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*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

## **Summary of Discussions**

of the  
**Meeting of FAI Active Members' Presidents**

**held in Lausanne (SUI)**  
**at the Maison du Sport International**  
on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
starting at 09h00

Ver. 1.3 / 17 August 2012

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## **1. Opening words of welcome by FAI President, John GRUBBSTRÖM**

The FAI President Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM opened the meeting at 9:05 by welcoming all Presidents and representatives.

## **2. Roll Call**

President :

- John GRUBBSTRÖM FAI President

FAI President

(JG)

## Executive Board Members :

- |                            |                                |       |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| - Alvaro de ORLEANS-BORBON | FAI Executive Director         | (AOB) |
| - Robert CLIPSHAM          | FAI Executive Director Finance | (RC)  |
| - Robert HENDERSON         | FAI Executive Director         | (RH)  |
| - Otto LAGARHUS            | FAI Executive Director         | (OL)  |
| - Beat NEUENSCHWANDER      | FAI Executive Director         | (BN)  |
| - Jean-Marc BADAN          | FAI Secretary General          | (JMB) |

## FAI Members:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Alois ROPPERT          | AUT / President               |
| - Peter SCHMAUTZER       | AUT / Secretary General       |
| - Jo VAN DE WOESTYNE     | BEL / Vice-President          |
| - Mary Anne STEVENS      | CAN / President               |
| - Helge HALD             | DEN / President               |
| - Manuel ROCA VIAÑA      | ESP / President               |
| - Gloria MOO MARINO      | ESP / Interpreter             |
| - Patrick NAEGELI        | GBR / President               |
| - Klaus KOPLIN           | GER / President               |
| - Agust GUDMUNDSSON      | ISL / Secretary General       |
| - Abdullah AL-JAWINI KSA | KSA / President               |
| - Carlo LECUIT           | LUX / President               |
| - Claude ESCHETTE        | LUX / Vice-President          |
| - Frits BRINK            | NED / President               |
| - Arild SOLBAKKEN        | NOR / President               |
| - Paulo DE MOURA MARQUES | POR / President               |
| - Vladimir IVANOV        | RUS / President + interpreter |
| - Yves BURKHARDT         | SUI / Vice-President          |
| - Osman YILDIRIM         | TUR / President               |
| - Erhan ERGENCOGLU       | TUR / Officer                 |

#### **Apologies for absence :**

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| - Huseyngulu BAGHIROV        | AZE / President        |
| - Demettrakis HADJIDEMETRIOU | CYP / President        |
| - Louis LE PORTZ             | FRA / President        |
| - Sigurdur Ingi JONSSON      | ISL / President        |
| - LEE Jonghoon               | FAI Executive Director |
| - Giuseppe LEONI             | ITA / President        |
| - Kishisabura NOMURA         | JPN / President        |
| - Abdillah TENGKU            | MAS / President        |
| - Batista Candido NHANOMBE   | MOZ / President        |
| - Włodzimierz SKALIK         | POL / President        |
| - Thomas HURTER              | SUI / President        |
| - Jan MIKUS                  | SVK / President        |
| - Bengt LINDGREN             | SWE / President        |
| - Jonathan GAFFNEY           | USA / President        |

In Attendance :

|                      |                                  |       |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| - Ségolène ROUILLOON | FAI Members and Services Manager | (SRO) |
| - Rob HUGHES         | FAI Senior Sports Manager        | (RHU) |

The President gave the opportunity to all participants to introduce themselves, and then reported on the milestone that had been announced the day before : The signature of the sponsorship contract with Breitling. He pointed out that this agreement would of course involve contractual obligations, in particular the exclusivity granted to Breitling on the "watches and jewelry" categories.

Some NACs were interested to know more about the contract, namely whether it forbade NACs to have agreements with competitors of the brand. In fact, the contract did not impose clauses on third parties like NAC, except if it breached the FAI agreement.

