



FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC) 2024 Plenary Meeting Minutes



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1 WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

The FAI EnvC President, Mr Jeff ZALTMAN, welcomed all attendees, delegates, experts, and FAI observers.

1.1 ATTENDANCE

1.1.1 Roll Call Presence

Jeff ZALTMAN	EnvC President
Jacques BERLO	EnvC Vice President / EnvC Delegate (BEL)
Jari LEHTI	EnvC Delegate (FIN)
Karsten SCHRÖDER	EnvC Delegate (GER)
Andrea TOMASI	EnvC Delegate (ITA)
Hans FOLKESSON	EnvC Delegate (SWE)
Andreas RYSER	EnvC Delegate (SUI)
Rodney SKAAR	EnvC Delegate (USA)
Dick NYVALL	EnvC Alternate Delegate (SWE)
Amy SPOWART	EnvC Alternate Delegate (USA)
Antonis PAPADOPOULOS	Observer (CIAM/CASI)
Alberto MARTIN PARACUELLOS	Observer (ISC)
Rahman MANSOURI	Observer (IRI)
Markus HAGGENEY	FAI Secretary General
Kamila VOKOUN HAJKOVA	FAI Members and Commissions Relations Manager
Catherine HUNG	FAI Administrative Assistant

1.1.2 Apologies

Marina VIGORITO (FAI Executive Director)

1.1.3 There was no proxy at this time

1.1.4 Majority 4 out of 7 is Established

1.2 AGENDA

ENVC-PM-2024-annex-01.1.2-Plenary-meeting-agenda-2024

The agenda (v1.0, 05 August 2024) has been distributed to the delegates on 05 August 2024.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

1.3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared.

1.4 MINUTES OF ENVC 2023 PLENARY MEETING

ENVC-PM-2024-annex-01.1.4-Plenary-meeting-minutes-2023

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2 ENVC PRESIDENT

The FAI EnvC President Jeff Zaltman opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He reported on the activities during the period between plenary meetings, highlighting the Commission's work on the preparation, delivery, and evaluation of the survey, which will be presented in more detail during

agenda item 6. The President also expressed his gratitude to the EnvC Vice President and the FAI Secretariat for their support throughout this period.

3 FAI REPORT

ENVC-PM-2024-annex-03.FAI-SC-report-summary

The FAI report was presented by the FAI Secretary General, Markus HAGGENEY. A written summary of the report is in Annex 03.

4 REPORT OF THE DELEGATES

4.1 FINLAND

ENVC-PM-2024-annex-04.4.1-FIN-report

The current main goal is to reduce CO₂ and compensate carbon footprints. The 4H association employs young people by planting trees, resulting in successes such as the Taimiteko – Seedling Action. It aims to plant 10,000 hectares of new forest in Finland by 2030, an equivalent of about 20 million trees. Steps are taken towards offsetting carbon emissions by paying compensation fees directly to partners. Aviators in Finland compensates over 100'000kg of CO₂ annually. A questionnaire on emission reduction strategies were posed to participants to respond at a later date.

4.2 ITALY

Italy has organised various International Competitions as well as World Championships for E-gliders. Competitors were able to use engines not only during take-off and landing, but also during the contest itself. There are companies such as Silent Glider that produces ultralight gliders. There is now the additional focus of moving energy production towards the use of hydrogen fuel cells. A significant number of resources were used to study and develop electric engines. Even though the energy to weight ratio is still insufficient to be popularised, the 20% weight reduction may be useful for self-launching gliders soon. NACs are encouraged to promote electric gliding.

4.3 SWEDEN

More than 20 different clubs are putting in significant effort to improve biodiversity in Sweden. They are gradually creating as much unfertilised meadow land as possible in airfields. By eliminating invasive plants and limiting the cutting of grass for areas not used for flying, farmers are able to harvest quality hay from these areas once a year. More bee hotels are being set up to improve pollination. An increasing number of organisations are predicted to implicate these strategies in the years to come.

Consistent efforts are being made to improve internal combustion engines and the fuel used. In gliding, there are efforts to increase the number of winch launches and explore electric winches. There is also a gradual transition over to ultralight and LSA with 130-160 horsepower. Tests showed a reduction in fuel consumption by over 50%, leading to a decrease in CO₂ emission.

Although powering planes through electrification is challenging, the future for gliders is electric. There are developments in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Synthetic fuel can be produced by combining hydrogen with carbon dioxide coming out of burning biofuel. Investors are needed for non-fossil and non-diesel aviation fuel development. Electric development on the other hand also needs consistent investment to improve battery technology and its endurance.

