



**FAI President's report to the 105th General Conference
Belgrade, 14-15 October 2011**

Dear President of Honour, Mr. Hanspeter Hirzel,
Dear Companions of Honour,
Representatives from the Serbian Ministry of Youth and sports, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy,
Representatives from The Armed Forces of Serbia,
Representatives of the Insurance Company of Serbia and
The Serbia Sports Federation,
Mr. Bulatovic, President of Aeronautical Union of Serbia,
Secretary General and members of the Aeronautical Union Executive Board,
Dear delegates, especially all new Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My warmest Greetings to all of you and on behalf of all us our warmest thank you for all hard work arranging this conference, awarded to Serbia by the General Conference in 2010 in Incheon, Chorea. A special thanks to Mr. Ovuka, the Secretary General of Aeronautical Union of Serbia for the preparations.

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

You know, this might well be a record General Conference, with 48 members registered to attend!

First I thought I would share with you some universal thoughts, and then give you a report of the past year.

Now, as in the past,

the single crucial question posed by the individual air sport person is :

What are you and the FAI doing for me that I should pay you money for ?

At the bottom of this valid question lies an attitude among many of our individual air sport persons: the belief that they have some sort of right to the use of airspace, to be free to fly in it or fall through it as they like. Unfortunately, present day realities are quite different: access to airspace must be fought for, continuously. Which makes the answer to the question much simpler and closer than immediately apparent:

We are here to make sure that air sport persons fly at all !

That is the basic role of the national Aero Club, and it is the basic role of FAI. It is fulfilled by utilising all the advantages that we invariably have on every level: connections, old friendships and unofficial channels built up ever since flying was invented. In short: the network.

These advantages must be applied to the work of securing reasonable access to airspace and airport facilities, and to uphold their rights as members of the aviation community. No loose bunch of separate federations can match the effect of a unified approach. That's why we need the NACs, and that's why we need the FAI.

One thing is certain: if air sports are to survive, a representative unit is required in each and every country in order to present a credible and effective counterpart to the Civil Aviation Authorities. Thank you Vice Presidents for this work!

The fees and charges of government regulatory activities constitute an increasing burden for private flying and air sports, which are the core recruitment areas of professional aviation.

We must work for lowering the workload that private flying and air sports generate in the civil aviation administrations.

Now, how can we achieve this? I think we must make ourselves available as volunteer organisations prepared to take on and take over administrative issues within licensing, maintenance and certification.

When I was elected President last year I was also to lead a new Executive Board, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and one of the Executive Directors for their inspiring work far beyond what could be expected as Board Members; in fact they have all had specific tasks, or portfolios, to follow up and report on apart from being on the EB ;

- Alvaro de Orleans Borbon, my Deputy : Relationship with NACs, Constitution, Decision-making process, New Technologies and On-line contests
- Bob Clipsham, our Finance Director : Finance and Administration
- Jonghoon Lee : Business Development, commercial ventures
- Otto Lagarhus : Safety, Regulations, Relationship with Aviation Institutions (like ICAO or other as applicable)
- Beat Neuenschwander : Governance, Airspace & Navigation Systems, Technical Commissions
- Bob Henderson : Strategic Planning, Branding, Positioning, Relationship with ASCs, Sports Development, On-line contests, Safety and Anti-doping issues

Frankly, being your President or your Executive Board has not always been easy. The instruction from the General Conference in Dublin was to move forward from the report from the Strategic Task Force and the subsequent Strategic Plan, implying massive reform to a number of FAI structures.

I have tried to keep you updated by publishing a Presidential letter, and I will continue to do so the coming year. Of course, you have also been able to follow our work through our Minutes from various meetings.

We have tried quite vigorously to push for Reform, and we have brought our ideas to the Air Sport Commission Presidents in May and informally to a NAC Presidents meeting in Rome in August. We have listened and adjusted our reform proposals. Today we will ask for your support for these findings, so that we can take the necessary decisions at the General Conference 2012.

An early and dominant issue was the work of the Finance and Reporting Task Force headed by Finance Director Bob Clipsham. You will hear his report later on, but I take this opportunity of thanking the Task Force members – Bob Clipsham of course, Paulo de Moura Marques (NAC Portugal), Klaus Koplin (NAC Germany), Jean-Claude Weber (FAI Ballooning Commission CIA), Mike Heuer (FAI Aerobatic Commission CIVA), and Alvaro de Orleans Borbon (EB).

There have been a lot of myths and misunderstandings round this work. I apologize for this – however, we have been – we think - very receptive and adjusted to

accommodate and explain the various questions in this context. Later on you will hear the Report and we ask for your further support of this development aimed at increasing the transparency and streamlining the accounting systems.

On the economy side, we are still in contract with the Red Bull Air Race but until further notice this Race is put on hold and our income is greatly reduced. And in 2010 we lost another major sponsor. Another source of income was our contract with the Media firm Flying Aces but we have sent a letter of termination of the contract with them because of our dissatisfaction with their work. We are now running in red figures and a major challenge for 2012 is to find new corporate sponsorships and new income sources. The red figures are however to some extent due to the fact that we have some major events every second year. Our economy will be presented in detail later on.

