated at CHF 2 million per year, with associated costs (promotion, media production, officials, staff) of around CHF 1.7 million. There were many details still to work out on the sports side. Over the next 5 months they would go to the market with the concept and determine what hosts and sponsors were prepared to buy into. A parallel process happened on the sport side, to answer these vital questions with a view to knowing market position and the sporting details by March 2017.

Mr OSMON concluded his presentation by outlining the timetable for the coming year.

The President thanked Mr OSMON and Mr WEBB for presenting this bold and exciting concept. He appreciated their professionalism.

Mr Stéphane MALBOS (CIVL) suggested that these proposals also be discussed with the Commissions, because there would be no events without athletes. If they planned to stage four small events per year, they would have to find good athletes willing to do it. Within his disciplines, this would probably only work for aerobatics. In most disciplines, the pilots had jobs and families, and could not be expected to devote four weeks of their annual holidays to air shows. They kept their free time for official competitions that awarded points and rankings, which enabled them to participate in Category 1 events. It was important that they remember the Commissions: they should understand all the sports and their culture, who the pilots were and how they could attract the pilots. He had not seen the Commissions mentioned anywhere in the presentation.

The Secretary General agreed that many questions still had to be answered, and this was one of them – how the series would fit into the existing event calendar, and how it could be made attractive.

Mr Bengt LINDGREN thanked Mr Osmon for his presentation. As a NAC and Air Sports Commission member he had found it hard to follow, because he did not see how it would give the NACs any benefit. He thought the basic idea was to bring new young people into air sports, but he did not see how it would trickle down to the NACs or air sports.

Mr OSMON thought they had to look at why sports such as football, tennis and golf not only attracted huge revenues and media attention, but why kids everywhere wanted to play football. It was not just about generating revenues. If kids did not have anything to inspire them, if there was nothing on television or in the social media, they would not be inspired to take it up. The FAI currently did not have an umbrella set of showcase events, which meant they were operating without something that was essential to their future. In terms of revenues, the IOC made a great deal of money from the Olympics, but the individual nations that took part made collectively far more than the IOC made through sponsorship and television contracts. This event series would inspire, and cause people to aspire to take part in competitions. The FAI was currently operating without this, which was why they currently had little money.

The Secretary General said that this had been discussed. The idea was that the type of delegation that had come to the WAG had more strength potentially than having a team of two or three going to a single air sport discipline event. The basic idea was that, if they had a core set of disciplines that

had been chosen because they could be presented at iconic locations, this core set could be filled by the NACs, who could nominate competitors for each of the disciplines, and decide how many events they wanted to send them to and that they could present as, for example, the “Swedish Air Games Team”, which would be sent to a given number of events per year to compete against other national teams.

Mr Bruno DELOR (France) had some answers regarding the benefits that the NACs might expect from the events. He thought there were two main benefits: their air sport activities would be better known, particularly by young people, and there would also be better recognition of their high-level competitors. This was sufficient for him to give his complete support to this idea.

Mr Antonis PAPADOPOULOS (CIAM) noted that when the topic had been introduced the previous year, his comment had been that it was good that they had an opportunity to work as a family. This was a challenge for the FAI EB, the ASCs, the NACs and the competitors. If they were happy with what they had now, that was fine. From CIAM’s perspective, after the WAG in Dubai, they had seen the potential that existed, and they were now looking one step ahead, to go to the next level. He thought this was the most important thing to decide now. CIAM was not going to just say yes or no. If they said yes without committing to work on it there was no point. So CIAM would say yes because they believed in it and would embrace it.

Mr Eric MOZER (IGC) had a question for Mr OSMON, regarding the importance of national pride. He had noticed that the events on one side could generate a large number of competitors at a relatively low cost. On the other side (aerobatics, gliders, etc.) were sports that required more expenditure to develop the national team. IGC would love to be part of this, but its equipment was mostly very expensive, and expensive to transport, and they were considering 3-4 events per year. How important, therefore, was national pride in driving the Air Games Tour, versus just developing an exciting event?

Mr OSMON said that national pride was key to raising the level of engagement nationally and internationally in terms of money and commercial drivers. The decision as to which disciplines should be included was up to the FAI. They had taken into account a couple of factors. If they were choosing city-based iconic locations, there were some practicalities that might limit which disciplines could be involved. They had also considered cost, and where most NACs could field the greatest number of teams. Disciplines could be added later, and there could be guest disciplines. The core would be an affordable multi-nation, multi-athlete approach.

A delegate from Germany said he was strongly convinced they were on the right track with this proposal. As they all knew, people wanted to see great competitions, spectacular events, stories and heroes when watching televised sports events. They were all convinced that their sports had everything. However, looking back to the WAG in Dubai, he had come to the conclusion that national pride played an important role. Looking to the Olympic Games, national and international championships, and football, national pride played an important role. The conclusion for him personally was that the NACs must play a much more important role than they had at the last WAG.

A representative of the CIA noted that he heard the word “challenge” quite a lot, but failed to hear the word “opportunity”. He believed this was what they should focus on. Without such a scheme the FAI was doomed, and they would fail sooner rather than later. He encouraged everyone to support this project with all their means, and understand that these opportunities could be put to good use in their home countries. He knew from experience that if they devised the right product at the FAI, it could be used successfully by NACs, and would benefit not just the NACs but all the air sports persons in their countries, directly and indirectly.

A delegate said he very much wished to go in the direction presented. They couldn’t expect to flick a switch and have revenues pour into the commissions and the NACs. They had to invest, and it was a challenge for his commission to participate and develop a programme, but they wanted to do it. He urged the delegates to support this plan wherever possible.

Mr Sergey ANANOV shared Mr MALBOS’ concerns. The event series was closer to an air show, it was a big, valuable and profitable product that could be developed, using their experience and knowledge. But the answer was easy: the budget they had seen, with CHF 2 million in revenues and

expenditure of CHF 1.7 million, could be increased by 100,000 or 200,000 to be put towards fees for athletes. It was not purely a sporting undertaking. In regard to what the NACs could get out of it, the Russian NAC was a union of federations, like many other NACs. For the Russian NAC, this series would be a strong instrument to strengthen the integrity of the NAC, as a union of air sports federations. They could then suggest to their partners a product that could unite them within the country. Currently, when they did Cat 1 events or championships, only one of the members was involved. With this product, the NAC could take the lead over all the federations, even more than they did currently.

Mr Patrick NAEGELI (UK) noted that the words “if”, “then” and “perhaps” were used frequently through the presentation. There was a level of uncertainty in everyone’s minds about exactly how much mileage there was in this option. If the proposal was that, between now and early 2017, they would have market-tested the basic proposition that underlined an Air Games Tour, and would have done enough scientific assessment of that option in order to be able to determine whether it made sense for the FAI to undertake a significant investment programme, he would regard that as a good use of time. Scientific meant without confirmation bias, i.e. they were not looking for things that told them it might work and ignoring the things that told them it wouldn’t. He concluded by saying that this and the budgets that were suggested were very different from what they had talked about last year. Consequently, they almost needed to go back and revisit, because this was a different proposal. They were one year further on. It was good they were taking outside professional support. If they could answer these questions clearly within a given time frame they could then make a sensible decision.

Mr. HACHAMI thought that in order to achieve their targets they had to work on the universality of all air sports. Events were concentrated mainly in central Europe. There were no events at all in Africa. The aim was principally to touch all categories of people and try to make the sports as universal as possible, to get as many spectators as possible. Facebook, for example, gave them the opportunity to reach all the world’s population, generating interest in watching air games and bringing the costs of participation down. They had to work more on touching all categories of people, because they saw these sports as being very expensive to practise.

Mr Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBÓN hoped to be practical in his response. As a student, the fastest way to success was to copy. They had a very good example that had many parallels in the IAAF. The IAAF had a 10-second adrenalin-fuelled event, as well as less exciting events such as the marathon, javelin, etc, and they managed to make a show out of this. The money came from a number of sources: cities that wanted to attract visitors, and advertisers. The FAI would not achieve this with parachuting or gliding. Aerobatics were the equivalent of the 10-second sprint. No one liked the concept of a “circus”. So they had come up with a better word: mosaic – a mosaic of air sport disciplines that together created an interesting picture. They did not yet know the best combination – they would have to experiment, but they would find out because there was nothing intrinsically more interesting about the 100m, and certainly not the marathon. Eventually they would have something that Coca-Cola would pay for.

Mr Bob HENDERSON noted that they did not have the expertise to design the air sport events. He clearly saw, however, that they had a very clear responsibility to make sure they gave the ASCs the tools to integrate their sports so that they could bring them together. He was referring especially to electronic tools. Everyone used tracking, and had scoring systems they were trying to simplify. A number of Commissions were experimenting with demonstration, and putting their sports up on big screens. What they had not done was invest in making sure they integrated each of those inputs so that they had a consistent, coherent product in the middle that helped create their mosaic. They needed to take this responsibility on board.

The President thanked everyone for the lively discussion. He was pleased to learn that they were generally positive towards the concept. He had just returned from China, where he had visited a major city that wanted to be a part of this. They were now inventing something abstract, and they had good examples. The Red Bull Air Race was an excellent example of what could be achieved, both with sponsors, with media, role models and heroes. They had to start small, and build from the bottom up.

