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GAC PRESIDENT REPORT TO THE FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE

October 2008, Saint-Vincent (Italy)

The year 2008 starts officially at the end of 2007 with the GAC Plenary Meeting, held in Gordon's Bay, Cape Town, South Africa, 3rd to 5th November 2007.

Members of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) were welcomed to Gordon's Bay, South Africa, by Mr. Chris Booysen, Chairman of the South African Power Flying Association.

The meeting was called to order November 3, 2007 at 09:00 by Mr. Pedro Cabañero, GAC President. He welcomed all persons in attendance, and offered a special welcome to Mr. PierrePortmann, FAI President. He thanked Mr. Hans Schwebel, South African Delegate, for organizing this year's meeting.

A roll call of the delegates was made by Mr. Art Greenfield, Secretary. He noted that the following proxies had been received: Belgium to Luxemburg, Canada to USA, Portugal to Spain, and Slovak Republic to Czech Republic. He also noted that apologies for absence had been received from Delegates of the following countries: Canada, Portugal, Slovak Republic, and Japan. For the record, it was noted there were 23 countris present, including proxies.

Mr. Pedro Cabañero asked if anyone wished to make a declaration of a conflict of interest, and there were none. He then requested that everyone stand for a moment of silence to honor the following individuals who had passed away since the last

meeting: Dr. Frank Hettlich (Germany), Capt. Hans Georg Schmidt (Switzerland), and Mr. Steve Fossett (USA).

The agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved. The list of jury members and judges for 2007-2008 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pedro Cabañero reported on his commission-related activities during the year. He noted that there had been no international competitions this year, but that he had remained active and represented GAC during the meetings of the Commission Presidents in June in Lausanne, Switzerland, and in October at the General Conference in Rhodes, Greece. He also attended the CASI meeting that was held at the General Conference.

Mr. Cabañero noted that the recent General Conference had decided the locations of the next two conferences: Saint-Vincent, Italy (2008) and Incheon, Korea (2009). He noted that later in this meeting the commission would entertain three proposals for the next GAC meeting in 2008, as follows: Vienna, Austria; Prague, Czech Republic; and Tel Aviv, Israel. He also noted that Spain had expressed interest in hosting the meeting in 2009. Finally, he noted that the next World Air Games would be held in Turin, Italy, in 2009.

Mr. Pierre Portmann, FAI President, reported on four different areas of FAI activities in which he had been involved during the past year:

World Air Games (WAG)

In June, final selection for the 2009 World Air Games took place. There were five bids to host the games, and Turin, Italy was ultimately selected. The FAI Executive Board came to conclusion that the games needed to be smaller in size, have closer event venues, and be of shorter duration than previous games. In 2009, for the first time, competitors will not be charged for accommodations and will not have to pay entry fees. Future WAG will take place with a frequency of every two years, and bidding will open in November for the 2011 WAG.

Airspace Commission

All air sports, and especially General aviation, are being threatened by restrictions to airspace. To address these threats, the General Conference in Rhodes created a preliminary Commission for Airspace. FAI will need experts from each of its member countries to serve on this commission.

Language Proficiency

In 2003, ICAO voted to require that all pilots who fly outside their home country be able to speak English with a level 4 proficiency (on a scale of 1-6, with 6 equal to "Expert Level"). He noted that this new requirement would take effect March 5, 2008, and that pilots must take an exam to prove their level of proficiency. However, the ICAO Assembly urged each country to waive the effective date of implementation of this standard for VFR general aviation operations by up to 3 years. FAI has entered an agreement with IAOPA to work together on this issue.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

Homebuilt UAVs are becoming a concern for FAI because they are being denied access to airspace. This is another area where FAI will work together with IAOPA to find solutions to common problems.

Future International Competitions

About 2008--18th World Precision Flying Championship and 16th World Rally Flying Championship, Mr. Johann Gutmann presented the final bid and local rules for the combined championships to be held 13-26 July 2008, in Reid, Austria. The final bid and local rules were unanimously approved.

About 2009--19th World Precision Flying Championship, Mr. Andrzej Osowski presented the bid and local rules for the championship to be held 21-26 July 2009 in Torun, Poland. The bid and local rules were unanimously approved.

Other future International Competitions

Mr. Jirí Dodal, speaking on behalf of the Delegate from Slovak Republic, announced that a bid would be prepared (for consideration at the next GAC meeting) to hold the 17th World Rally Flying Championships in August 2010 in Dublinka, Slovak Republic.

Mr. Johann Gutmann announced his desire to organize a long-range air race in 2009. He noted that the long-range air race between Salzburg and Cape Town that he organized last year was a enormous success.

After a Rally and precision Subcommittee Chairmans, Mr Osowski and Mr Gutmann, espoused their small proposals in roules changing, which were unanimously approved, Mr. Art Greenfield, Sporting Code supervisor, gave an overview of the project to re-write the records-related rules in Section 2 of the FAI Sporting Code. He noted that the project had taken nearly two years to complete. He also highlighted some of the major changes that were being proposed.