They were also interested to know how they could benefit from the agreement. JMB reminded them that the signature was very recent. The frame was ready but details and exact services had not been finalised yet. The FAI would study the implications for NACs and Event Organizers. The NACs suggested having highlights in a handout. Or even a "do and don't" list for the NACs to know what they can and cannot do as there would be no second chance with this important partner. JMB pointed out that one important point was to give visibility to the brand through FAI World and Continental Championships, which would start from 1 September 2012 (implementation of the agreement). Some were concerned that it would exclude summer competitions. The minimum would be to have the Breitling flag wherever the FAI flag would be displayed. The EB requested time and patience to learn what the FAI was living now, and mostly be tolerant because all what was happening was new. NACs were asked not to directly contact Breitling, but to channel everything related to the sponsorship through FAI.

A participant underlined the fact that organizers were using timing equipment for competitions and wished to know whether Breitling could help on that matter. This kind of element had not been discussed yet.

The FAI President and the Executive Board received congratulations for the achievement.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **4. FAI Strategy**

#### **4.1 Sports Strategy**

(Bob HENDERSON & Rob HUGHES)

(Ref. : App 1 – FAI Sports Strategy / Working Paper for ASC Presidents' Meeting)

The FAI Sports Strategy was a large strategy paper created after long thoughts with former FAI Secretary General. As it was too large to be digested, it was thought to be more appropriate to discuss it in forums. The ASC Presidents were provided with a summary paper including matters to be decided and had useful discussions the day before which allows now the FAI to have clear directions. The aim during the NAC Presidents meeting was to go through the main decisions taken the day before.

**4.2 Sports Marketing Agency** (Bob CLIPSHAM, Bob HENDERSON & J.-M. BADAN)

Following the directions given by the FAI General Conference in Dublin (Ireland) in 2010, the FAI had recently decided to create a commercial company, called FAI Air Sports Marketing and Events SA (FAME). The aim of the agency was to promote air sports, manage commercial activities and, therefore, support the whole organization in prospering. The current FAI Structure was not appropriate for decisions like in a commercial company.

FAME was a S.A. (société anonyme), a Swiss company wholly-owned by the FAI. One thousand shares were issued, and a discussion was in progress on the possible sale of a 24,5 % participation of the shareholder capital to a third party.

The objective was to use the expertise available within the FAI to create products and use external expertise to promote them on the sports market. A first source of revenue could be sponsorship and a second one media rights.

The Board of Directors will initially be composed of :

- Chairman : Robert Henderson
- Directors : Robert Clipsham and Jean-Marc Badan
- Non-voting Secretary : Rob Hughes

The NACs were interested to know whether the agency would have a link to the Breitling deal. RH explained that the signature of the Breitling agreement gave an opportunity to create the agency. For example, an account manager for this partnership would be financed by the agency and not by the NAC's memberships.

A question was raised about the formal limit to FAI liability. RC reminded the audience that the agreement was very recent but this question was taken into consideration. Any new partner would need to bring value. The FAI needed expertise within FAME to promote and carry out sports and events. There was some learning to do. Ultimately, the FAI members owned the FAI so consequently, they owned FAME. There would be clear reporting structures from possible subsidiary companies through FAME up to the General Conference. It was added that RH was stepping down as the President of the FAI Gliding Commission to be able to concentrate on his new duties.

**4.3 Regional Management Structure** (Otto LAGARHUS)

OL made a presentation of the FAI Regional Management Structure (RMS), giving details on the nomination and appointment procedures, the terms and reference of the RVP and the administrative procedures being established to ensure effective functioning of the RMS. The FAI President emphasized the importance of establishing improved regional presence by FAI, and that the RMS with the RVP is a management tool for the FAI Executive Board and Head Office, designed to improve the functioning and presence of the FAI in the respective region. The question of budget implications was raised. OL confirmed that there was a planned budget for this project.

Some NACs were concerned about the earlier proposal to remove the current 48 FAI VPs. OL reminded them that his proposal failed at the last General Conference and therefore, the present FAI VPs would retain their positions, and no changes were planned.

The issue of national representation was raised, and OL pointed out that the respective NAC (and the "national" FAI VP) had the formal representation, and that the RVP did not have that role. He referred to the RMS description, which in details specifies the role and duties of the RVP, and also outlines what the FAI wanted to achieve by establishing regional structure with RVPs. Some NACs suggested that the RVP in each applicable region should receive a priority list of tasks for that region, in addition to the general tasks specified in the RMS description. OL said that this was a good idea, and that this would be implemented as soon as possible. He also pointed out that detailed reporting requirement with deadlines had been implemented for the RVP, which will ensure timely reports on progress of all tasks delegated to the respective RVP.