He asked the members to vote on their approval of the concept.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that there were 346 votes in the room. This motion required an absolute majority of 177 votes.

The President pointed out that they were voting on the motion: "To approve the principles of the concept for the Air Games Event Series as presented."

**The FAI General Conference approved the motion** by 256 votes in favour, 39 against and 58 abstentions.

The Secretary General thanked the General Conference wholeheartedly for their support.

### **13. Organiser Agreement**

See **ANNEX 15**.

Mr Markus HAGGENEY reported that a workshop had been organised the previous day. The organiser agreement was part of a process, not just a legal document. These had been worked on substantially with a lot of input, and he thanked those who had contributed yesterday, especially from the NAC perspective. As of October 2016, all the events that had taken place in 2016 and the majority of those scheduled for 2017 were under the old organiser agreement, but the new agreement was now being rolled out. The new OA required far more information than in the past.

Some Commissions already had bidding processes in place that requested all this new information, but some did not. The FAI would help with exchanging best practice to ensure that the quality of the bids would make the decision process easier, with a commensurate effect on the quality of the event.

They had also examined the rights section more closely. It was a significant element, which the FAI had to give away, so they therefore had to ensure it was properly described, so that the FAI protected its rights, and so that local organisers were able to go to their own sponsors. The wording was currently being adjusted.

They ran workshops, provided on-demand training and dedicated training for incoming presidents.

It had become clear that there might be an issue in some countries, where the NAC delegated their sporting powers to some other body in the country, which would then become the contractual partner of the FAI when signing the OA. There was a need to give the NACs and holders of sporting powers a heads-up that they engaged internally on some kind of contractual agreements to protect each other. Moreover, for most Commissions, the OA was sent out to the countries only after the event had been sanctioned in the plenary, which turned out to be too late in many instances, where events had to be cancelled because the NAC did not give approval after the plenary had approved an event. The CIA, for example, had clear rules. A presentation was only accepted in the plenary when the signed document was on the president's desk. Information on these matters would be sent to the ASCs for consideration together with the NACs.

Mr Eric MOZER (IGC) applauded the effort of the new OA to be comprehensive. He asked if the document existed today. The IGC was currently in a 3-month window where, if the document were available, it could be used for competitions that would be approved by the plenary in March. They had received expressions of interest, but the final bid document would not be due until the end of December. In his view, all these potential bidders should have the opportunity to read this organiser agreement, which would help them make their decision whether or not to proceed with their bid.

Mr HAGGENEY noted that he had had a long conversation with the IGC bidding expert, who had a draft version of the document. He had referred to the Rights Section – which needed careful rephrasing to protect the FAI's inventory, while leaving enough leeway for local organisers. This was a work in progress, and should be finished very soon. At that point the document would be final and would be made available to all the Commissions in their Commission-specific version. In the past the document had only been issued on request, after an event had been sanctioned, or when a

Commission asked for it for a specific event. This would change; the information would be shared at an early stage.

The President wished to make a comment on some material that had been distributed outside the meeting room, without his knowledge, by the Asian Air Sports Federation. The document contained misinterpretations of quotes from his letter, and lacked the reply from the FAI to one of the letters from the OCA. Since this had been distributed, he would also distribute his reply to the OCA, for the information of the members. Air sports in Asia were developing so fast that many wanted to take advantage of the possibilities. Now they had the Air Sport Federation of Asia, as well as the Asian Air Sports Federation, two completely different entities. He had urged these two bodies to talk to each other, and either decide which was the Asian regional organisation, or merge, so that there was one organisation to represent Asia. The current situation was counter-productive, and endangered the agreed participation in the coming Asian Games. The Olympic Council of Asia had said it would only talk to one body. They must all do their best to ensure they were in good cooperation with the OCA. He had also pointed out that, under these circumstances, the point of contact for the OCA was through the FAI head office. The material that had been distributed was one side of the story only.

Ms Elsa MAI agreed that the only entity the OCA should talk to was the FAI. The FAI should be the air sports authority for all these multi-sports events. She wondered why anyone was talking to these Asian federations.

The President agreed, and referred Ms MAI to his reply.

## **14. Report on FAI Finances 2015-2016**

### **14.1. 2015 Financial Report (Balance Sheet and P&L statement) and report by the Auditors**

See **ANNEX 16**.

Mr Frits BRINK (Executive Director – Finance) asked if there were any comments on the auditors' report for 2015.

Mr Bengt LINDGREN noted that, according to his computer, this signed document had been changed after the signatures had been added. He wondered what had changed.

The Secretary General replied that she was unable to answer, since she had no warning messages when she opened the file. They had also received the PWC report in hard copy, and no alterations had been made.

Mr BRINK wondered if the Finance Advisory Group had any remarks on 2015.

There being none, the President asked the General Conference to adopt the financial report.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that this was an absolute majority vote. There were currently 353 votes in the room, which meant the absolute majority was 177.

**The General Conference voted to adopt the financial report 2015** by 318 votes for, 0 votes against and 31 abstentions.

### **14.2. Financial situation at 13 June 2016**

See **ANNEX 17**.

Mr BRINK noted that Annex 14.2 listed changes to the budget made as a result of the Executive Board's decision.

### **14.3. Approval of auditors for 2017**

Mr BRINK reported that a motion had been tabled to replace PWC, and appoint BDO as the FAI auditors for 2017. The EB was authorised to set the remuneration.



Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS asked why they were changing auditors.

Mr BRINK replied that it was considered good practice to change auditors from time to time, to avoid building up too close a relationship. PWC had been the FAI's auditor for quite some time. BDO was another big firm. There had been no problems with PWC; they had had a very good meeting this past summer. The only slightly disappointment was that, because PWC was a big international firm, it had tended to send different people each time.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that the voting procedure was as before, and the required majority was 177. He pointed out that an abstention therefore carried the same weight as a "no" vote.

The President said that if anyone intended to vote no he would appreciate knowing why.

Mr Art GREENFIELD said that this was not correct form. Discussions should take place before the vote, not during or after.

The President agreed. He apologised for stepping outside of the voting routine.

**The General Conference voted to appoint BDO as the FAI auditors for 2017**, by 335 votes for, 5 against and 11 abstentions.

## 15. Discharge of FAI Executive Board

**The General Conference discharged the FAI Executive Board of responsibility for the management of the FAI's affairs during the financial year 2015** by 322 votes for, 2 against and 10 abstentions.

## 16. Arrangements for General Conferences

### 16.1. Report on GC 2017

The Secretary General noted that the last year's GC had not decided on a location for the 2017 GC. The EB had been tasked with reviewing the matter and taking a decision. After some research, it had been decided to hold the next GC in Lausanne, Switzerland on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 October 2017. Subsidies had been secured from the city of Lausanne and canton of Vaud, which was positive, and they were eager to host the conference. The IOC President would be invited to be a guest speaker. At this stage they could not give any indication of the registration fee, but they were trying to make it as advantageous as possible. The idea was also to offer accommodation in different hotels of different categories, so that there was a choice. There would, however, be just one conference location, at the Hotel Savoy. The hotel had a small exhibition area, and they were currently working on getting exhibitors against payment of a fee, for instance on drone technology, aviation-related issues, or FAI providers.

### 16.2. Presentation of bids for 112th FAI General Conference 2018

The Secretary General noted that a number of cities had expressed interest, and there was one dedicated bid from Egypt. She invited Egypt to present their bid.

A representative of Egypt had the pleasure to invite the FAI to its 112th General Conference in Egypt.

The FAI General Conference would take place not in Cairo but at Luxor, a tourist city containing 50% of Egypt's monuments. It was around 800 km south of Cairo with very good weather at that time of year. Luxor also hosted balloon activities, including a balloon festival next December, which currently had 38 registered participants from 24 countries.

The venue of the meeting would be the five-star Sonesta St George Hotel, which had all the necessary facilities. There was a choice of three categories of hotel. There were no restrictions on entry visas, which were granted at the airport on payment of a \$15 fee. There was a wide choice of post-conference tours and extended visit options.

He gave some background information about the organiser, the Aero Club of Egypt. He looked forward to welcoming them all to Cairo on 7 October 2018.

The President noted that a number of cities had intended to bid, but no bid documents had been received. This was therefore the only valid bid. He thanked Egypt.

### **16.3. Preliminary bids for future General Conferences (2019 onwards)**

Representatives of Portugal and Morocco both expressed their intention to bid to host the 2019 General Conference.

A representative of South Africa noted that 2019 was the 100th anniversary of the country's aero club, and it would also like to submit a bid in due course.

The President said that everyone would receive more detailed information on the bidding process ahead of the next General Conference.

## **17. Partnership with Red Bull Air Race**

The President introduced a video message from the Managing Director of Red Bull Air Race, Mr Erich WOLF.

## **18. Call for nominations for Election of FAI President**

The President noted that the delegates would be asked to elect a President for a two-year term. Candidates could be presented by the heads of delegations or by the candidates themselves. The presentations would proceed in alphabetical order of the country. Each candidate had a maximum of 5 minutes, including questions. He called for nominations.

