



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

New FAI President Greg Principato shares his vision for the future of Air Sports

Lausanne, Switzerland, 15 January 2025 – **Greg Principato, elected as President of the World Air Sports Federation (FAI) at the 118th FAI General Conference last November, has shared his ambitious vision for the future of air sports. With a distinguished background, including leadership of the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) in the United States, Principato brings a collaborative approach and extensive experience to his role.**

In a recent interview, he discussed his motivations for taking on the presidency, outlined his priorities for the organisation, and shared his strategies for tackling challenges within the global air sports community. Here are the key highlights from the conversation.

- [Full interview](#)

A Vision Born from Collaboration and Experience

Principato's journey to the presidency was inspired by encouragement from FAI Members and leaders who saw his experience and temperament as a good fit at this pivotal time. Over a year of conversations with dozens of FAI Member leaders and Commission Presidents, he shaped his understanding of FAI's unique challenges and opportunities.

"It is important that air sports and aviation have a high-functioning and successful FAI," he notes. "We are uniquely positioned to define and recognise excellence, providing the incentive for growth in years to come."

Uniting a Passionate Air Sports Community for a Stronger FAI

One of Principato's primary goals is to harness the passion and dedication of FAI leaders, volunteers, and the Secretariat to create a more united organisation.

"The challenge is to bring all of these centres of passion together into a coherent whole," he says. "We must learn from one another, grow together, and ensure the whole of FAI is greater than the sum of its parts."

Delivering Value to Members

A central focus of Principato's vision is delivering tangible value to FAI Members. This includes offering support, education, and resources to help grow their sports, as well as tackling broader issues such as sustainability, inclusivity, and engaging the next generation.

"Our Members need us to provide value to them as they pursue their own missions of excellence in air sports, whether in their countries or their Commissions," he states. "If we succeed, they will succeed."

Addressing Global Challenges in Air Sports

Principato highlights the key challenges facing air sports, many of which transcend national boundaries. These include attracting a new and diverse generation of athletes, fostering inclusivity to ensure all participants feel welcome and supported, and meeting societal expectations for environmental sustainability.

He also emphasises the need to enhance awareness of air sports among the public, political leaders, and the media. *"We are knowledgeable and passionate. But we rely on the support and decisions made by people who know little about us but whose reactions to what we do can be critical. We MUST tell our story,"* he urges.

Strengthening Engagement and Communication

Principato outlines plans to improve communication and engagement across the FAI community. *"We will be holding an all-Members meeting in the first quarter of the year to lay the groundwork for an agreed vision and agreed programme of work,"* he states. He also plans to hold regular town hall meetings and conduct a Member survey to gather input.

"We will establish a system by which FAI Members can share their stories with one another; ask for help with challenges and opportunities," Principato explains. *"Where we have that kind of openness and transparency we can build trust, share successes, help one another overcome challenges and make FAI as great as it can be."*

Editor's note

- [Full interview](#)
- [Pictures of Greg Principato and of the FAI Executive Board](#)
- [FAI logo](#)
- [FAI Facts and Figures](#)
- [FAI media corner](#)

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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