



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

102nd Annual General Conference

Minutes of Working Sessions

**Held at the Grand Palais
Saint Vincent, Italy
3rd and 4th October 2008**

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FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

102nd ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

MINUTES

OF THE WORKING SESSIONS HELD ON FRIDAY 3rd AND
SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER 2008 AT THE GRAND PALAIS, ST VINCENT, ITALY

IN THE CHAIR Mr. Pierre PORTMANN, FAI President

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF FAI :

FAI ACTIVE MEMBERS REPRESENTED

WITH VOTING RIGHTS

HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

AUSTRALIA.....	Mr. Henk MEERTENS
AUSTRIA	Dr. Alois ROPPERT
BELGIUM	Mr. Jo VAN DE WOESTYNE
BULGARIA	Mr. Nick KALTCHEV
CANADA.....	Mr. Jack HUMPHREYS
CHINA.....	Mr. ZHAO Mingyu
CHINESE TAIPEI.....	Ms. Elsa MAI
CROATIA.....	Mr. Tonci PANZA
CYPRUS	Mr. Demetrakis HADJIDEMETRIOU
CZECH REPUBLIC.....	Mr. Vlastimil DVORAK
DENMARK.....	Mr. Hans HAVSAGER
ESTONIA	Mr. Urmas USKA
FINLAND	Mr. Hannu HALONEN
FRANCE	Mr. Jean-François GEORGES
GERMANY.....	Mr. Klaus KOPLIN
GREECE.....	Mr. Savramis EVANGELOS
ICELAND	Mr. Agúst GUDMUNDSSON
IRELAND	Mr. Tom McCORMACK
ISRAEL.....	Mr. Omri TALMON
ITALY.....	Mr. Antonio DENTINI
JAPAN.....	Mr. Yasushi YUASA
KOREA.....	Mr. LEE Won Kab
LITHUANIA.....	Mr. Stasys MURZA
LUXEMBURG.....	Mr. Carlo LECUIT
MEXICO.....	Ing. José Peña BUENROSTRO
NETHERLANDS	Mr. E.T.H. WIJNANDS
NEW ZEALAND	Mr. John McLEAN
NORWAY.....	Mr. Otto LAGARHUS

POLAND	Gen. Gromoslaw CZEMPINSKI
PORTUGAL	Mr. Manuel SILVA SALTA
ROMANIA	Mr. Constantin VOICU
RUSSIA	Mr. Vladimir IVANOV
SERBIA	Mr. Zeljko OVUKA
SLOVAKIA	Mr. Jan MIKUS
SOUTH AFRICA	Mr. Stan OLIVER
SPAIN	Mr. José Luis OLIAS SANCHEZ
SWEDEN	Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM
SWITZERLAND	Mr. Beat NEUENSCHWANDER
TURKEY	Mr. Zafer CAGLAR
UNITED KINGDOM	Mr. Keith NEGAL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Mr. Jonathan GAFFNEY

WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS:

BRAZIL

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS OF FAI :

O.S.T.I.V. Prof. Louis M. BOERMANS

PROXIES :

China to Korea (from 11am on Friday 03.10.2008)

FAI EXECUTIVE BOARD :

FAI President Mr. Pierre PORTMANN

FAI Executive Director..... Mr Willi ARPAGAUS

FAI Executive Director..... Mr. Robert CLIPSHAM

FAI Executive Director..... Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON

FAI Executive Director..... Mr. Bengt-Erik FONSELL

FAI Executive Director..... Mr. LEE Jonghoon

FAI Secretary General Mr. Max BISHOP

PRESIDENTS OF FAI AIR SPORT COMMISSIONS :

Mr. Henk MEERTENS..... President, FAI Air Sport General Commission,

Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER President, FAI Ballooning Commission

