



*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

---



# Minutes

of the  
**Annual Meeting**  
of the  
**FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)**

held in Lausanne, Switzerland  
**on 11 February 2012**  
at Maison du Sport International

## ATTENDEES

### PRESENT

President	Mr. Bernald Smith (BS) (also Representative of IGC)
Azerbaijan	Mr. Hussein Baghirov (HB) (Delegate)
Germany	Miss Denise Kluge (DKI) (Delegate)
Italy	Mr. Andrea Tomasi (AT) (Delegate)
Sweden	Miss Annika Burström (AB) (Alternate Delegate)
United Kingdom	Mrs. Diana King (DK) (Secretary & Delegate) (also holding USA proxy)
FAI	Mrs. Ségolène Rouillon (SR) (FAI Members and Services Manager)

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from

Switzerland	Mr. Felix Kiser (FK) (Delegate)
CIMA Representative	Mr. Jacek Kibinski

#### 1. Opening Remarks by the President, Bernald Smith

Bernald Smith welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 11:00 hours.

#### 2. Messages from FAI President and Secretary-General

BS reported that other commitments prevented John Grubbström and Jean-Marc Badan from attending. He reported on the FAI General Conference. There are now 103 FAI members and the intention is to try to make the FAI more visible and attractive. The idea of regional Vice-Presidents is still under consideration, as is the concept of expert groups instead of representative Commissions for technical matters. The new strategy includes a restructuring of the FAI image. CIACA (Commission for Amateur Built and Experimental Aircraft) has been moved from a Technical Commission to an Airsports Commission. The General Conference will be in Turkey in 2012 and Malaysia in 2013. Rob Hughes has been recruited as Sports Manager and Visa-Matti Leinikki as IT Manager. A new website has been developed.

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting in Lausanne 22 Jan 2011

It was agreed unanimously that the Minutes be accepted.

## **4. Action Items Review**

### **4.1 Translation of education material**

SR has discussed the translations with Max Bishop, who has already translated some documents. It is still necessary to decide which documents should be translated and how to use them. It was thought that the DAeC document 'Nature Conservation for Pilots' should be distributed to NACs and ASCs and published on the website. BS, DKI and SR were asked to check that the right document is being used.

#### **ACTION Bernald Smith/Denise Kluge/Ségolène Rouillon**

The shortened version of the EMS should also be promulgated.

The support of the Executive Board would be welcome; it was noted that Otto Lagarhus is the contact for EnvC.

### **4.2 Climate change and Air Sports – presentation to General Conference**

Due to Wolfgang Scholze leaving DAeC, the presentation to the 2011 Conference did not proceed. It was agreed to request the FAI President and Secretary-General for a slot for a presentation in 2012, to explain the background and purpose of the FAI's environmental work, to encourage and urge air sports to take greater environmental responsibility and to describe the action plans of EnvC, using the FAI Environmental Code to illustrate the work.

#### **ACTION Bernald Smith**

### **4.3 Environmental Management System**

There was some uncertainty about the DAeC Planning checklist and DKI agreed to check the details of it.

#### **ACTION Denise Kluge**

### **4.4 EASA**

There had been no information received from Europe Air Sports, although its activities are continuing.

### **4.5 World Air Games**

The 2013 Games have been cancelled. Bidding is open for the 2015 Games.

### **4.6 Environmental Prize**

Delegates asked about the development of the proposals for a new environmental award. No detailed proposal had been prepared by Italy. AT agreed to develop a proposal for 2013 and DK offered to help to prepare a suitable document.

#### **ACTION Andrea Tomasi/Diana King**

### **4.7 Vice-President**

Wolfgang Scholze had not been elected as Vice President due to his resignation from the Commission.

### **4.8 CANS joint meeting**

This had not yet been arranged.

## 5. President's and Secretary's Reports

BS reported that he had attended the FAI Commission Presidents' meeting. Due to worldwide negative reaction to the FAI's top-down style of management, the Air Sport Commissions had been holding separate meetings.

The FAI Secretary-General had suggested that EnvC should identify a small number of actions to pursue. BS suggested that a major one should be the communication of environmental matters to all members in air sports throughout the world. He acknowledged that interaction between delegates and progress between meetings is poor.

DK agreed that progress between meetings had been poor and encouraged members to make some specific progress on environmental projects.

## 6. Reports from Air Sport Commissions

### IGC - Bernald Smith

BS reported that, in compliance with FAI requirements, the IGC requires bids for international championships to include environmental commitments and expects championship organizers to comply with those commitments. Bids have to be signed off by the bid leader and also by an environmental leader. There is however, little evidence of this filtering down to the level of national championships.

## 7. Reports from Delegates

### 7.1 Anneka Burström, Alternate Delegate (Sweden)

AB reported that the Swedish Parachuting Union has an environmental policy and environmental management system, implemented in 2010 - 2011. The SPU have established a carbon offsetting programme in relation to their activities and last year 10,000 of the jumps in Sweden (1/8 of the total) used the option. AB agreed to circulate full details for dissemination, to enable adoption of the scheme to be encouraged elsewhere. There has been little other environmental activity in other Swedish airsports.