The question of removing an RVP who would not function satisfactorily was raised. OL reminded the participants of the fact that the RVP was appointed by the FAI Executive Board after nomination by an NAC of the region, and therefore could be removed by the EB. He also pointed out that there would be a time limit of not more than 2 years for an RVP appointment.

#### 4.4 Expert Groups (Beat NEUENSCHWANDER)

Some NACs expressed their pleasure about the creation of the Expert Groups (EG) and the fact that they were looking forward to working in this new structure.

BN informed the participants that the first proposal was to change all Technical Commissions into Expert Groups, but that there was opposition. However, since there had been no real output for all FAI Members from CANS and EnvC for at least 3 years, but only Commission's internal exchange of information, the EB had decided that CANS would be the first Commission to be converted into two EGs, the "Airspace Expert Group" and the "Navigation Expert Group". The next new Expert Groups would be Safety and Regulation. Creating these EGs was a first step, and it might create support to change the status of other Commissions. The FAI President informed the NACs that there was no plan to change CIMP (Medico-Physiological) or CIEA (Education) into EGs at the moment. NACs were informed that they still could write motions to the GC if they wished.

United Kingdom gave the European perspective that airspace and safety was about evidence, negotiation and politics and therefore a very demanding workload. He was interested to know how the FAI was going to establish its position. Who would be monitoring the activity so that they could task the EG ? Board members were aware of these issues. OL reassured the audience that the FAI was working with other organisations such as Europe Air Sports. But there were sometimes supra-continental issues. Top level letter response was that ICAO wanted the FAI to be more involved.

NACs were informed that they also could task EGs. But did the FAI have a common position on the major problems ? Some issues were common to many members. There were increasing restrictions and obstacles to participating in air sports. The Executive Board confirmed that the FAI would work closely with EAS and would not compete. But if there were problems in Asia or South America, the FAI should be also able to act. What the FAI did not do was acting on a national level. But what about cross-border problems when e.g. Spanish are crossing the Portuguese border and vice-versa ? The authorities' position was that they were breaching airspace. OL did not want to comment on specific points during this meeting. The FAI wanted things to be simple, despite increasing regulation and

had to be present to make a difference. There were several examples about airspace regulation being reduced. There was the ability to negotiate. The FAI's aim was to build on FAI's reputation and make regulators realize that the FAI had influence and good strategies.

## 5 Sports Matters

### 5.1 Anti-doping (Bob HENDERSON & Ségolène ROUILLOU)

(Ref. : App 2 – Anti-Doping Presentation May NAC 2012)

The message the FAI President wished to pass through was the following :

- Athletes should apply for TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemption) if they are taking medication
- Recreational drugs are a problem and a risk for our sports.
- The FAI RTP (Registered Testing Pool) will be limited.
- The FAI is trying to simplify things.

Germany was glad that this topic was approached during this meeting as he thought the paper distributed was confusing.

NACs were pleased to see that the FAI was defining with WADA the way to work. But in some countries, NADOs (National Anti-Doping Organisation) were working another way with WADA which was contradictory in some ways. RH explained that a NADO was available for national championships level but when international events took place in a country, it could also be involved.

Some participants found that the paper was missing information, namely who to contact in FAI HO in specific cases like TUEs. The FAI had an Anti-Doping Manager, Mrs. Ségolène Rouillon available for these matters at [antidoping@fai.org](mailto:antidoping@fai.org) and available for any question linked to antidoping.

A relevant point was also that there was a problem of language : It was hard for an athlete to translate medical information.

### 5.2 World Air Games 2015 (Bob HENDERSON & Rob HUGHES)

The next time window for the FAI World Air Games was 2015. The bid process had not yet been opened, but the FAI Secretary General added that any city interested in bidding for hosting the World Air Games was welcome to contact him directly or through a NAC.

### 5.3 Revision of Organiser Agreement (Bob HENDERSON & Rob HUGHES)

Please refer to item 7 of the attached document on FAI Sports Strategy.