Mr. Pedro CABANERO President, FAI General Aviation Commission

Mr. Robert HENDERSON President, FAI Gliding Commission

Mr. Bob SKINNER..... President, FAI Aeromodelling Commission

Mr. Graeme WINDSOR..... President, FAI Parachuting Commission

Mr. Mike HEUER President, FAI Aerobatics Commission

Mr. Flip KOETSIER President, FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding
..... Commission
Mr. David HAMILTON President, FAI Rotorcraft Commission
Mr. Tomas BACKMAN President, FAI Microlight Commission

PRESIDENTS OF FAI TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS :

Ing Pierluigi DURANTI President, FAI Amateur Built and Experimental
..... Aircraft Commission
Dr. Michael GOTH..... President, FAI Environmental Commission
Mr. Michiel KASTELEIJN..... President, FAI Aviation & Space
..... Education Commission
Dr. Peter SAUNDBY President, FAI Medico-Physiological
..... Commission

FAI PRESIDENTS OF HONOUR

Dr. Hanspeter HIRZEL (SUI)
Mr. G.A. Peter LLOYD (AUS)

FAI COMPANIONS OF HONOUR:

Mrs. Odette BALESI-ROUSSEAU (FRA)
Mr. Terry ROWAN (IRE)
Mrs. Kyung O. KIM (KOR)
Mr. Tor JOHANNESSEN (NOR)
Mr. Alfred-Pierre HERBERT (SUI)
Mr. Bernald SMITH (USA)
Mr. Raymond J. JOHNSON (USA)

SECRETARIAT OF THE 102nd FAI ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE :

Mr. Jean-Marc BADAN,	FAI Sports and Development Director
Mr. Rob HUGHES,	FAI General Projects Manager
Mme. Christine ROUSSON,	FAI Administrative Secretary

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM :

- Dr. Cenek Kepak (President of Honour)
- Mr. Eilif Ness (President of Honour)
- Mr. Olavi Rautio (President of Honour)
- Mr. Wolfgang Weinreich (President of Honour)

- Mr. Atul Dev (Companion of Honour)
- Mr. René de Monchy (Companion of Honour)
- Mr. Yusuf Güngör (TUR)
- Mr. Jiri Koblre (CZE)

- General E. Maher (EGY)
- Mr. S. Sáenz Fernandez de Córdoba (ICARE)
- Mr. T. Vajda (CRO)
- Dr. Thierry Villey (FRA)

Belarus, Chile, Egypt.

SCRUTINEERS :

Conference unanimously agreed to the appointment as scrutineers of :

Dr. Hanspeter HIRZEL, Dr Michael GOTH, Mr. Jean-Marc BADAN, Mr. Rob HUGHES

WELCOME ADDRESS:

The President of the Italian Aero Club, Dr. Giuseppe LEONI welcomed Delegates to the Aosta Valley and wished them a successful Conference.

1. In Memoriam

Conference stood in silent memory of all friends of FAI who had died since the 101st General Conference in 2007, and especially of :

Col. Gaetano ARGENTO (ITA)

Pioneer of military and Sport Italian Parachuting in Italy and Paul Tissandier award recipient.

Mr. Jozef DANKOWSKI (POL)

Coach of Polish Gliding National Team (1958-1983).

Mr. Richard FENWICK (FRA)

President of Honour of the Rotorcraft Commission (CIG). Former President of the Aero Club de France. World record holder of in several aviation disciplines.

Mr. Steve FOSSETT (USA)

Multiple Aviation World Record Breaker (over 90 FAI World Records in balloons, airships, aeroplanes and gliders), holder of 8 De La Vaulx Medals for Absolute World Records.

Mr. Richard H. JOHNSON (USA)

Former World Glider Distance Record Holder and distinguished glider designer.

Mr. Kenan JUSUFBASIC (BIH)

President of the National Aeroclub of Bosnia and Herzegovina and BH National Aeromodeling Team Coach.

Mr. Desmond KELLY (AUS)

FAI President of Honour and Paul Tissandier award recipient.

Prof. Dr. Piero MORELLI (ITA)

Distinguished glider designer, IGC leader, and father of the World Class Glider.

Mr. Hartmut NEUFFER (GER)

Member of the International Radio Controlled Air Balloon Committee.