Considerable effort has been put into looking into how the FAI can become a more global organisation, looking at the development in all parts of our World. We have decided to suggest the introduction of Regional Vice Presidents. RVPs will play a significant role in establishing new contacts and improving relationships with emerging countries. The intention is clearly not to regionalize the FAI – The RVP system is to provide an additional service to you and ASCs. The implementation of the RVP system would provide the FAI with a new management tool to further develop Air Sports outside of FAI traditional countries. We look forward to your support of this concept at this Conference. We are however, at this stage, not suggesting any other change to the present VP system.

We have looked into restructuring some of our Technical commissions into Expert groups. As a start, the Commission for Airspace and Navigational systems, CANS, will be reformed into two Expert groups. We have formed expert groups for New Technology and for IT; they are, however, not yet operational. And we are proposing to change the Technical Commission CIACA into an ASC.

During this work it became clear, that we also need to look closer at the Statutes Working Group Term of Reference, and CASI.

I will later show and walk you through a proposed new organisational chart of FAI.

Based on a survey where many of you were contacted, we are introducing new “marketing events” (World Series) and you will hear more about that later. It is our intention to create a separate FAI Sports Agency for this. We will also be presenting a new Branding Guide.

We are proposing all these new issues and ask for your support so we can go ahead and present necessary Statutes changes at the General Conference in Antalya, 2012.

May 6 we had the official opening of FAI new Head office at Maison du Sport International, MSI in Lausanne. This is an office we have bought and a part of it is sublet. We have therefore substantially reduced our office rent costs.

In July our Secretary General at the time, Mr. Stéphane Desprez, announced that after 18 months in office he would be leaving FAI to join FIM, the Motorcycle Federation. The recruitment of a new Secretary General started immediately but we decided not to engage a head hunter firm since we had been through this expensive and time consuming effort relatively recently. After reviewing some ten potential candidates, On August 28 we were very glad to have reached an agreement with Mr. Jean-Marc BADAN as the new FAI Secretary General. You will appreciate the stress

he has been under to get going in his new position – with a number of vacant positions in the office - and get this Conference operational.

I thank him and our dedicated staff very much for their devotion to the FAI.

In one of my letters I promised we would be able to say thank you and good luck to Stéphane at this Conference; however, his new job demands his presence in Lausanne and he sends you all his best greetings.

During the Conference you will receive an update on the new Web Page. As you know, the work of constructing a new web page was far more complicated than anticipated, and therefore very much delayed, and on top of that the server crashed in April. Therefore, a lot of work had to be made to move the old webpage to the new server, and thus the new web was further delayed. We now plan for a launch on October 18th. The new webpage will gradually be improved to include various password controlled pages for ASC, EB and the H.O.

You have been able, I hope, to follow how Air sports are becoming more visible through social networks. Facebook, Twitter, and The Sports Hub – the latter is provided free-of-charge by Sport Accord to its member federations.

The sporting License Database has also been delayed and a lot of work remains to integrate the various databases so we have one place for one person. Gradually, as the webpage is in place, the work with this will resume but we will continue with paper back up sporting licenses as we have in 2011. We will let you know when you should start again to load your information.

Thanks to a previous generous donation in memory of Prince Alvaro d'Orleans Borbon, our Executive Director's father, we have a possibility to award a cash prize for innovation within air sports. This was previously in a Fund but we have now transferred into a grant and the assets moved to Switzerland, and we will give more information on this later during the Conference.

We have made some bye-law changes that will be presented in an Annex.

A lot of work was done to launch the 2013 World Air Games but as you will hear later these have been cancelled. We have decided to change the timetable for WAG to every 4 years from 2015, and will open the bid process for 2015 shortly.

We are however, entering into new competition such as the Asian Beach Games 2012 (Haiyang, China), the SportAccord World Artistic Games 2012 (somewhere in China), the World Games in Cali (Colombia) in 2013, possibly the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014 (China) as a demonstration sport, and I thank those who have been instrumental in getting FAI visibility and participation in these great Events.

We are now fully compliant with the International Anti-doping procedures, even though we have issues with for instance out-of-competition testing and whereabouts-reporting in the ADAMS system. It is my strong view that, although we shall be compliant with the WADA rules for a number of reasons, doping is not an issue for Air sports and we shall not do more than a minimum of bureaucracy or expenses. Beware, however, that a number of our air sport persons do take medication that is on the forbidden list, and therefore need Temporary Use Exemptions, TUEs. An excellent Guide for this is on our Web page. If you are a competitor on medication that needs a TUE, do apply. It is normally easy!

There have been a number of what I call bush fires needing immediate strong action. The server crash of course.

A very sad and unnecessary technical doping violation with severe personal and economical consequences for the person involved.

The withdrawal of NAC support for a ASC Secretary shortly before the ASC annual meeting.

An FAI Team consisting of pilots who had not been selected by their NAC into a World Championship.

Some of these issues will be debated at the Open Forum.

And there have been other issues of this nature. They have taken a lot of time and resources from our strategic work.

In summary, it has been a very busy year, with a number of challenges. Without the devoted staff in our Head Office we would not be able to move forward as we are. I thank them with all my heart.

That, Ladies and Gentlemen, concludes my report and I thank you for your attention.