One written nomination had been received from the NAC of the Netherlands, nominating the current Finance Director, Mr Frits BRINK.

There being no other nominations, the President declared that the time for submission of nominations was over.

Mr. SCHNITKER, Head of delegation for Netherlands, said that he strongly believed Frits Brink was the right person to serve the FAI as its next President. Frits BRINK had started his career as a commanding police officer in the national police force, and had to deal with a train hijack. This period reflected his responsive approach, strategic thinking and professionalism. He left the police and became a mayor in three different cities in the Netherlands, reflecting his ability to listen, his friendly and patient approach and his sensitivity to different views. After that period, he became a board member of several organisations including a broadcasting organisation and a health facility, reflecting his ability to analyse and his financial acumen. Frits Brink was his predecessor as president of the Netherlands NAC, reflecting his ability to consider multiple viewpoints about controversial issues and his ability to communicate with members and stakeholders, including the government. Within the FAI Frits BRINK was a board member, a person with experience, a person they could depend on, and a person who could voice the concerns of the FAI. He strongly recommended that they vote for Frits BRINK as their next president.

## **19. Roll-call of delegations**

Mr LEINIKKI conducted the roll call.

There were 37 active members present, 8 proxies, one affiliate member, OSTIV, which could vote, and 11 ASCs. The total number of votes was 331, which meant that an absolute majority required 166 votes and a 2/3 qualified majority 221 votes.

**20. FAI Budget 2017**

See **ANNEXES 18 and 19**

Mr Frits BRINK (FAI Finance Director) noted that the documents referred only to Head Office operations because this was where the major changes had been made, particularly in terms of strategy and the WAG. He invited Mr Sergey ANANOV, Chairman of the Finance Advisory Group, to say a few words about the way the group had monitored the financial situation, the way they had dealt with the marketing concept, and give an idea of how the situation could be monitored in the future. There were a number of moments in the year when they could change the way they spent their money. At the end of 2017, at the next GC, this would be the point at which they would see whether what they had decided on in 2015 in Rotterdam – the marketing plan and the WAG decision – was really working. They had to be very careful with how they used their money. He had discussed this regularly in recent months with Mr ANANOV.

The President reiterated the EB's gratitude to the Finance Advisory Group for its advice and scrutiny and good decisions on financial matters and budget preparation over the year.

Mr Sergey ANANOV noted that the 2016 budget had been approved with a very important new component, the Air Games Event Series. The Rotterdam conference had approved the budget with the Finance Advisory Group to monitor progress. Later, it had been decided that the monitoring would include efficiency evaluation of the work done, although this decision had been changed. The Finance Advisory Group was therefore allowed to perform only quantitative verification of what was being done. The qualitative value judgements were made exclusively by the EB. The FiAG report was presented in the form of a table (**ANNEX 18**). The suggested methodology verified three parameters: cost, time and work scope of each budgeted point. He explained the table. The entire budget had been used, but not exceeded. Some individual items had gone over budget but these had been balanced out by others that had come in under budget. There had been 23% greater value than expected, because less time had been used. Everything planned for the current year would be completed by the end of December. The conclusion was that they were on the right track, moving slower than needed, but using the allocated money fully and cost-effectively. The only problem he saw was the same as a year ago. The work plan suggested for 2017 had only 5 items (**ANNEX 19**). It gave so much freedom over how to use the funds allocated that it became difficult for delegates to follow and for the FiAG to monitor. A detailed plan was easy to monitor. The concept presented yesterday by the marketing consultants had been very general, it was not an actual work plan. As a NAC representative he would like to see a more detailed work plan. He moved to approve the budget, on the condition that the well-established sub-budget for the Air Games Event Series be ready no later than March 2017.

The delegates had decided the previous year to give the FiAG the mission to monitor the implementation of the 2016 budget in terms of the Air Sports Event Series, because they had wanted an independent monitoring body to evaluate the risks of spending considerable sums of money on an uncertain project. Yesterday he had been surprised that, when they had come to this point (14.2), none of them were interested in the monitoring. He asked the GC to decide now to what extent they needed this monitoring, to make it clear for their future work.

Mr Patrick NAEGELI (UK) thanked Mr ANANOV for his insightful report. Annex O from last year, where the outlay and income for this initiative were laid out, mentioned the costs, which Mr ANANOV had covered, but he had not talked about the expected income. At this stage they had expected CHF 50,000 of additional sponsorship income to have already come in from this programme, and for 2017 they were expecting CHF 350,000. It would be helpful to have some comment about what they had done to determine where they were with the income side as opposed to the costs. Reading the material that had been provided, by the end of 2017, given actual expenditure this year, and forecast expenditure of CHF 370,000 next year, they would have spent a total of CHF 844,000. Had they gone ahead with the figures they had talked about last year and received the forecasted income, the FAI would have spent CHF 628,000. He noticed that in the budget for 2017, expected income had been put as zero. If he had understood the numbers correctly, rather than having a net outlay of

CHF 628,000 in 2016 and 2017 combined, they were now expecting an outlay of CHF 844,000, which was CHF 216,000 more than forecasted for the two-year period.

Mr ANANOV drew attention to the fact that he was reporting the results of monitoring in 2016. Mr NAEGELI'S questions about the 2017 budget were outside his mandate at this stage. Regarding the revenue side of the 2016 budget, he was right. Monitoring expenditures was feasible as there were expenditures. As far as revenues were concerned, they had used the provisions that were allocated and reserves, to give the figure of CHF 475,000. All the revenues accumulated from operating activities during 2016 had been used in the overall budget income part, and reflected and influenced the total result of the year, which had not yet been discussed. There were no real revenues yet from that.

The Secretary General wished to point out that the Annex O referred to had been printed in a strange way, on two pages, so that it showed global sponsorship income of CHF 50,000 on the top line, but the result of investment in the Air Games Series did not include FAI global sponsorship. They were not using global sponsorship income for the Air Games Event proposal. The financing was done through the provisions mentioned in the budget, and in the way it was mentioned in Annex O.

Mr NAEGELI pointed out that on page 2 the item "Result including FAI / Global sponsorship" was CHF 50,000.

The Secretary General agreed. CHF 50,000 had been budgeted for global sponsorship income, whereas in fact this figure would be around CHF 68,000.

The President warmly thanked Sergey ANANOV, Andy CHAU and Alicia HIRZEL for their work in the Finance Advisory Group.

Mr BRINK echoed the President's thanks. He noted that the GC had given the FiAG the task of acting as the conscience of the General Conference in financial matters in 2014, and in the succeeding two years they had had many conversations. He as Finance Director, the Secretary General and the EB had received a great deal of information from the FiAG. It was a temporary group, and he would advise the GC to give another mandate to the FiAG for the next year. He felt it was very important for the FAI, particularly with huge projects like the Air Games Series, to have people around to assist and advise and help them move in the right direction. The advisors were used by the Finance Director and the EB, but also in meetings with the ASC and NAC presidents.

## **20.1. Scale of subscriptions**

See **ANNEX 20**

The President drew the delegates' attention to Annex 20.1. The scale of subscriptions was based on the number of air sport persons in their country; members were trusted to give the correct figure.

The members were invited to approve the scale of subscriptions as presented.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that at the moment the total number of votes in the room stood at 353, which meant 177 votes were required for an absolute majority, and 236 were required for a two-thirds qualified majority.

**The motion was carried by 302 votes for, 8 against and 21 abstentions.**

## **20.2. Budget for 2017**

See **ANNEX 21**

The President noted that the members had heard the conclusions of the Finance Advisory Group. The FAI was on the right track in terms of the Air Games Series, albeit somewhat slower than anticipated. The recommendation was to continue along this path. The conference yesterday had approved the principles of the Air Games Series and now they had to approve the financing of it. Revenues for 2017 had been conservatively presented because they were taking into account the reduction of subscription fees, as well as what they knew they would receive. However, with the new

marketing consultancy he was optimistic that they would see more revenues, although as no contracts had yet been signed they were not in the budget.

The members were invited to vote on the motion: "That the budget 2017 as presented in Annex 20.2.2 be approved."

**The motion was carried by 323 votes for, 8 against and 18 abstentions.**

The President noted that the work with the Finance Advisory Group would continue.

## 21. Open Forum

### 21.1. Drones developments (ANNEX 22)

Mr Antonis PAPADOPOULOS began by thanking everyone who had participated in the workshop. The FAI had a twofold role in the drone issue: sporting activities and regulatory activities. On the former, the FAI had been quite proactive in order not to lose this opportunity. There was now a permanent subcommittee called FPV Racing and Similar Activities. They had implemented a set of new rules for the activity, now called F3U, within the subcommittee, which was chaired by Mr Bruno Delor. The FAI EB had been involved in copyrighting the name of the activity and securing legal protection. CIAM had introduced a number of events for 2016: there were already 9 world cup events, and they expected more than 200 FAI licensed participants by the end of the year. This number was far higher than any other sport or activity within CIAM, which was extremely promising, but also challenging. An agreement had been signed with ERSA, a European organisation that had approached CIAM with a view to securing the title of FAI associate event organiser. This was a trial, as there were many similar organisations around the world. There were some problems with the agreement, and discussions were ongoing to establish whether to continue or terminate the association. The wish was to find reliable partners for the future.

