



Annual Report

to the 101st FAI General Conference

Rhodes, Greece 11th -14th October 2007

The Amateur-built Aircraft Air Sport is progressing well in the world, although in several countries it suffers the same growing restrictions which unfortunately are affecting the freedom of air sports in general: our skies are becoming less free day after day.

In several countries the local CAA tend to delegate to homebuilders associations the aircraft certification control but not necessarily these have sufficient manpower to do the job, or to do it cost-effectively. On the other hand, in general, the substitution of ageing staff in the CAA's is leaving unfilled gaps in knowledge and experience. This is causing serious problems, because the younger staff tend to work in a bureaucratic manner, limiting their contribution to a rigid interpretation of the regulations.

A further problem is still related to the border crossing limitations that, in conflict with the European rules, some countries apply to homebuilt aircraft.

The CIACA annual plenary meeting was held on April 20th, 2007 in Rome, hosted by the Aero Club of Italy, in presence of Delegates from 12 countries. Not a large representative if one considers that more than 50% of the FAI Countries declare amateur-built aircraft activities.

In addition to the usual, institutional role of "facilitator" for what concerns exchange of experiences within the aircraft homebuilders community, several initiatives are in progress. In particular:

Solar-powered Aeroplanes : After years of dedication and preparation work, CIACA are proud that their proposed new Section (13) of the FAI Sporting Code, dedicated to Solar-powered Aeroplanes (SpA), has been approved and is being officially published. Nevertheless CIACA consider it reductive the compromise to be declared, in this respect, just "delegated" by CASI, which is formally the responsible Commission for the new Sporting Code Section 13.

New Homebuilt Micro light racer formula : The definition of a cheap and easy-to-build light racer class (MTOW ca. 280 kg with parachute) has been completed as a future competition reference. In France a micro-light homebuilt racer prototype is almost ready to fly as a demonstrator of the new formula.

Educational and Socially useful initiatives. The number of successful applications of aircraft homebuilding for social and educational purposes is continuously increasing. In a number of countries several initiatives are being undertaken. CIACA are now studying how the knowledge of such deserving activities can be made more popular to the media, thus contributing in a better attitude of the public with respect to the aeronautical world.

World Air Games 2009. Playing a significant role in the success of the World Air Games 2009 is a shared, firm intention of CIACA, as well as that of taking the opportunity for contributing in making sport aviation more popular and better accepted to the international public community. The following events are presently considered:

- Public construction (and flight) of a (kit) plane during the WAG by an international team of homebuilders.
- WAG Workmanship Award (Competitive Fly-in). A large international fly-in is foreseen, capable of offering the public on the main WAG airport many opportunities to see different, innovative and attractive kinds of aircraft and to listen to their constructors stories. Best workmanship will be awarded.
- New Homebuilt Race Formula. Too early for a true competition, the aim is that of presenting, during the World Air Games, at least a demo flight of this exciting new formula.
- Record attempts of experimental flying machines, like solar-powered and electrically-powered.
- Side events, forums for Aircraft Homebuilders, as well as a Technical Symposium on the subject of "Extreme Aviation" will be organized with the contribution of CIACA.

Phoenix Group Diploma

Hansruedi Dubler, Max Vogelsang and Peter Zweifel of the Swiss Homebuilt Aircraft Association (EAS) have been awarded the diploma for the group restoration of a Morane Saulnier MS-406, the only one flying in the world.

Pierluigi Duranti
CIACA President

Torino, August 1st, 2007