The proposed changes to the Sporting Code were unanimously approved, as amended, to take effect on March 1, 2008. The re-write committee also prepared a list of current records with instructions on how those records would be reclassified, retired, or renamed. This was prepared to assist the FAI headquarters staff in making the appropriate changes to the records database. The document was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pedro Cabañero and Mr. Pierre Portmann, both expressed their thanks to the National Aeronautic Association (USA) for providing the considerable resources required for this project.

Air Nav Race Competition

Mr. Heinrich Schawalder presented his concept for a new form of competition called "Air NavRace". The Air Nav Race was developed to provide a simpler, less expensive form of competition that would be of interest to the media and sponsors.

After much discussion, the concept was unanimously approved. Mr. Schawalder was asked to prepare (by early November) a formal request for financial support from FAI that would allow further development of the Air Nav Race.

The discussion led to questions about GAC involvement in the World Air Games. Mr. PierrePortmann noted that GAC was not invited to participate in the 2009 WAG because the current forms of competition (rally and precision flying) are not considered to be spectator friendly. He recommended that GAC develop a landing competition (based on the current precision flying rules) and request that the organizers of the 2009 WAG add it to the schedule of events. He also recommended that GAC prepare information about the Air Nav Race that Mr. Jean-MarcBadan can add to the bid package for the 2011 WAG, which will be sent out in November.

Finances

Mr. Henry Lindholm, Treasurer, reviewed the income and expenditures of the commission that had taken place during 2006-2007, and presented the proposed budget for 2007-2008. The proposed budget for 2007-2008 was unanimously approved.

Media and Publicity

Mr. Hans Schwebel, webmaster for GAC, reported that he only recently had received the necessary login and password information for updating the GAC website. He asked the Secretary to provide the new list of jury members and judges for publication on the website, and expressed interest in possibly creating a forum area for GAC. He recommended that Chris Booysen, who manages the website for the South African Power Flying Association, be appointed as GAC webmaster.

Awards

Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma. Mr. Pedro Cabañero noted that no country had made a nomination for the Charles Lindbergh Diploma. However, the Bureau wished to nominate Mr. Heinrich Schawalder for the award, and he requested the commission, to approve the nomination. The request was unanimously approved.

FAI Air Sport Medal

Mr. Cabañero noted that another award available to the commission is the FAI Air Sport Medal. He noted that the Bureau wished to nominate Mr. Vagn Jensen, and he requested the commission to approve the nomination. The request was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pedro Cabañero proposed that a new subcommittee be established for Air Nav Race competition, and that Mr. Heinrich Schwalder be appointed as Chairman of the subcommittee. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hans Schwebel proposed that the commission postpone until the next meeting a decision on whether precision flying and rally flying championships should be held together or separately. The proposal was approved (22 in favor, 1 against).

Election of the Bureau and Technical Representatives

The commission held elections as follows:

Election of the Bureau

President.....Mr. Pedro Cabañero
Vice President/SecretaryMr. Art Greenfield
Vice President/TreasurerMr. Jirí Dodal
Air Nav Race Subcommittee ChairmanMr. Heinrich Schwalder
Precision Flying Subcommittee ChairmanMr. Johann Gutmann
Rally Flying Subcommittee Chairman.....Mr. Andrej Osowski
Records Subcommittee ChairmanMr. Art Greenfield

Election of technical representatives

CASI representative..... Mr. Pedro Cabañero
FAI Environmental Commission representative.... Mr. Henry Lindholm
Webmaster..... Mr. Chris Booysen
Technical Adviser, GNSS Mr. Jan Hanekom
Technical Adviser, Long Range Air Racing. Mr. Johann Gutmann

Mr. Pedro Cabañero noted that three bids to host the next GAC meeting in 2008 had been received as follows: Vienna, Austria; Prague, Czech Republic; and Tel Aviv, Israel. Mr. Johann Gutmann withdrew the bid to host the meeting in Vienna in 2008, noting that he may wish to bid again for the 2009 meeting. Mr. Jirí Dodal presented the bid to host the meeting in Prague, and Mr. Yaron Efrat presented the bid to host the meeting in Tel Aviv.

The commission delegates voted in favor of holding the next meeting outside of Lausanne by the required 2/3 majority vote (21-in favor, 2-against).

The commission delegates voted in favor of holding the next meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, 17-19 October 2008.

Mr. Cabañero announced that the next Bureau meeting would be held in Reid, Austria during the World Championships.

Finally, and talking about the World Championships, we must notice that both, Rally and precision Flying, had more participants than in the last World's in Troyes, France, and that means that we are going on. Much young people starts competing with their countries, performing very well. We got 64 pilots competing in Precision, and 54 couples in Rally. Such a nice participation. All results about the Competitions are ready in the website www.ried2008.at.

Finally, it is a pleasure and a honour for me, to acknowledge the excellent support provided by our Secretary General Mr Max Bishop and all his staff in FAI Office in Lausanne, and to thank them all for their big job on behalf of the GAC. Thank you very much.



Pedro Cabañero
FAI GAC President