The second part was the regulatory framework. Sales of drones was very high, over 15 million for 2015, more than 95% of which were recreational, which gave an idea of the potential. However, the authorities were looking not only at the potential but also at the risks. The FAI had been represented at the meeting of JARUS, an advisory group, which had discussed some of the issues, although for the time being not all of its ruling organisations were agreed on a common strategy. A members' survey had been issued, and around 35 responses had been received, giving a good background. CIAM had asked for a contact point for drone-related issues, but not all NACs had designated a representative. He encouraged the GC delegates to get in touch. It was very important that the members read the messages published on the FAI website, because major issues such as the work on a joint declaration with the EASA were communicated there, and drone issues were moving very quickly.

During the workshop, CIAM had introduced an idea to plan an educational / informational platform established by the FAI, which would have a lot of benefits. This would reflect the FAI's common strategy, which had been discussed at the meeting in Heraklion. A statement had been issued on the contents. This was a working document, but the outline was available if anyone wished to contribute. Drones also represented an opportunity to attract new practitioners to air sports. They had to consider that those currently involved with drones or FPV racing were not from the usual aeromodelling activities – they tended to come from video games or other arenas. In order to attract them they had to use modern marketing activities. CIAM would discuss with Tony Webb what was appropriate and what they had to do in order not to miss this opportunity. The FAI had many rules and procedures, which might not be capable of dealing with the reality on the ground. They had to respect their rules but they also needed to be flexible. They had to organise attractive events for competitors and spectators and the media. If they could attract big name sponsors (Amazon, for example, was looking to work with drones) this would be a good opportunity.

Looking ahead, they had to decide on the next steps and work together to follow the FAI common strategy on this issue.

The Secretary General noted that they were currently in contact with many entities, investors, sports organisations and event organisers for drone racing, in order to see how the FAI could stay on top of developments. She appreciated the close collaboration with CIAM on this matter. It had recently been announced that a world drone conference was being planned for 2017, to cover the topics of sport, contacts with manufacturers and issues with regulators.

## **21.2. Electrically powered planes**

Mr Pierre DUVAL (EnvC President) wished to clarify his remarks from the previous day. He had mentioned 2029 – in 1929 Charles Lindberg had flown from New York to Paris in 33 hours. Bertrand Piccard's recent record would be very difficult to beat. They were therefore planning a re-enactment, and they wanted the FAI to be behind it, and set out the rules for people to be able to beat previous records.

## **22. Regional Developments**

The Secretary General introduced Agúst GUDMUNDSSON, portfolio holder in the Executive Board on this topic. A letter had been sent to the Olympic Council of Asia regarding the recognition of an organisation, and she urged the members to take note of this information. On a general note, in the past month they had discussed the status of international affiliate members within the FAI. These were defined as an international organisation concerned with aeronautics or astronautics that had been elected to membership of the FAI. In parallel with this, in recent years there had been discussion of a regional management system. As part of this they had also introduced regional vice-presidents, with varying levels of success, and they had to note that as of today the definition of the regions and continents in the FAI were not really consistent. They had a range of international affiliate members, two of which were internationally active, including OSTIV, which was mainly dedicated to research into gliding and aviation. The second was the online contest, a platform for post-flight results around the world in various disciplines, mainly gliding but also paragliding, hang gliding and aeromodelling. They had a number of international affiliate members with a regional scope, and they were seeing the development of two organisations in Asia who were working on the promotion of air sports. The EB had intensively considered the matter, and the proposal was to go back to the original intent of international affiliate members, while at the same time bringing these organisations into contact and connection with the FAI by giving them the status of an officially recognised organisation. This was why they proposed the changes as indicated in the Memoranda of Understanding (annex distributed before the General Conference). As a consequence of this proposal they would also ask the GC to approve that the Air Sports Federation of Asia (AFA) be recognised by the FAI.

Mr Agúst GUDMUNDSSON reported that regional management had been an issue for many years within the FAI. A few years ago a regional vice-president system had been put in place, which was working in one region but not in the others. Africa and Asia were both defined regions within the FAI, but there was also the Arab Air Sports Federation, which overlapped with both. It was good to observe the growth in Asia, which was one of the most active regions for the FAI. From a business perspective, Asia was the biggest new market for the FAI, and they should make sure that things were being done properly there. The proposal was to take the existing MOA of these international affiliate members with regional scope (South America, Africa, Arab and Asia) and make them recognised rather than affiliate members.

Mr HACHAMI noted that he had spoken with a representative of South Africa, who had said he was not concerned with North Africa, only with the sub-equatorial regions. He also was not aware of what was going on north of the equator. They needed clarification on this, and perhaps try to have close contact with the regional vice-presidents, in order to try to cover the whole continent, and be more efficient in terms of North Africa, which the representative thought was considered part of the European region. They should find ways to develop air sport in Africa.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON replied that the FAI had established a system of regional vice-presidents for a limited period of two years, with three regional vice-presidents: one for South America, one for Africa

and one for South and East Asia. This system had not worked in Africa or South America, so the appointment of FAI regional vice-presidents had only been renewed for South and East Asia, and there were now no regional vice-presidents in Africa or South America. He welcomed any comments on this issue.

Mr HACHAMI asked what Mr GUDMUNDSSON would suggest as a solution for Africa.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON responded that the next FAI EB would have to work on this issue, because it was very important to move forward with this. It was possible that they would not continue along the same path. The proposal for the international affiliate members was one step in reforming the situation. He hoped that improving this would be put forward as a proposal for next year's General Conference.

A representative of Saudi Arabia noted that the new proposal stated that they had no right to vote. Had this been changed? Also, he asked if the proposal included new names of the federations, or would they remain the same?

Mr GUDMUNDSSON replied that, in terms of voting, the situation remained the same. The proposal was just to change the relationship with the FAI, from affiliate to recognised. The names also remained the same. The memorandum given provided an example of the changes that would be applied to all the regional organisations. The General Conference was being asked for approval to take the steps to change the existing agreements. If approved, the matter would be taken up with each individual association, and the agreement would be renewed. The current arrangements would remain in place, with the exception of the word "international affiliate", which would be changed to "recognised".

Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS noted that these organisations had been voted for in a General Conference to become international affiliate members. Were they resigning that membership? Had they agreed to this change of status? Otherwise there were appropriate procedures for revocation of membership.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON noted that they were now seeking permission to take the steps to change the agreements. The memorandum of agreement for those federations had been approved by the FAI, and they were proposing to make a change to those agreements, which required GC approval.

The Secretary General noted that a process had been defined within the Memoranda as to how to do this, but first they needed the approval of the GC.

H.E. Yousif AL HAMMADI was unclear whether it was a good idea to terminate these agreements, especially with these international organisations. The UAE had benefited a great deal from its association with Asiana. His recommendation would be to take more time to study the issue properly, and perhaps vote at the next GC.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON said that it was absolutely not the intention to terminate the agreements. The intention was to update the memorandum of agreement with a change of terminology.

The President saw it as an upgrade.

A representative of India asked if this exercise represented an elevation for these institutions, or was it something else?

The President replied that it was merely a change of wording in the memorandum of agreement.

The representative of India asked what was the effect of the different wording. Were there hidden consequences?

Mr GUDMUNDSSON replied that currently the status of international affiliate members was not very clear. This move was part of reviewing and reforming the regional structure of the FAI, because it was not clear what status the affiliate members had within their region. Asiana was doing a great job with parachuting in Asia, but to be clear the FAI was the highest air sports authority, and this included all regions.

The representative of India noted that in this case he would second the recommendation of the UAE representative. They should consider looking at it in another way, with the FAI including the regions as members, with a block of votes. In terms of the Indian context, his organisation had been an FAI member for a very long time. Unfortunately, for various reasons, air sports had not acquired the status in India they should have. The FAI had always been supportive, but unfortunately its patronage had not helped. For example, trained judges in India were not invited to other international events, for obvious reasons of affordability. As a result, nothing had really happened. Asiana was now 13 years old. It was supported by the FAI and many non-Asian countries. Asiana had organised 17 competitions, involving more than 2000 participants. They had run 10 judges' courses and 150 judges had been trained, all in parachuting. If this was done for all other air sports, it would be excellent for the air sports community. His request was to look at this in a positive way, with a view to establishing how to strengthen everyone else. The basic structure of the FAI and the NACs was as non-profit bodies. Of course, they needed money to run their events, but business was general discussed in terms of revenue and expenditure. He thought they needed to translate this terminology into bringing more participants into air sports, with the FAI as the undisputed governing body, and it should recognise good work and merit and nothing else.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON wished to correct the assumption that the FAI wished to terminate anything. This was absolutely not the case. Asiana had done a great job with parachuting in the Asia region. The FAI wanted to continue that. The idea that the regions could be involved in a different way, as members with voting rights, was an interesting one, and the EB welcomed any ideas. The next EB had the task of reviewing the regional issues, to ensure that the FAI could offer more support. Many Asian countries were starting out in air sports; what kind of support did they get from the FAI? Did the FAI have a template, or best practices on how to form a NAC or association, and run air sports within a country? In fact, the FAI was not helpful enough, and could do more to support new countries, as well as Asiana and others. They had to take steps to make the structure more transparent and easier to understand. Currently, the definition of international affiliate members was very unclear, which is why they were taking steps to change it.

