

## **Report on the 103rd FAI Annual General Conference hold in Incheon (Korea) on 9th and 10th October 2009**

### **1. In Memoriam**

A minute of silence took place in memoriam of lost friends (among them Ray Lynskey, Hans Nietlispach, Hein Schwing, Maurizio Perez and Per Oberg)

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

About 70 National Aero Clubs were represented (*I do not have the exact number*). Many NACs from Asia were present. The total number of votes was 326 resulting in an absolute majority of 164 and a 2/3 majority of 218.

### **3. Minutes of 102nd FAI General Conference 2008**

The minutes were approved.

### **4. Report of the FAI President**

Pierre Portmann recalled that 4 Board meetings, 2 telephone Conferences, 2 meetings of the Air Sports Commissions (ASC) Presidents were held. For the first time, a meeting of all NAC Presidents was organised and was found to be very useful.

The FAI has acquired new premises in a new building of the Maison du Sport International (MSI) in Lausanne. They will have more space and be located closer to other Federations. The cost of the reimbursements will not exceed the cost of the rental of the office currently used. Delivery in March 2011.

Sponsorship: Due to the economic situation, Rolex will not renew its sponsorship in 2010. The cooperation with Red Bull is fruitful. The FAI is in charge of safety aspects during the competition, earns money and has its logo displayed everywhere.

The World Air Games 2009 in Turin. Despite there having been many problems, the WAG 2009 can be considered as a reasonable success. An evaluation is going on to see what lessons can be learned. Jean Marc Badan will present the first results (*see below*).

The Local Organisers did not respect their financial obligation to pay the outstanding rights fees of USD300,000 plus Media rights fees of EUR30,000. The FAI Executive Board is instigating legal proceedings to recover the due amounts.

FAI is actively searching for an organiser for the next WAG, which will take place in 2011. Only Odensee (Denmark) has expressed any real interest. FAI is negotiating with them.

Pierre Portmann specifies that he was in no way involved in the Spanish AC's proposal that the statutes be amended to allow an FAI President to serve for up to 4 two-year terms instead of the present maximum of 3 two-year terms. He cannot say whether he would stand for a fourth mandate if the amendment were adopted but he would give serious thought to such a candidature.

Max Bishop will retire by the end of January 2010. The President warmly thanks him for all the work he has done during his 16 years as Secretary General. A successor will be nominated soon.

The President concludes by listing the challenges we face in the future:

- . The need to make our competitions more public and media friendly

- . The need to hire professionals because it is becoming more and more difficult to find volunteers with the will, the time and the competence to work for the benefit of air sports.
- The need to find new sources of income because it will become more and more difficult to obtain public subsidies

## **5. FAI Finances**

Robert Clipsham, FAI Executive Director (Finance), presented the financial report. The total income for 2008 was 1,456,253 Swiss Francs (FS), the expenditures 1,481,214 FS . Thus there is a loss of 24,961 FS. Part of the loss is due to the financial crisis but a provisional situation in August 2009 shows that much better results can be expected for 2009.

Bob Clipsham also gives details on the accounts of the air sports commissions whose financial situation seems quite healthy.

The report was approved unanimously.

The Budget 2010 is based on an income of 1,548,010 FS and expenses of 1,469,050 FS. The Budget was approved unanimously.

The Auditors report provided by PriceWaterhouseCoopers was approved unanimously.

Alvaro de Orleans Borbon made a point about the fact that the income of the Commissions is becoming larger than the “normal” income of the FAI. He said that this may become a liability problem for the FAI . He would like to see happen a closer coordination between the Board and the Commissions on budgets so that we do not have “surprises” in levels of expenditure.

## **6. Election of Active Members to serve on Air Sport General Commission (CASI)**

The representatives of Australia, Czech Republic , Spain and Switzerland were elected or re-elected.

## **7. Amendments to Statutes and By-Laws**

The General Conference was invited to consider proposals from the statutes working group for changes to the FAI Statutes and By- Laws on several subjects. A 2/3 majority was required. Some delegates made a point about the associated documents having been sent less than the 6 weeks prior to the Conference required by the statutes. After a lengthy discussion, it was finally decided to first examine each proposal and to decide afterwards if the Conference would vote on it.

### **7.1. Control by Executive Board of the content of FAI By-Laws.**

The General Conference allowed the statutes working group to prepare firm proposals for 2010 on a more rational way of presenting FAI’s constitution, rules and regulations.

### **7.2. IPC proposal for modifications to procedures for determining the location of FAI Commission meetings (to be treated in connection with 7.1. above)**

Same decision as for 7.1.

