



FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)

Larnaca, October 2012

Report by Jean-Pierre Delmas, GAC President

1. Important activities, projects or events since last GAC Meeting

GAC Annual Meeting in 2011

The GAC annual meeting was held in Salzburg, Austria. 28 countries were present or represented.

At the last CASI meeting, a motion was passed to request GAC to adopt electrically-powered aircraft records within the Sporting Code section 2, as soon as possible.

The 5 week delay between CASI meeting and GAC meeting was not sufficient for an impact study and the item was not put at the GAC agenda. The impact study and proposals will be available for the next GAC plenary meeting.

New participants to GAC international championships expressed their concerns about the very high level of the competitions and the risk it could discourage new countries to come and take part.

GAC delegates:

- awarded the Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma to Edward BOLEN (USA),
- decided to have the next annual meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus,
- elected a new Bureau.

18th FAI World Rally Flying Championships in 2012

Held in Castellon, Spain, 3-9 September 2012.

98 pilots and navigators from 16 countries took part.

Gold medal for the French crew: Julien CHERIOUX (Pilot) and David Le GENTIL (Navigator)

Gold Team medal for the Polish crews: B. RADOMSKI/D. LECHOWSKI and M. WIECZOREK / M. OSOWSKI.

International Air Navigation Race competition in 2012

Held in Bitburg, Germany, 22-23 June 2012. Organised by Swiss and Luxembourg.

Winner crew was: Eric DASPET / Damien VADON (France).

Air Navigation Race (ANR) has been designed to be public and press friendly. Main characteristics are:

- it is a sort of parallel slaloms for two to four planes, with series, quarter-finals, ..., and finals,
- a narrow corridor is assigned to each plane. All corridors are at safety distance from each others,
- crews received penalties for escaping from corridors and for time gaps when crossing start line and finish line,
- a precision landing contest counts for the final results,
- real time tracking is available in the public and press room on large video screen.

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Long Range Race

The Memorial Flight Hans Gutmann was cancelled due to lack of participants. Among others, at the time of decision making for participants, there were totally dissuasive taxes on foreign aircrafts flying to Italy. These taxes have been reduced since.

2. Positive and negative result

World and European championships are planned two years in advance.

Air Navigation Race is on the good track to be on the agenda of the next WAG, if international competitions are organised in 2013 and 2014.

3. Main problem encountered and solution adopted :

FAI Executive Board took two good decisions to improve air sports: to have Breitling as an official sponsor of the FAI and to set up the *FAI Advertising and Marketing Agency (FAME)*

Some NACs and some competitors have been sponsored for years by watches manufacturers others than Breitling. Nor NACs, nor competitors should be prevented to take part to Breitling sponsored FAI championships or events.

That sort of conflicting marketing and advertising issues seems to be in the scope of the new created FAME agency and should be rapidly handled by FAME.

The case for the next WPFC 2013 in Germany was: the watches manufacturer Tutima has been a long term sponsor of power flying in Germany. Thus, the General Manager of FAME and the Secretary General organised a meeting with Breitling, the GAC President and the German delegation, in October, in Antalya, where the FAI General Conference took place. The representative of Breitling decided there was no interest for Breitling, in short term, to include the WPFC 2013 in the list of the top ten events to be sponsored in 2013. Thus, the German organiser was cleared to finalise its bid with Tutima on its side.

4. Planned activities and projects for next year :

Anti-doping

According to the new FAI anti-doping Policy, the Executive Board is establishing a Registered Testing Pool (RTP). GAC is requested to nominate 4 GAC pilots. Two among four will be selected by the FAI Board.

FAI Championships to come

- 21st World Precision Flying Championship, in Germany, in 2013,
- 9th European Rally Flying Championship, in Slovakia, in 2013,
- 19th World Rally Flying Championship, in Poland, in 2014.

All of them are to be confirmed, during the present GAC annual meeting. New bids are welcomed for coming years.

Future plans

For the standing competitions, Rally and Precision Flying, GAC delegates have to take into consideration the enormous gap between the international top level competitors and the level of newcomers. It is time to think about several classes to encourage news pilots and new countries to join the Rally and Precision communities.

The concept of an Air Navigation Race on-line competition is to be defined.