The representative of India noted that he had been associated with the FAI for the last 20 years. They had worked with the IOC from the beginning, and it was a dream that their sports be included in the Olympic programme. They had not been successful in this so far. India was not yet at the same stage as, say, France. If there was a success with any of the member institutions or non-member institutions, as long as it meant their sports getting inducted into something like the Olympic Games, he thought they should all encourage it. If at the apex level there had to be an interaction, let it be between the FAI and the IOC, and not at the regional or national level.

The President noted that the IOC used the term "recognised organisation" rather than affiliate member. It was an upgrade, a clarification and an adjustment to the terminology used by the Olympic movement.

A representative of the IPC noted that since parachuting was very much connected with the Asiana issue he had some doubts that the change of wording would change the memorandum they currently had. The intended cancellation of the memorandum was based on the fact that the leadership was no longer a delegate of a NAC. If this was the case, changing the name would not help. He agreed with the international aspect of the proposal, but the changes should be made regardless of the structure of the organisation.

The Secretary General responded that that was not the reason for this action, the two issues were not connected.

Mr Jean-Claude WEBER noted that an FAI recognised organisation was not defined anywhere in their constitution, whereas affiliate membership was. Affiliate members had duties and rights, and were approved by the General Conference. Recognised members did not have to be approved by the GC; they could be admitted by the EB without any input from the GC. He wondered if it was the intention not to affect the existing affiliate members, but only future memoranda.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON confirmed that it applied to existing affiliate members.

Mr WEBER understood that they were therefore removing the membership of the affiliate members.



Mr GUDMUNDSSON explained that the intention was to change their status. This was why the approval of the GC was required.

The President asked the delegates not to look on this issue as taking anything away. They were upgrading both the recognition question as well as modernising their nomenclature to make it congruent with the use of other sports federations and the Olympic movement.

Mr GUDMUNDSSON noted that this was exactly in line with how the IOC handled regional membership.

The General Conference was invited to vote on the motion to change the status of International Affiliate Members with a regional scope to that of an FAI recognized organisation with the same rights and responsibilities as before.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that the number of votes required for this absolute majority vote was 178.

**The motion carried.**

Ms Elsa MAI said it was her understanding that these affiliate members would now be called recognised organisations. Given that this new name was not defined in the Statutes, would they also need to change the Statutes, to give them the same status? Otherwise these members would now be left with no definition.

Mr Bob HENDERSON noted that he had spent the last 18 months working on the FAI's constitution and documents, which had been created by Max Bishop in 1995. They were now at the point where a complete review had been completed, and he was working with the Statutes Working Group. All the adjustments that had been made in this General Conference would be included in that work going forward, with a view to presenting a full set of documents to the next GC for approval. The definition would therefore be changed, along with a number of issues.

## **23. Special Achievements**

### **23.1. Fedor KONYUKHOV (solo round-the-world balloon flight)**

Mr Sergey ANANOV introduced a short presentation on Fedor Konyukhov's challenge. The first challenge had been completed in 1999 by Bertrand PICCARD and Brian JONES: 40,000 km in 19 days from Switzerland to Egypt. In 2002 Steven FOSSETT had started and finished in Australia, but FOSSETT had taken 13 days and KONYUKHOV 11 days. Mr ANANOV displayed some comparative data about the two flights.

### **23.2. Solar Impulse – Team (round-the-world flight solar powered)**

The Secretary General brought personal greetings from Bertrand PICCARD, who was currently in Chicago. His new project on solar-powered drones should bring satellite transmission and internet to remote regions of the world. Mr PICCARD was an FAI patron and was involved in supporting the FAI, along with André BORSCHBERG, and had worked for many years to get a solar-powered plane to fly around the world. The project had begun with a take-off from Abu Dhabi in March 2015, and the round-the-world flight had ended in July 2016, after an unscheduled stop in Hawaii due to technical problems. Several FAI world records had been set, including altitude, and longest distance covered in one flight. She finished the report with a brief video.

### **23.3. Gennadi Ivanovich PADALKA (most days in space)**

The President was very pleased to welcome Mr Gennadi PADALKA, holder of the Yuri Gagarin medal and cosmonaut record-holder.

Mr Gennadi PADALKA gave a video presentation, during which he recounted his personal experiences from some of his recent flights on the International Space Station.

The President noted that it was a fantastic honour to have such an amazing odyssey of life, with 879 days in space.

## 24. FAI Anti-Doping Programme

Mr Robert HENDERSON introduced the FAI Anti-Doping Manager, Mrs Ségolène ROUILLON, to report on the activities for the last year. They were tidying up their processes, especially the handling of adverse analytical findings, and working with colleagues in the Anti-Doping Advisory Group.

Mrs Ségolène ROUILLON talked through the presentation on the 2016 situation of the FAI's anti-doping programme. She noted that FAI was not the only body to conduct tests at FAI national championships. Doping control officers might be acting on behalf of the National Olympic Committee, National Anti-Doping Organisation or WADA itself. The FAI had experienced one anti-doping rule violation in 2016, and as a result they had decided to clarify the protocols for dealing with these situations. In the coming weeks, the members would receive a paper entitled "Anti-doping protocols", which would inform them in detail about the procedure the FAI followed in the event of an ADRV.

She referred the members to a statement (**ANNEX 23**) that clarified the relationship between the IOC and WADA, and helped to explain the various reasons why the FAI conducted anti-doping tests.

Some concerns had arisen this year: the FAI considered alcohol as a performance-enhancing drug. On the WADA list, alcohol was one of the substances that was only valid for four sports, on demand. WADA now considered alcohol to be more a safety issue than performance-enhancing. The FAI's anti-doping advisory group disagreed with this, and was currently discussing with WADA the possibility of keeping alcohol on the list. There were also concerns about the way the out-of-competition programme was being conducted. It was less onerous for athletes, but increased the risk of athletes not being found, which had budgetary consequences, as well as being stressful for the athletes. The situation was under discussion with the European director, with a view to withdrawing completely from the out-of-competition testing programme. There was scientific evidence that, in positive doping case, athletes were not using long-term substances. The FAI would prefer to increase testing in-competition.

Mr Rainer HOENLE asked if SportAccord could subcontract doping controls to another company, which could also subcontract?

Mrs ROUILLON explained that the DFSU was a department, not a company, but they did subcontract the testing. However, they always acted on behalf of the FAI.

The delegate asked how they avoided a situation where an athlete was tested multiple times in a row, sometimes nationally and sometimes internationally.

Mrs ROUILLON replied that the FAI did not test athletes more than twice a year. They relied on the ADAMS system, but the situation was difficult. Usually, the NADOs informed the FAI when they were going to test an FAI athlete, but not for out-of-competition tests. There was no real procedure.

The delegate asked if there was a possibility to link the national with the international organisations.

Mrs ROUILLON did not think there was any discussion of delegating on a national level.

Mr Bob HENDERSON explained that the FAI as an international federation had an obligation to conduct testing, as did WADA and the NADOs. Those three obligations did not intersect. They would like to have a system that told them who had been tested and what the result was, but this information was not available from the WADA system.

Mrs ROUILLON added that, if a NADO sent a doping control officer to an FAI event, they would test only their national athletes, unless the FAI had asked them to do the job, which was sometimes possible.

Mr HENDERSON said he was very proud of the work being done on anti-doping by Mrs ROUILLON. He also asked members to remember that this was not just about preventing inappropriate use of medication to enhance performance; it was also about protecting athletes' health.

## 25. Membership Survey

Mrs Gill RAYNER (Executive Director) explained that the Membership Survey (**ANNEX 24**) had been carried out over the last two years with the help of Mrs Ségolène ROUILLON. The General Conference had seen an interim report last year, and she was now presenting the final results.

The President asked those NACs that were not recognised by their National Olympic Committee to take steps to secure recognition. They could use as an argument the fact that the FAI was recognised by the IOC. He had been told by an OCA representative that the OCA insisted that participants in the Asian Games were recognised by their NOC.

Mr Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBÓN had a comment regarding the proliferation of types of air sports. Those NACs that did not have all of the air sports under their control were doing a disservice to everyone else. As owners, they would have to deal with rights, if the FAI was successful in commercialising its events. In order to do this, they would have to nail down their rights, and the only way to do this was to make sure that all the air sports activities in their country were under their effective control, either directly or through delegation of sporting powers. They should take this very seriously and correct the situation as quickly as possible.

Mr Jean-Claude WEBER asked if these results would be published.