### 5.4 FAI Medals (John GRUBBSTRÖM & Jean-Marc BADAN)

The FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC) had expressed concerns that the FAI used the same medal for years and that there was no variety. The IPC would present a proposal to CASI to allow Event Organisers producing medals themselves. This would however reduce

the volume of medals the FAI is ordering and therefore might influence the price of medals for the other Commissions and Event Organisers.

The manufacturer of current FAI Medals had provided 4 offers with difference in quality. Rob Hughes, FAI Senior Sports Manager, conducted a blind survey to gather NACs' opinion.

Some were concerned by the whole number of sets ordered, one third being sets of medals for individual competitors, two third of the sets for teams.

The quality was an issue discussed during the meeting. The majority agreed that the medals needed to be of good quality as they represented a reward for an achievement. Athletes invested much money in their sport and appreciated getting a real medal. The quality was an extension of the FAI branding.

The issue was to be raised at the CASI meeting before the General Conference.

#### 5.5 Sporting Licence Database

(Jean-Marc BADAN & Rob HUGHES)

The Sporting Licence Database suffered security problems in 2011 and had to be suspended. The software had been improved and the 2011 data had been re-uploaded into the system. The next steps were a final test phase and an update of the user guidelines in accordance with the new software, to be sent to all FAI Members. The system would be re-introduced in 2012, but its status as the unique and official system for checking the validity of licences would be postponed to 2013.

### 6 Information from FAI Head Office

#### 6.2 FAI Head Office Staff

(Jean-Marc BADAN)

The FAI Secretary General updated the NAC Presidents on the current staff situation at the FAI HO. The list of FAI Staff was available on the website at :  
<http://www.fai.org/structure/head-office>.

#### 6.3 FAI Website

(Jean-Marc BADAN)

The FAI Secretary General reminded the audience about the technical problems faced in 2011 which had been solved in the meantime. The recent arrival of the new IT Manager at the FAI HO would help continue improving the website.

### 7 Sponsorship

This item had been discussed at the beginning of the meeting (see item 2 page 3 above).

### 8 FAI General Conference 2012, Antalya (TUR)

#### 8.2 Presentation of NAC Turkey

(NAC TUR)

Mr. Yildirim, President of NAC Turkey, gave a brief presentation on the location of the next General Conference. He informed the audience about the hotel change, which would be

approved by the Executive Board the day after the meeting. He assured the participants that the Conference would be an unforgettable moment.

#### 8.3 Discussion on Open Forum issues

(John GRUBBSTRÖM)

The FAI President summarized the meeting by saying that the main topics of the day were the 2 good news already announced. He was happy to share additional important information such as Sports Strategy, etc.

He requested the members present and the members having delegates in CASI to update themselves on the medals issue to be able to take the correct decision. Coming back to the topic, a NAC was interested to know what had motivated the IPC to jeopardize the current medals system. The explanation was that the IPC thought the medal were expensive and the same for years now. They wished variation and a lower price. Besides, they would like organizers to have influence on the design. But the risks were numerous : Mistakes in design, low quality, etc.

One of the participants suggested planning a longer meeting for the participants coming from overseas. That would encourage them to attend. The FAI President expressed the fact that some NACs did not find this informal meeting appropriate and thought it was not worth travelling from them. He reminded the audience that the first meeting took place in the view of setting up the General Conference agenda. A German-speaking NAC remembered that the idea for NACs to meet came from the fact that German-speaking countries were meeting first and it was decided to make the same event on international level.

### **9 Open Floor Discussion**

#### 9.2 Future Active Members Presidents' Meeting

(John GRUBBSTRÖM)

The FAI President informed the audience that a proposal had been informally received from Montenegro, who was absent on that day. Dr. Grubbström asked the audience for their approval to hand this decision out for EB consideration and received it.

A request was expressed about having the meeting in a city or an airport hub to facilitate the persons coming from overseas and who wished direct flights.

#### 9.3 Any other business

None.

### **10 FAI President's Closing Statement**

The FAI President closed the meeting at 14.50 and thanked all participants for their attendance.

#### Appendices :

App 1 : FAI Sports Strategy / Working Paper for ASC Presidents' Meeting

App 2 : Anti-Doping Presentation May NAC 2012