#### **ACTION Anneka Burström**

### 7.2 Andrea Tomasi, Alternate Delegate (Italy)

AT reported that Italy has been trying to support two projects:

- The development of a self-launching electric powered 17.5m glider
- The use of diesel aircraft engines in order to reduce emissions.

### 7.3 Hussein Baghirov, Delegate (Azerbaijan)

HB reported that the Air and Extreme Sports Federation of Azerbaijan is a young organisation, which has only been an FAI member for a year. Air sports practised in the country are hang gliding and paragliding, with the power versions of both, parachuting and, more recently, gliding. Sports centres are being developed, which have Environmental Impact Assessments under way, and attempts are being made to reduce noise levels. Future ideas may be to support environmental projects through airsports, such as patrolling conservation area borders and monitoring wildlife

numbers, rather than trying to reduce the environmental impact, which is limited in any case.

#### **7.4 Denise Kluge, Delegate (Germany)**

DKI reported that the Luftsport Audit is available for all airsport clubs and that finance had been received in 2010 to implement the scheme. So far 30 to 35 clubs have been certified. The DAeC runs environmental and educational workshops about the Audit, but there has not been very much follow-up except by aeromodellers.

Energy change is a major subject in Germany, with wind and solar power development. Airsport clubs are concerned about the development of wind turbines, because of collision and other risks. Airfields are suitable places for the establishment of solar panels.

#### **7.5 Felix Kiser, Delegate (Switzerland)**

A written report by FK had been circulated in advance (Appendix 1), covering the continuing problems with mountain landing sites and the efforts being made to keep such sites open.

#### **7.6 Diana King, Delegate (UK)**

DK presented a report which had been circulated in advance (Appendix 2). She commented that the proliferation of wind turbines continued to cause great concern to many airsports. A new challenge has been the development of solar farms, some of which have been proposed on active runways, causing problems for existing clubs and pilots.

## **8. Project Status**

### **8.1 Flying Sites' Environmental Management**

DKI agreed to forward the DAeC scheme to DK and SR, with a possible view to its translation for other countries. A promotional project should be created to assist its adoption.

#### **ACTION Denise Kluge**

### **8.2 Fuel situation**

BS had tried to obtain information from other countries but had received virtually no response. There will however be a major impact on airsports generally if 100LL fuel is withdrawn. BS will continue his efforts.

There was a brief discussion about the importance of promoting ideas of new environmentally acceptable fuels and it was agreed that EnvC should support such developments.

#### **ACTION Bernald Smith**

### **8.3 Website changes and problems**

The new FAI web site had encountered significant problems and delays, so that its introduction had not proceeded smoothly. There has been no impact on the EnvC section.

### **8.4 FAI reorganisation**

The Environment, Medical and Education Commissions objected to the proposal for Technical Commissions to be converted to expert groups and they therefore continue as Commissions. Objections were on the grounds that experts would not necessarily represent airsports and countries, or communicate or relate to people outside the centre of FAI. It was agreed that environmental work, by its nature, needs an

exchange of views and better links to the NACs, in order to promote the ideas and projects. Delegates therefore agreed that they wished to remain as a representative Commission. CANS has converted to an expert group.

### **8.5 World Air Games**

No credible bids were received for the 2013 World Air Games. The next event will be in 2015; invitations to bid have not yet been issued. The Games have generally not been successful as income generating or promotional events. The only involvement for EnvC is to ensure that the organisers and sponsors comply with the environmental code.

## **9. Finances**

The FAI policy is that funds for projects may be available on application; if the Executive Board approves the proposal, they will provide funding.

## **10. Other business**

### **10.1 General Conference and joint meeting with CANS**

The proposal for a joint meeting with CANS is to be pursued.

DKI confirmed that she would be happy to make a presentation from EnvC to the General Conference. Members of EnvC need to assist DKI to coordinate and prepare a suitable presentation.

#### **ACTION Denise Kluge**

The idea of an environmental workshop at the 2012 General Conference was discussed and dismissed. It was agreed instead to plan for a workshop at the 2013 EnvC meeting, specifically inviting NACs from the region around the country where the meeting is to be held. A programme should be developed to present projects that may be transferable to other countries and to share ideas among all delegates. If the concept is successful, a similar workshop might be arranged at the 2013 General Conference.

### **10.2 FAI Environmental Award**

A proposal for an FAI environmental 'Friend of Nature' award had been submitted by Jacek Kibinski (CIMA delegate). After some discussion, it was agreed that the suggestion had no strong merit. The proposal from Italy was preferred and AT had agreed to prepare a draft.

## **11. Elections**

**President** - Bernald Smith was nominated and elected by acclamation.

**Vice-Presidents** – in view of the small numbers normally attending the commission it was agreed not to elect any Vice-Presidents.

**Secretary** – Diana King was nominated and elected by acclamation.

<b>12. Next Meeting</b>
-------------------------

On behalf of the Azerbaijan Aero Club, HB made an offer to host the meeting in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Delegates welcomed the idea, which might attract more attendance from NACs in Eastern Europe and Asia. HB agreed to prepare a detailed written offer.

**ACTION Hussein Baghirov**

The meeting closed at 17.00.

Minutes prepared by:  
Diana King  
Secretary  
FAI Environmental Commission

7 March 2012