

FAI 117th General Conference Education Commission report

Since the covid crisis, most of the NACs showed little interest in the Education Commission. Though, in June 2023, during our last commission meeting, we got two more delegates, and that was a good sign.

On the other hand, by our discussions, we confirmed that young people seem to have less interest in aviation than in the past.

Two main reasons have been identified:

1: Aviation bashing has a growing impact on young generations

2: The number of attractive suggestions for youngsters is increasing as soon as they get their first mobile phone, around 11 years old.

To mitigate **the point 1** impact, we have to remember some cardinal elements:

- Air Transport is only 2.5% of the whole CO2 emission in the world and it is 11% of the global transport emission, by rail, road, sea and air.
- Beside that, Energy production is 47% , quiet the half of the cake, 41% for electricity only.
- Construction and Industry is also 24%, so a quarter of it, and you have to know that a house build in hard stuff needs 8 times the energy than a one made of wood. But have you heard of an "hard made house bashing" ?

All Airport fan should be knowing and saying those simple facts.

- Moreover we know now that the whole Air Transport industry has nevertheless committed itself to make its share to reduce its carbon impact.

We have also to recognise the positive impacts of the Air Transport. The fact is that, during the 20th century, and since then, at a large scale, it made people from Asia to meet Europeans, Europe to meet both Americas, Africa Europe and so on in all directions and to all corners of our planet where people live.

This is certainly a very important condition to make peace spread all over the world, and no need to insist on that necessity by now.

You have to go there to understand different people, different cultures, and access to Air Transport for always more people is a decisive point.

You have to go there specially for young generations. On this, Michel Eyquem De Montaigne, a famous philosopher of the 16th century, was already saying that " Travels educate youngsters ". For them this is a step aside to understand themselves and where do they come from at large, and thus, to understand others.

Nothing less than fraternity is at stake with Air Transport development.

There are also all the positive thing aviation and aerospace are doing in our every day

life, like GPS, earth observation and predictions from space, communication facilities. In the industry in general there are also great benefits from the R&D always very dynamic in aviation and aerospace engineering.

The whole history of aviation itself is an evocation of the courage and the tenacity needed to succeed. Here in Dayton we think naturally at the Wright brothers, but do you remember Adrienne Bolland this incredible woman that first crossed the Andes Cordilla in 1921, from Argentina to Chile, she was only 25! They are all great examples for youngsters.

The second point we have to address is to get youngsters interested in aviation before 11.

As under 11 spend most of their days with only one teacher in the primary school, teachers of the primary school will certainly be our best allies in that goal.

At this point there is a fact to be taken into account: more or less, 80% of primary school teachers have not followed a scientific curriculum, but a humanities one.

So they are not that much interested by aviation or aerospace, where physics and mathematics have a great place.

That is why we have to put forward and insist on the educational values that can bring airsport, like any other sports, but also the specific values you will develop if you are involved in aviation.

Teachers may be interested to bring to their pupils the opportunity to develop those values if we have adapted proposals available for them.

For instance, in the Education commission, we have imagined a Team Paper Plane Challenge. The idea is to use a very simple paper plane contest to develop Team spirit to the participants.

This can be a first step toward primary schools, that could be followed by other ones if we propose new activities meant the same way, and using any airsport as support or theme of it.

That is why the Education commission strongly recommend that all Airsport commissions should create its own education subcommittee, as CIAM did, so as to imagine such new primary schools modules.

If we look beside us we see that the International Olympic Committee has developed such a strategy of promoting human values brought by sport, like, joy of effort, fair play, practising respect, pursuit of excellence, friendship, balance between body will and mind. Those values can all raise the interest of teachers for their pupils.

Aviation, and in his trail airsport, requests the same values and even more, like the sense of responsibility, reliability, honesty, rigour, as safety is very much at stake. Little mistakes can have big and even fatal consequences in aviation.

To conclude, we see that aviation & aerospace, airsport, air travelling, have huge potentialities for education and that we have to address strongly this fact from the very beginning of the process, in the primary school.

Let's work on this subject as a team ourselves, via a good coordination between all airports education subcommittee, to be created with no delay, and the education commission.

You can find more about our action, in the June 2023 meeting minutes, on the FAI website.

I stay at your disposal for further discussions during the General Conference, anytime until Saturday evening.

Thank you for attention.