Mrs RAYNER replied that the presentation could be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

## 26. Commission Reports

### ***FAI Gliding Commission (IGC) – ANNEX 25***

Mr Eric MOZER (IGC President) highlighted the commission's 2016 activities. The World Junior Championships and IGC Plenary had been hosted wonderfully by Luxembourg. They had held three other Cat 1 events, the World Gliding Championships in the various classes, in Lithuania. The World Sailplane Grand Prix final would take place in Potchefstroom, South Africa, in November. 2017 activities would include the 8th series of the Grand Prix, ten qualifying events, and the final in Santiago, Chile in January 2018. The plenary session would be hosted by Hungary in March. The various women's and juniors' world championships would be held in the Czech Republic and Hungary.

A championship structure working group had been implemented to look at the commission's activities and ensure they maintained their relevance over the next ten years. That report had just been received and would be considered by the plenary in Budapest. They had added the 13.5 metre class, an all-electric self-launch, and there would be world championships for self-launching electric sailplanes. The sailplane grand prix was in its tenth year and he believed the product was in a position to take the next step. The commission was working hard in anticipation of the Air Games Series, looking positively at creating a gliding event. He believed the event they used in Dubai would be a good option for potential organisers. Sailplanes were visually exciting, and the competitors made great spokesmen for aviation for the media and the public. The events were easily explainable, and the goal was to give the FAI another arrow in its quiver for providing value to potential sponsors. Challenges were working in concert with the other ASCs and the FAI to create effective display and real-time scoring capabilities. There was a great deal to learn from other events. Finance would have to be unearthed for equipment, officials, pilots and for creating the display techniques. A great deal had been learned at the WAG but this was a first step towards the future. The new 13.5 metre electric

class represented an open book in terms of how to develop a competition and world championship. In the future they would have to bring the sailplane grand prix to the next level, and find resources to bring in a professional person to move things forward. He concluded with a series of photos and videos from the WAG in Dubai.

### ***International Scientific and Technical Organisation for Soaring Flight (OSTIV) – ANNEX 26***

Mr Goetz BRAMESFELD noted that OSTIV President Rolf Radespiel was unable to attend the GC. OSTIV had existed since 1948. Over the last year the board had met four times. OSTIV was now registered as a non-profit organisation in Germany, the main reason being to allow it have a PayPal account for members to pay their fees. There had also been a change in the board of directors: John Ashford had passed away a little over a year ago, and they had a new observer who had not yet been officially appointed to the board: Jared Robertson of New Zealand. OSTIV's main purpose was to promote research into motorless flight. They also had a technical journal, which now had a new editor after five years, as well as an associate editor who helped with online subscriptions. Two weeks previously, the Sailplane Development Panel had met in Bern and elected a new chair. At the same time, cooperation had been established between OSTIV and IASA, which used OSTIV a lot to formulate certification rulings for sailplanes. A major point of discussion had been the new 13.5 metre class, and how to define the class in terms of maximum take-off weight, wing loading etc. Another major issue for OSTIV was crash-worthiness. OSTIV also had a training and safety panel, which was currently relatively inactive and looking to recruit members. There was also a meteorological panel, in which participation was welcome. For a number of years OSTIV had had an OSTIV-track at the Soaring Society of the Americas Convention, which had been successful and useful for recruiting new members. A big upcoming event for OSTIV was the 33rd Congress in Benalla Australia in January, in conjunction with the World Gliding Championship. Around 40 technical and scientific papers had been registered at this point.

### ***FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)***

Mr Jean-Claude WEBER noted that the CIA President Mr Mike Sullivan had been unable to come for health reasons. To summarise the recent activities of the CIA, the plenary had been held in Mallorca, Spain. Major competitions included the airship championships in Germany, hot air balloon women's world championships, the third junior world championship in Lithuania, and the Gordon Bennett in Germany. He was very grateful for the excellent input provided for this from FAI head office, in communication and public relations. In two weeks' time the hot air balloon world championship would take place in Japan. The CIA had had a very successful participation in the World Air Games, with both air ships and balloons, and all the competitors had been very pleased. Two youth camps had taken place, one in the USA and one in Europe, so efforts to bring young people into ballooning were continuing. In terms of technical development, they were working on loggers, which they gave to competition organisers. They were very successful, and 90% of competitions were now run with these loggers. An effort had also been initiated to get new event formats going. There had been a very serious ballooning accident this year, which, although it had involved a commercial balloon operator, had affected the sport as a whole. The next plenary would take place in Hong Kong. He concluded by thanking the FAI head office and Secretary General for their help during the year.

### ***FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC) – ANNEX 27 + 27b***

Mr HOENLE (IPC President) noted that important activities in 2016 had included the world championships in Ottawa, with more than 700 competitors from 5 continents. Activities were also taking place in the wind tunnel in Warsaw, Poland, where they had 96 teams competing in formation skydiving and artistic events. Activities planned for the future included parachuting, and the wingsuit world championships in the USA, with more than 100 competitors currently registered. Parachuting had had some positive results over the year, including a couple of world records and many continental records, and a skyrocket from Sweden. Parachuting had no problems, only solutions.

## 27. Election of FAI President

The President noted that, according to Article 6.1 of the Statutes, the FAI President would be elected for a two-year term. He gave the floor to the nominee, Mr Frits BRINK.

Mr Frits BRINK referred to the presentation given the day before by the President of the National Aero Club of the Netherlands, Mr Ronald SCHNITKER, and the letter he had sent to all the delegates about his plans and ideas for the presidency and the FAI organisation as a whole. However, he wished to add some personal details. He had been a member of the FAI EB for four years, and he was a past president of the Royal Netherlands Aeronautical Association, the Netherlands Olympic Committee and Netherlands Basketball Federation. It was easy for him to travel to Lausanne, which was an advantage, and to anywhere else in the world. He was nearly always available, and he had realised that the job of FAI President represented a significant time commitment. In terms of sport, he had experienced many sports. He had competed in cycling and horse riding, as well as being a board member of a number of sports organisations. His professional background was as a senior police officer. He had been educated in the Netherlands and partly in the UK and the USA, at the FBI Academy. For 17 years he had been mayor of three cities. He had been chairman of a national broadcasting organisation, CEO of a healthcare organisation and a pension fund board member. He had known his wife for 46 years, and they had two sons and three grandchildren. Air sports were sensational and exciting, particularly for the coming generation. Air sports were the cradle for commercial aviation, and there was an easy link to youngsters because they were comfortable using technical devices, which was a chance for the FAI to get young people on board. They needed to generate more interest in their sports, which was why in the future they would have to use new online services, onboard cameras, online results and track and trace systems. Distribution of post-event coverage and live footage of their events was vital, particularly to their sponsors. Looking towards the horizon, the starting point would always be the FAI's mission statement. They needed to fulfil this goal, and they needed the Air Sports Commissions and the NACs to strengthen each other. They needed to combine their forces, because together they were stronger. They needed to empower their national aero clubs. The FAI was a facilitator to empower the national aero clubs. ASCs were responsible for competitions and records; they were the FAI's showcase. The NACs were their global network. They needed to increase the attractiveness of their event formats, and develop a fan-centric strategy to bind new air sports men and women, and to convince present and future sponsors that they could offer an extraordinary product. They also faced some threats, for example with airspace availability and environmental regulations. Air sports facilities were under pressure. Another threat was how to attract new air sports men and women. The FAI needed to be the interlocutor with officials and a negotiator in their respective countries; this could be a way of dealing with some of these threats. They had to work together with all the international sports federations and cooperate with commercial partners. One new challenge was electric planes. He was happy they had discussed the FAI structure. The FAI had been founded in Europe but had expanded rapidly into a global organisation. There were very promising developments in South America, Asia, China and it was important they find a new way to accommodate these developments within the FAI structure. He strongly believed that strategy and marketing were the future of the FAI. The Air Games Event Series was very important, and he strongly believed in this concept. The FAI should continue to play a role within the international sports federations, and maintain a very close relationship with the IOC. He called upon everyone to help him and one another to fulfil a major task in the world. It had been the struggle of the world to get more leisure, but it was left for the FAI to show how to use it.

The President thanked Mr Brink and asked him to leave the room for the election process.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that, according to Article 6.1.1.2 of the Statutes, this was an absolute majority vote for members only (not Commission presidents). There were two voting possibilities: yes and abstain.

Mr Frederik Brink received an absolute majority of 245 votes.

**The FAI General Conference elected Mr Frits Brink as its President for a two-year term.**

## 28. Presentation of Candidates to serve on FAI Executive Board

The candidates for positions on the FAI Executive Board were each invited to make a brief presentation, to supplement the resumes provided earlier during the year.

Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS (CAN / Canada)

Mr Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBÓN (ESP / Spain)

Mrs Gillian RAYNER (FRA / France)

Mr Agúst GUDMUNDSSON (ISL / Iceland)

Mr Berat BEJTULLAHU (KOS / Kosovo) was not present.

Mr Jean-Claude WEBER (LUX / Luxembourg)

Mr Robert HENDERSON (NZL / New Zealand)

Mr Bengt LINDGREN (SWE / Sweden)

## 29. Election of Executive Directors to serve on FAI Executive Board

The President noted that there were six positions to be filled, and eight candidates.

Mr LEINIKKI showed a slide noting the current number of votes present in the room. This vote required a simple majority of votes cast. If more candidates received a majority than there were places available, the candidates with the most votes would be elected. Delegates could vote for up to six names.

