

Report to the CIA on the 2015 meeting of CIMP

This meeting of the Medical Commission of the FAI (CIMP) was held in Oxford, United Kingdom, through the week-end 18-20 September 2015

The Technical meeting was attended by fifteen delegates from thirteen nations, together with observers from Europe Air Sports and the UK Civil Aviation Authority. The technical meeting covered a wide range of topics of which one is the problem for WADA trying to keep abreast of developments which could give advantages to athletes. The other and major current concern is with the mental health of pilots arising from the recent losses of airliners, especially the German Wings accident in the Alps. The latter has produced two opposing ideas, one being that there must be much better support and help to sick pilots and the other arguing for more stringent and frequent universal psychological testing with immediate exclusion of anyone suspected of mental illness. Dr Saundby, UK delegate, past President and respected authority on aeromedicine, made a presentation based on his experience with the British Gliding Association (BGA) arguing for medical care and similar views were expressed the following week to the International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine (ICASM) by a team from the Royal Air Force in sharp contrast to the proposals of others. Dick Garrison from the USA presented the wide variation in medical certification between nations which contrasted with little variation in accident rates. Pete Stratten from the BGA provided a CEOs view in which he said members utterly rejected the medical proposals from EASA. Other presentations were on first aid and human factors in accidents.

The Formal meeting on Sunday received national reports in which many contained criticisms of EASA. There was serious concern over the forthcoming aeromedical air sports conference to be held in Dubai in December coincident with the World Air Games. At that time the local organisers were behind schedule with no hotel confirmed or invitations sent out. Dr René Maire, delegate of Switzerland, who had been trying to organise the event on behalf of CIMP resigned being frustrated by the local inefficiencies. The event went ahead with some excellent speakers and a good audience mainly from Dubai and surrounding countries and a few attendees from the WAG. Sadly it clashed with ballooning activities and lacked international audience participation because of the delay in sending out information.

The next 2016 CIMP meeting will be in Lausanne and in 2017 it will be in Rome immediately preceding the ICASM.

The next Chief Medical Officer of EASA will be the current CMO of the Romanian CAA. This, sadly, is unlikely to result in any change of direction of policy.

David Bareford

(based on a report by Dr Peter Saundby to the Royal Aero Club)

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