

FAI Environmental Commission, CIA Delegate's report to the 2013 FAI Ballooning Commission Annual Meeting (CIA Plenary) Rio de Janeiro, Japan 20 – 23 March

The 2013 FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC) meeting was held at Lausanne, Switzerland on February 9 2013. I was unable to attend this meeting but I have been included in all correspondence and have been able to give input from the FAI Ballooning Commission's (CIA) perspective.

As mentioned in my report to the 2010 CIA Plenary, the EnvC in its 2011 meeting is still concerned that sport aviation is increasingly coming under public scrutiny and in some countries direct government regulation for our environmental impact. The main areas are greenhouse gases, noise and direct impact on flora and fauna (mainly birds). But there are a few smaller issues such as the development of new fuels etc.

The EnvC still feels that it is better to be proactive in the FAI's approach to sport aviation's environmental impact rather than just waiting for the legislators to legislate.

I have included the minutes of the above mentioned meeting as well as a policy statement for the intended future direction of the EnvC.

These are some of the topics that were discussed but I recommend that the minutes of the meeting are read to see more detail:-

- Raising awareness among the NACs and ASCs has proved difficult. ASC's need to be convinced that environmental matters are everybody's responsibilities not just the EnvC.
- The greatest environmental difficulty for airports of recent times is complaints about noise.
- A discussion took place on the most appropriate way to improve the effectiveness and credibility of EnvC. There had been pressure from the Executive Board to replace the Commission with an Expert Group. Three delegates or NACs not represented at the meeting had written in favour of such a change and two of the members present (AB and MR) also indicated their approval of the concept. Countering this view, it was considered that the status of Commission gave greater credibility and that it should be possible to recruit appropriate experts within the framework of the Commission, to help with the FAI work and also be available to assist NACs. The list of experts could be posted on the website. It was recognised that activities needed to be pursued during the coming year in order to demonstrate the value of EnvC and to justify the continued existence of the Commission. After considerable discussion it was proposed by RS, seconded by PD and agreed unanimously to retain the Commission for the time being and to find experts to work within the Commission. The next steps would be to define the type of experts needed and to recruit suitable people within those areas.
- Representatives from the EnvC have been attending meetings and liaising with relevant organisations in the best interests of the EnvC and the FAI. These include internal FAI meetings as well as others (see attached minutes).

The CIA should continue to support the EC's work as this will have an impact on ballooning in the future.

Steve Ireland
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