The President of Honour noted that of the eight candidates, one was not present in person, and his country was not represented. He wondered if this was normal.

The President replied that it was not normal, but it was the situation they had.

The total number of votes cast was 340, which meant that a simple majority required 171 votes.

**The candidates elected were Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS, Mr Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBÓN, Mr Agúst GUDMUNDSSON, Mr Jean-Claude WEBER, Mr Robert HENDERSON and Mr Bengt LINDGREN.**

## 30. Commission Reports

### ***FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG) – ANNEX 28 + 28b***

Mr Jacques BERLO (CIG President) presented his report, listing the major events of 2016. He explained the commission's objectives for the next two years and noted the commission's major upcoming events. He concluded his presentation with a short video on the World Helicopter Championship in Poland.

### ***FAI Astronautic Records Commission (ICARE)***

The Secretary General gave a short report on behalf of the President of ICARE, Mr Anu OJHA, who was currently travelling on other business. A meeting had been held in April to discuss the matter of stratonautic records. There had also been a proposal from Mr OjHa to include a diploma for outstanding performance in astronautics in the FAI by-laws (paragraph 7.9.5), to be applied to all astronauts, cosmonauts and taikonauts travelling into space as part of a government programme, who underwent thorough training and preparation. In the future they would receive a diploma for

outstanding performance in astronautics on an automatic basis. The commission was further looking into commercial relations with space exploration.

### ***FAI Amateur-built and Experimental Aircraft Commission (CIACA) – ANNEX 29+29b***

Mr Alfons HUBMANN (CIACA President) gave a summary of the commission's activities, its search for new technologies and power sources, some competition records, sporting codes, awards and youth educational programmes. Out of 100 NACs, only around 30 NACs had sent delegates to the commission, but he realised that this was largely because only the bigger NACs had separate entities for building aircraft. The commission's main focus had been on new technologies and power sources. New materials had made it possible to set many records for human powered flight. However, because these records were generally produced by universities, which were not NAC members, they did not generally come back to CIACA. It had been his great pleasure to be involved in Solar Impulse, which was now complete. They were now looking for new projects. Electricity had many advantages in flying. The high efficiency factor of the engine was very important; they had low emissions, low vibrations, no power loss at altitude, and longer maintenance intervals. There were a number of competitions in the field, but they tended to be national and regional, and not part of the FAI, but this was something they wanted to improve. CIACA had also presented a number of awards. At the WAG in Dubai nearly 1000 children had visited the CIACA tent as part of the commission's educational and social initiatives. Youth initiatives were also a part of many of the CIACA fly-ins around the world.

### ***FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI) – ANNEX***

Mrs Alicia HIRZEL wished to thank Mr Graeme WINDSOR for his successful 6-year presidency of CASI, as well as Buzz Bennett, his first vice-president. The good news for 2016 was that there had been no international appeals necessary. Pierre Duval and Sergey Ananov had also produced the new environmental policy and code, which would be published on the FAI website. It was very important to demonstrate environmental protection. At CASI meetings there had been lively discussion between the 10 NACs represented, as well as the ASCs, about major issues that would be discussed at future meetings. They had decided to set up three working groups; the first was on sporting licences. There had been an issue over how much they should cost, how easily available they should be and what they were for. There had been a great deal of input from all the participants in the meeting, and the working group would work on recommendations for presentation in 2017. The second working group was for CIACA classes, and it would be joined by the FAI Secretary General. They would also consider the historical records that had already been set. Another important issue was the jury handbook, which had been written by Jean-Claude Weber, and had already proved useful in some new situations. The commission had been asked to check how new kinds of competition could be fitted in, and had been approached on the topic of UAVs, since not all championship competitors had licences. The FAI head office had asked for clarification of the role of official observers. She invited all new and former members of CASI to join her 15 minutes after the end of this meeting to hold the elections of the new CASI President, bureau and working groups.

### ***FAI Microlight and Paramotor Commission (CIMA) – ANNEX 30***

Mr Wolfgang LINTL noted that CIMA was very proud to be part of the World Games in Poland in 2017. Although a challenge, the opportunity to show paramotor sport to a wider audience was an important chance for the FAI to take the next step into the future. They needed to be entertaining, with a presentation that was easy for non-aviators to understand, quick results and visibility for the public and media. Income from such visible sports could help to finance the more traditional competitions. New formats were needed because, in the long term, the traditional way of running competitions would not attract enough participants. CIMA therefore strongly supported the current EB strategy in branding and new sport events. This was also a challenge for competitors. He showed a video to illustrate what CIMA could bring to such events.

After one year as commission president he was frustrated. Those who were able and selected for positions within the commission were mostly old, male and overloaded with work. Most of them were

reactive. Officials mostly communicated to give inputs or answers only at the last moment, and there was low interest. He had attended commission plenaries for more than 15 years; nearly 60 countries had nominated delegates and alternates, but more than half of those nations' national representatives had never attended a CIMA plenary. If a commission faced extra challenges, such as being part of the World Air Games, it needed more work by volunteers in addition to the regular workload, which seemed to be too much.

Every commission was confronted with the same task in respect of organising events, performing calculations, having loggers, looking for live tracking etc. Meetings like CASI or the General Conference provided opportunities to exchange ideas and find ways to cooperate. However, he was not optimistic about winning this battle. His experience was that every competition organiser tried to reinvent the wheel – how could they stop this waste of time and money?

In terms of the FAI's anti-doping policy, he knew the sport was not like athletics or cycling, but the FAI had accepted the anti-doping rules and this was the way forward. At the Olympics in Brazil it had been possible to find out instantly if there had been a positive test, but in aviation this was impossible. He had learned that some testing procedures differed between the FAI and Olympic sports, but as a commission president and a pilot he would like to be actively informed by the administration about any positive tests as early as possible. The recent proposal by the Executive Board did not satisfy him. This was not merely a matter of curiosity; he felt that the competitors should be made aware that tests were carried out, and that there were consequences.

## **31. Multisport Events**

### **31.1. FAI's participation in World Games 2017**

Mr Markus HAGGENEY (FAI Sports & Events Director) began his report (**ANNEX 31**) with a short video. He noted that World Games were seen as a sort of gateway to the Olympic Games. The 2017 World Games in Poland would feature five International Federations that would be participating in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. The FAI's three competing disciplines were listed as "trend sports", which was a compliment for a federation that was 110 years old. A young indoor skydiver had been selected as the ambassador for air sports in Poland. Mr HAGGENEY gave some practical details about the FAI's participation. The three disciplines were Canopy Piloting, Glider Aerobatics and Paramotors, involving a total of 66 athletes and 32 officials. A great deal of work had gone on within the commission to develop coherent selection criteria for the athletes, and the final outcomes would be available at the plenary meetings of the ASCs involved. The IWGA had high expectations of the participating federations, which was to be welcomed as a way of pushing them all closer to the standard of the Olympics.

The FAI had put in place a support programme of CHF 50,000, largely for the officials travelling to Poland. He noted that there was also the possibility of having drone racing at the World Games as a demonstration sport.

### **31.2. FAI's participation in Asian Games 2018 in Indonesia**

Mr Agust GUDMUNDSSON noted that multi-sport games were becoming increasingly important for the FAI. There were the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia, the World Beach Games in 2017, the Asian Beach Games in 2018 and the SEA Games in 2017 and 2019. The FAI was trying to make sure that air sports were part of them. They had received confirmation that 2018 Asian Games would include air sports, and the NAC of Indonesia would be responsible for the air sports part of this. These were all highly media-friendly games, which was why it was important for the FAI to continue to develop their competition formats, with online scoring.



## **32. Amendments to Statutes**

See **ANNEX 32 + 32b**

### **32.1. Objectives, Functions and Responsibilities of the FAI**

Mrs Mary Anne STEVENS (Chair of the Statutes Working Group) explained that the first change concerned the Objectives, Functions and Responsibilities of the FAI, and was meant to address the issue of multi-sports games.

- Statutes 1.3

The representative of India asked what was the advantage of including the new clause 1.3.5. Why over-legislate?

Mrs STEVENS replied that it was becoming more common for the FAI to be involved in events that were not specifically air sports events, and this change was intended to clarify its role in such multi-sports events.

Mr. WEBER asked why no specific reference to the World Air Games was included here. In this way it would be anchored in the Statutes, in case they wanted to legally protect the designation.

The Secretary General responded that they had protected “air games” but were not able to protect “World Air Games”. The former was in any case more comprehensive.

There was no request for a secret vote.

#### **The General Conference approved the changes to Statutes 1.3.**

Mrs STEVENS explained that they had received some feedback on whether they should define “multi-sport competition”, an issue that had already come up at the CASI meeting earlier in the week. The Statutes Working Group had been prepared to propose a definition today, but the Plenary did not have sufficient active member representation to vote on a statute change that was not distributed earlier. The issue would be considered another time.

### **32.2. Composition and Election of CASI**

Mrs STEVENS explained that the aim of the next proposed change was to align the number of Active Members of CASI with the number of Air Sports Commissions, as originally intended when the CASI was created. The number of Air Sports Commissions had been increased from ten to eleven, so this proposal increased the number of active members accordingly.