### **7.3. Role, duties and rights of FAI Vice Presidents**

This proposal to change the roles of the FAI Vice Presidents, who represent the FAI in each country, by appointing any (except ASC Presidents) who so wish as Companions of honor. This proposal was rejected because the majority of delegates want to retain the title of VP, which is prestigious and useful when seeking support and subsidies in their country.

### **7.4. Extension of eligibility for election to the post of FAI President, and increase of**

### **maximum number of two-year terms to four (Proposal from NAC of Spain)**

The conference first decided to take a secret vote. The result of this secret vote was 216 votes in favour, 104 votes against and one abstention. The proposal was rejected because the 2/3 majority of 218 defined during the role call was not reached. However, 5 votes were missing, probably because some delegates were absent during voting. There was then a long discussion because some people argued that these votes should not have been taken into account when calculating the percentage required and that this percentage should have been calculated using the actual number of votes cast (Yes + No + Abs = Total).

The next day, the Portuguese delegate submitted a petition signed by more than 20 delegates stating that the result of the vote was unclear and asking for a new vote as a result. After another long discussion, the delegates voted first by a large majority (243 in favour 76 against) that a new vote was necessary. The new vote confirmed the rejection of the proposal since 207 votes were in favour whereas the 2/3 majority was 216.

### **7.5. Status, role and composition of CASI**

This was tabled for further work and a proposal to be provided in 2010.

### **7.6. Conditions of eligibility for the award of Honorary Group Diplomas**

This was also tabled for further work and a proposal to be provided in 2010 and the Delegates expressed concern that it was really only a change of name for the Diploma.

### **7.7 Approval of Commission Delegates (By laws 5.3.1./2.)**

A proposal that Commission Delegates only have to be approved by General Conference on initial appointment was approved

### **7.8 Arrangements for presentation of FAI Gold Air & Space Medals**

A proposal that the nominating NAC be responsible for the travel costs to General Conference for recipients of the two Gold Medals was rejected as it would place extra financial burdens on some NACs, who may then choose to not nominate deserving persons.

## **8. FAI World Air Games**

### **8.1 Evaluation of the WAG 2009**

Jean Marc Badan presented a comprehensive evaluation of World Air Games 2009, Turin. 245 athletes from 41 nations competed in 18 disciplines. 8 ASCs participated.

FAI launched a large consultation to get some feedback from the ASCs, NACs and the competitors. The main lessons learned:

- . better coordination with local organisers is needed
- . the FAI must keep control over the operations
- . the competition should be shorter in time.
- . there should be fewer competitions in some air sports

Jean Marc Badan and Brian Spreckley have drafted an action plan for the next WAG but strangely this document was not distributed to the delegates because the President did not want to make it public.

A short video made with footage from the coverage provided by RAI TV was shown.

## **8.2. Report on arrangements for next World Air Games.**

The President reported that the mayor of Odense is interested in organising the WAG 2011 but they first wanted to make sure that the KDA (Royal Aero Club of Denmark will support them) . The way is open, since KDA gave the green light just before the Conference. The FAI will now negotiate the financial conditions but due to fact that 2011 is no longer the Year of Sports, as 2009 was, the potential organisers will not be able to offer the same financial conditions as for the WAG 2009.

## **8.3. Resolution about the debt of the WAG 2009 Organisers.**

The President asked to vote a resolution authorising the Executive Board to take all necessary action to obtain the payment from the Turin Local Organising Committee and /or the Aero Club of Italy of the USD 300,000 and Euros 30,000 that are contractually due to FAI. The Italian delegate, Angelo Moriondo, who is also Pdt of the Aero Club of Turin, argued that this procedure is not correct. After discussion, the meeting voted the proposal. Some NACs worried about creating a precedent, where they could be liable for the debts of clubs organising an FAI event.

## **9. Proposal from Norway.**

The Norwegian Air Sports Federation proposed, that FAI establishes a small task force to perform the following:

1. Analyse the actual situation of "new threats" against air sports, leisure aviation and the motivation of young people for air sport activities or professions in this branch.
2. Propose a set of FAI strategies in these areas.
3. Examine the suitability of the FAI organisation and its use of resources in carrying out such strategies.
4. Suggest improvements/changes to the organisation, meeting structure and resource allocation/utilisation.
5. Present a suggested time-line for implementing any improvements/changes.

The Proposal was unanimously approved. The Working group will be a temporary one and the Norwegian delegate, Otto Lagarhus, was tasked with creating the group.

The results of this work will be presented to the General Conference in 2010 in Ireland.

