



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **France's Clément Seigeot claims his first hot air balloon world champion title**

Szeged, Hungary, 17 September 2024 – **French pilot Clément Seigeot dominated the competition at the 25<sup>th</sup> FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship, in Szeged, Hungary, fully deserving his first world champion title.**

The competition ran from 8-14 September and although the weather was not especially kind to the competitors, the audience had plenty to watch during the flights. The world's best competition balloonists performed tasks including the classic Hesitation Waltz, the Double Drop, Land Run and Fly On.

Of the 118 competitors, Clément Seigeot took gold, with Tomasz Filus of Poland claiming a silver, followed by Joe Heartsill of the USA in third position. Of the Hungary pilots, Péter Molnár achieved the best domestic result, coming 22nd.

The best female competitor was a German pilot, Aline Kalousdian. The youngest competitor, Maarten Deleersnyder from Belgium was aged just 20, while the most experienced competitor was David Bareford from England, who flew his first balloon flight in 1974.

*It was an unbelievable championship," commented Seigeot. "I'm still trying to come to terms with what's happening. It's such immense joy after so many years of effort and investment."*

Seigeot has been on the rise in the world of competitive ballooning for over a decade. In 2014, he finished 3rd at the 2nd FAI Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship. Since then, he has won events in Australia and The Netherlands, multiple French championships, finished 16th at the 22nd FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship in Szeged and was top in the top 13 of the FAI World Air Games in 2015 as well as each of the last three World Championships.

### **Final Results:**

1. Clément Seigeot (FRA)
2. Tomasz Filus (POL)
3. Joe Heartsill (USA)

### **Editor's note**

- [Results](#)
- [Event website](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- Videos: [FAI Youtube](#) - [FAI Ballooning Youtube](#) (final highlights video available soon)
- [FAI logo](#)
- [FAI media corner](#)

### **About FAI**

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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