4.4 SWITZERLAND

There was the 8th Electrify-In meeting in Bern this year. Scientists and engineers came together to work on sustainable aircrafts. This year, the focus was not only on battery powered aircrafts, but also hydrogen and synthetic fuel. This meeting was opened to the public, was well received, and will be held again in 2025. The first aerobatic display held in a public festival incorporated only electric aircrafts and were flown by air force pilots. It is predicted that next year, H55, a spin-off from Solar Impulse with an endurance of 60 minutes will obtain the second European training aircraft certification. There will be

public testing of synthetic fuels on typical engines. This is done for publicity purposes as it has already been proven to work in the past. The current CO2 calculators are quite sophisticated as it can calculate the fuel consumption automatically via baseline calculation of CO2 emissions from registered aircrafts. The two main options for pilots to contribute to climate protect now are paying compensation fees through myclimate.org and utilising the sustainable aviation fuel Book and Claim system.

4.5 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The new sustainability advisory group has met up 6 times so far in 2024. They discuss impacts and strategies on topics such as improving sustainability and reaching net zero. The Sustainable Wings Initiative has been quite positively received. Special recognition is being given for records set using sustainable fuels. As sustainable fuel is more expensive and less accessible, individuals can now obtain support and access to this recognition through the use of Book and Claim.

5 REPORT OF THE ASC/TC REPRESENTATIVES

5.1 CIAM/ CASI

Efforts are being done to study noise pollution during and before flights. There is a movement from internal combustion engine to electric models. Although most of the noise turned out to come from the speed of the rotor, this change still made an improvement as there have been less complaints from neighbours and visitors. The President of CIAM/CASI express the commission's eagerness to follow any guidance that the EnvC will provide in the future.

5.2 ACTIVITIES IN CIA AND TWG

The FAI Secretary General pointed at FAI's eldest competition, the Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett, held some days ago. The gas-balloons were inflated with hydrogen from 'green production' and the event's main sponsor, Westfalen AG, introduced a new balloon which was branded with the slogan "Say Hy to Hydrogen". The publicity was a great success as people promptly spoke of green hydrogen and its potential greatly during these days.

In the 2029 World Games to be hosted in Germany, only non-fossil driven aircraft, are expected to be invited. Skydiving activities would need electric planes, and first prototype (Australia, e.g.) are already under development which is encouraging.

It was reiterated that the DNA of aviation is save and utilise energy on board in most economical way possible. The FAI community should be proud to share technological advances and what is already being done.

6 SURVEY OF THE FAI ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

ENVC-PM-2024-annex-06.1-EnvC-survey-presentation

ENVC-PM-2024-annex-06.2-EnvC-survey-report

The FAI report was presented by the FAI Administrative Assistant, Catherine HUNG. The full presentation is provided in Annex 06.1 and a written report in Annex 06.2.

7 REVIEW MISSION / SET OBJECTIVES FOR ENVC

7.1 REWARD ACTIONS

The Delegate of USA suggested to champion individuals who are doing good things and making their actions more visible to the community and the public. It was suggested that others will emulate the actions that they see. Ways of doing this can include but not limited to awards.

7.2 INCREASE VISIBILITY

The President of CIAM/CASI suggested stories to be prepared and published on the FAI website. It was brought forward that the EnvC survey results could also potentially be worth publishing on the website. The FAI media channels could be used to raise awareness of said survey and instruct the community on how to best take advantage of its results. Commissions could regularly publish their evolving environmental policies to increase awareness on what is being done within the FAI community.

7.3 PROMOTE EVENTS

The FAI Secretary General mentioned that in a few days from this meeting, there will be the first balloon flight that has reached net zero and run completely through renewable energies. FAI has the tools such as the network and mailing list, however the commissions need to be actively communicative for this breakthrough to be properly promoted and publicised. There is a website run from Lausanne (sustainability, sport) that holds a collection of all activities claiming to be environmentally friendly or environmentally concerned. All participants of this meeting are encouraged to visit said website to see how other federations promote what they are doing for the environment. Inspiration can be obtained on what kind of issues are being addressed, what promotion has been done, and what activities other federations feel relevant to be shared.

8 ENVC AWARD

According to FAI By-Laws chapter 7.14.1

None were awarded.

9 COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commission Secretary

The EnvC President invited delegates to volunteer for the Commission and take on the role of EnvC Secretary. He encouraged anyone interested to contact him or the EnvC Vice President via email.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The EnvC President and Vice President gave their sincere apology in advance for the unavailability to be present at the General Conference in Riyadh 2024. Several methods were proposed addressing this topic. A video presentation recorded in advance by the EnvC President can be displayed during the General Conference. A Delegate may be appointed to represent and present on behalf of the Environmental Commission during the period of the General Conference. Delegates are encouraged to follow-up on their interest.

11 DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT PLENARY MEETING

A follow-up online meeting has been proposed for October, where item 7 of the agenda will be further discussed. The date for the potential 2025 plenary meeting is yet to be determined (TBD).

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