## **10. Situation of FAI Membership**

### **10.1. Suspensions, Resignations and Expulsions**

Monaco and Ecuador were suspended for non-payment of their membership fees.

### **10.2. Consideration of Applications for Admission of New FAI Members:**

Iran - Application for Active Member, Class 10

Palestine - Temporary Membership approved

Qatar - Temporary Membership approved

Trinidad and Tobago – Membership of Savannah Aero Concepts for Aeromodelling was approved.

### **10.3. Re-approval of Existing Temporary Members**

The membership of Armenia, Bahrain, Ecuador (Aeromodelling), Ecuador (Gliding), El Salvador, Mongolia, Oman, Paraguay, Surinam, Vietnam has been re-approved.

### **10.4. Other Membership Matters:**

Max Bishop reported on the progress on creating a single organisation for airports in some countries.

The meeting also approved the CIMP affiliation to the Aerospace Medical Association

David Roberts gave an excellent Progress Report about the activity of Europe Air Sports on regulatory affairs in Europe. The Memorandum of Understanding between the FAI and EAS was unanimously approved.

#### **11. Election of Members to serve on Statutes Working Group (Stats WG)**

The members of the Statutes WG, Eric Mozer (USA/IGC) Paulo de Moura Marquez (Portugal), Antonis Papadopoulos (Greece) and Arte Mathisen (Norway) were re-elected for a two-year term. Jean Claude Weber (Luxembourg) was re-elected President of the WG.

#### **12. Report of the FAI Secretary General**

Max Bishop, FAI Secretary General, reported on the work of FAI Members, FAI International Air Sport, on the activities and the FAI Secretariat, and on Olympic-related matters. He then made a brilliant speech about the trends he has seen developing in Air Sports and in the FAI during his career. He received a well-deserved standing ovation after his presentation. (He was also honoured at the farewell dinner).

#### **13. Commission Presidents' Forum**

Several Commission Presidents made presentations:

- Henk Mertens (CASI) promoted FAI's common values, its goals and objectives, and our respective air sports and ASCs and what we can do for our members.
- Michiel Kasteleijn(CIEA) made a presentation on the programmes and support provided by the Education Commission.
- Roland Stuck (acting as Pdt of the IGC ) presented the initial outcomes from the Country Development project. (*I asked the delegates from Asiana Aero Clubs to contact us and to send us information about gliding activities in their country*).
- Graeme Windsor (IPC) presented a general overview of IPC's plans and a focus on parachuting in the Asian region.

All these presentations were well received but there was little discussion afterwards.

The Korean Delegates propose to adopt the **Incheon Declaration on the Development of International Airsports** in which:

- we pledge to increase support for air sports among developing countries including those in East Asia, in order to increase choices and opportunities
- we encourage FAI members to cooperate in enhancing the growth of Air Sports and, further, have those adopted formally into the Asian Games and other major multi-sports events
- we renew our global commitment to fulfill the low carbon "green growth" initiative so that we can take our share of responsibility in the field of air sports to improve the global environment

The declaration was adopted unanimously.

#### **14. Election of FAI Vice-Presidents for 2009/2010**

The list of FAI Vice Presidents was approved.

#### **15. Approval of Delegates Nominated for FAI Commissions 2009/2010**

The list of delegates nominated for FAI commissions has been approved

**16. Presentation of Bids for 105th FAI General Conference – 2011**

The bidding countries (Finland, Romania, Serbia, Sweden) presented their bids in order, drawn by ballot. Each country had 15 minutes including any films and questions.

**17. Open Forum**

Nothing important to report.

**18. Vote on Award of 105th FAI General Conference – 2011**

The 105<sup>th</sup> FAI General Conference was awarded to Belgrade ( Serbia). There seem to have been some problems obtaining visas in the past but the delegate promised that this will not happen again.

**19. Prince Alvaro de Orleans Borbon Fund**

Looek Boermans presented the Financial Report on the Prince Alvaro Fund as well as the Trustees' report.

**20. Recommendation of Museums**

The Conference approved the application of the Korea Air University ( KAU) Aerospace Museum for "Recommended Museum" status.

**21. Arrangements for Future General Conferences**

Egypt, the UAE and Montenegro intend to bid for 2012. Mexico intends to bid for 2013.

**22. Discharge of FAI Executive Board**

The General Conference discharged the FAI Executive Board from responsibility for the management of the FAI's affairs during the year from 4 October 2008 to 10 October 2009.

**23. Any Other Business**

The Israeli delegate regretted that this conference dealt much more with internal and procedural matters than with matters important for the future of Air sports (*I can only second him!*).

R.STUCK

October 2009