- Statute 5.2.3.2.7.1

Mr LEINIKKI pointed out that this was an absolute majority vote.

The result was 275 for, 15 against and 2 abstentions

#### **The General Conference approved the changes to Statute 5.2.3.2.7.1.**

- Statute 5.2.3.2.8

Mrs STEVENS explained that the final item, which was consequential to the previous amendment, dealt with the procedure for electing members to CASI. Previously the clause dealt with five members at a time, making a total of ten. The proposed amendment would alternate between five members one year and six members the next. They had hoped to suggest that this amendment take effect immediately, in order to rectify the imbalance in CASI, however there were not sufficient active members present to make the change and bring it into effect.

Mr Mike CLOSE pointed out that, with the vote not being put in place immediately, there would be five members of CASI elected at this meeting. On an alternate basis, the statute would become active on 1 January, which was why he believed that six members should be elected in 2017, whereas the proposal specified five. Under this scenario, CASI would not have its full eleven members until 2018.

He therefore suggested that the proposed amendment be changed so that the second line read: "beginning with six members in 2017."

The President asked if there was someone to second this motion.

The motion was duly seconded.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that this item required a two-thirds majority of active members present or represented, which meant at least 162 votes.

The President invited the members to vote on the proposed statute change with the suggested correction in line 2.

**The General Conference approved the changes to Statute 5.2.3.2.8 with the amendment proposed by Mr Close by 304 votes for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.**

The FAI President thanked Ms Mary Anne STEVENS and the Statutes Working Group for their excellent work.

He noted that that it was wonderful to have a group of experts to spend time reviewing what improvements could be made to their rather complex Statutes.

### **33. Proposals from NACs**

#### **33.1. Proposal by NAC United Arab Emirates UAE**

This proposal had been withdrawn.

### **34. Appointment of FAI Companion(s) of Honour**

The President had the pleasure and honour to nominate Mr Graeme WINDSOR, past president of the IPC and CASI, to be an FAI Companion of Honour. He was extremely enthusiastic, and sometimes controversial, which was as it should be.

The President had also nominated Dr Jürgen KNÜPPEL, president of honour of the CIMP. He was hardworking and dedicated to aviation medicine. The main reason for his nomination was the fact that he had been instrumental in putting the first FAI Medical Conference in Dubai in place. This was an enormously important starting point for future medical conferences, and had been a huge success.

**The two candidates for appointment as FAI Companions of Honour were unanimously approved by the General Conference.**

The General Conference gave them both a warm round of applause.

### **35. Vote on Award of 112<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference 2018**

The President noted that the delegates had heard the bid from Egypt, and the matter would now proceed to a vote. Should the vote not pass, the "no" vote would mean that the issue was referred to the Executive Board, as had been the case the previous year. Personally, he thought it was an excellent bid, and it had the support of the EB.

Mr LEINIKKI noted that this was a simple majority vote, which required 177 "yes" votes to carry.

**The motion passed.**

A representative of Egypt thanked everyone for their trust. He was sure they would all have a very good time at the 2018 FAI General Conference.

## **36. Any Other Business**

### ***Kuwait***

A representative of Kuwait thanked the General Conference for inviting the Kuwait Air Sports Committee to the FAI. Kuwait had planned many events and activities that depended on membership of the FAI, which would help to develop aviation in Kuwait. In March a local event would take place, which he invited everyone to come and watch.

### ***Saudi Arabia***

Mr. Al JAWINI wished, on behalf of his delegation, to thank the President for his leadership over the past few years, and the good offices he had provided with the wonderful Executive Board. He also thanked the EB and the Secretary General for their hard work. He offered his congratulations to the new President and the new Executive Board. He congratulated Egypt, and looked forward to a wonderful General Conference in Luxor.

### ***The President***

The President wished to say a few words about the last six years. They had had some major achievements, perhaps the biggest being to appoint the new Secretary General. They had a new staff, who made a great team. One of the first things he had done as President was to sign the contract for the new head office, which was in a perfect location and had put the FAI at the centre of the world of sport. Soon after, a new website had been set up. They had Breitling on board, as well as DHL, and a number of service providers. Things were looking pretty good. Much of this was thanks to the active social media communication strategy. One of the greater recent achievements had been the incredibly successful World Air Games, for which he thanked the Emirates Air Sports Federation. He thanked the Executive Board for their wonderful cooperation. He extended his warmest gratitude to Gill RAYNER. He also expressed the gratitude of the FAI to the Indonesian Air Sports Federation for arranging the GC in such a pleasant and professional way.

He invited the Secretary General of the Indonesian federation onto the stage to receive a warm round of applause and a gift of appreciation.

Mr Bob HENDERSON asked the members to consider a motion to make Dr GRUBBSTRÖM a President of Honour of the FAI, under Article 6.1.4.1. A two-thirds majority of active members present or represented was required. He believed, and the retiring EB believed, that Dr GRUBBSTRÖM had been a fabulous figurehead for the organisation over the last 6 years, creating a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm. He had created links into parts of the world where the FAI should have been active and had not been. The latest example of Dr GRUBBSTRÖM'S influence in spreading the FAI message was his successful visit to China, which it was hoped would open up doors and opportunities. The Board felt it was only fitting to elect him a President of Honour. He suggested a vote by raising of voting cards.

### **The General Conference approved the motion to make Dr John GRUBBSTRÖM President of Honour of the FAI.**

The President thanked the General Conference and said it had been an honour to be their President.

Mr Frits BRINK thanked Dr GRUBBSTRÖM for being president of this wonderful organisation. He also thanked the General Conference for their confidence in him for the next two years. For those who had not voted for him, he assured them he would work even harder for them than for the others. He thanked Dr GRUBBSTRÖM for everything he had done, and said the Presidency of Honour was well deserved. He had done great things for the FAI, and taught him some wise lessons. He presented the President of Honour with a diploma.

Mrs Eva-Lena GRUBBSTRÖM wished to thank everyone who had voted for her husband in Dublin six years ago, and believed he could make a difference and develop international air sports. It had

been six interesting years for her too; she had had the opportunity to meet so many nice and interesting people, and also a chance to visit many exotic places. She wished Frits BRINK good luck in his role as the new president, and left her position as First Lady of the FAI to Mr Brink's wife Tineke.

The Secretary General asked the President of the Russian NAC, General Vladimir IVANOV, to come to the stage.

General Vladimir IVANOV offered his congratulations to the FAI President. Six years had passed very quickly, but throughout those years he had enjoyed President GRUBBSTRÖM'S support for the development of air sports in Russia. On behalf of the Russian Olympic Committee, General Ivanov awarded Dr GRUBBSTRÖM a diploma of honour. He said that Moscow and Russia would always welcome him.

The Secretary General noted that the last two and a half years she had spent working with him had been a very special time for her, as well as for her colleagues in the head office. She and the Executive Board presented the President with a Swiss cow bell in remembrance of his time in Switzerland.

## 37. Annexes

1. Minutes GC 2015\_correction
2. Report by the FAI President
3. List of FAI Vice-Presidents for 2016-2017
4. Presentation by the FAI Secretary General
5. Report by the President of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM)
- 5b. Presentation by the President of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM)
6. Report by the President of the FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission (CIVL)
7. Presentation by the President of the FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA)
8. Report by the President of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)
9. Presentation by the President of the FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (CIMP)
10. Presentation by the President of the FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)
11. FAI Strategy and Air Games Executive summary
12. FAI Strategy and Air Games Series Progress
13. Future FAI World Air Games Bidding Process
14. New FAI Air Games Series Concept
15. FAI Organizer Agreement
16. Financial Statement 2015 and Auditor's report
17. FAI Finances Review 2016
18. Report by Finance Advisory Group
19. Explanations to Budget for 2017
20. Scale of Subscriptions 2017
21. FAI 2017 Budget
22. Open Forum – Drones
23. Policy statement - IOC\_WADA
24. Membership Survey
25. Presentation by the President of the FAI Gliding Commission (IGC)
26. Presentation by OSTIV
27. Report by the President of the FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)
- 27b. Presentation by the President of the FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)

- 28.** Report by the President of the FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG)
- 28b.** Presentation by the President of the FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG)
- 29.** Report by the President of the FAI Amateur-built and Experimental Aircraft Commission (CIACA)
- 29b.** Presentation by the President of the Amateur-built and Experimental Aircraft Commission (CIACA)
- 30.** Presentation by the President of the FAI Microlight and Paramotor Commission (CIMA)
- 31.** Multi Sports Events
- 32.** Amendments to Statutes and By-Laws – Proposals
- 32b.** Amendments to Statutes and by-Laws - Presentation

*Additional documents are annexed as follows:*

- 33.** Calendar of FAI Meetings 2017
- 34.** List of Delegates of Commissions
- 35.** International Calendar of Sporting Events 2017-2020
- 36.** List of FAI Award Winners for 2016
- 37.** List of Participants at the General Conference
- 38.** List of Companions of Honour
- 39.** List of FAI Members
- 40.** List of FAI Championships Winners for 2016

Minutes approved by Mr Frits BRINK, FAI President on 20 January 2017.