Mr. Antonio QUINTANA (ESP)

President of the Royal Spanish Aeronautics Federation
Delegate of FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA)
Alternate Delegate of FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI)
Organiser of the 2nd World Air Games
Director of several world and other aerobatic championships
Holder of the Paul Tissandier Diploma.

Mr. Hans-Georg SCHMID (SUI)

Holder of many FAI world records in General Aviation.

Mr. Harald SPERRER (AUT)

Leading Rotorcraft pilot.

Ms. HELMA SJUTS (GER)

Holder of the Montgolfier Diploma. Was inducted into the CIA Hall of Fame in 2003. Made 1140 gas balloon flights and spent over 6400 flight hours in a balloon flying more than 100,000 km.

Mr. Petr TOUZIMSKY (CZE)

Member of Czech national Precision and Rally Flying team, top participant at many world and European Precision and Rally Flying Championships.

Mr. Klaus WELLENS (GER)

IPC Alternate Delegate, International Parachuting Judge, Advisor IPC Formation Skydiving Committee.

2. Roll-Call of Delegations

2.1. The roll-call was taken and revealed :

41 Heads of Delegations of FAI Active Members in good standing with voting rights.

1 Observer from a FAI Active Member not in good standing without voting rights

10 Representatives of FAI Air Sport Commissions with voting rights.

1 International Affiliate Member with voting rights.

Note that 1 Active Member (China) left early and was subsequently represented by proxy to Korea.

2.2 The names of Heads of Delegations, Air Sport Commission representatives, observers and those apologising for absence were as recorded above.

2.3 Voting panels with a total of 334 votes were distributed to delegations. The number of votes required to obtain majorities were declared as follows:

Absolute majority: 168

Two-thirds majority: 223

3. Minutes of 101st FAI General Conference, 2007

Conference unanimously approved the Minutes of the 101st FAI General Conference Working Sessions held on 12th and 13th October 2007 at the Capsis Hotel, Rhodes, Greece subject to the following amendment: in paragraph 6.1 the year should be 2007 and not 2006.

4. Report of the FAI President

Mr. Pierre PORTMANN, FAI President, presented his report (**ANNEX 1**) which was adopted by Conference.

5. FAI Finances

5.1.1.1. 2007 Balance Sheet and Report by Auditors.

The FAI Executive Director (Finance), Mr. Robert CLIPSHAM, reported in detail (**ANNEX 2**) on the 2007 Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account, Commissions' finances (**ANNEX 3**), and the report on the FAI's accounts by the Auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (**ANNEX 4**).

General Conference unanimously approved the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year 2007, as presented, in accordance with Statute 3.4.1.3.

5.2. 2008 Situation.

94% of subscriptions had been received by the end of August. Expenditures were comparable to the budget which Conference had agreed in 2007. Sanction fees were already up 20% on the previous year with 4 months of the competition calendar still to account for.

The subsidy from the International Olympic Committee remained at \$20,000. Expenditure from the fund stood at CHF26,000, primarily due to the test events for the World Games 2009 in Khaosung.

A modest financial surplus was anticipated at the 2008 year-end.

5.3. 2009 Scale of Subscriptions and Draft Budget for 2009.

The FAI Executive Director (Finance) reported in detail on the 2009 scale of subscriptions (**ANNEX 5**) and draft budget for 2009 (expenses and income) (**ANNEX 6**).

The Scale of Subscriptions remained the same as in 2008 (adjusted for leaving and arriving members). It was subject to changes resulting from decisions taken on membership of FAI later in the Conference.

General Conference unanimously approved the Scale of Subscriptions and Draft Budget for 2009, as presented, in accordance with Statute 3.4.1.4.

5.4. Approval of Auditor

The FAI Executive Director (Finance) proposed a Motion that PriceWaterhouseCoopers remain FAI's auditors for 2009. This was seconded by Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM (SWE) and **approved unanimously by the Conference.**

Mr. Gromoslaw CZEMPINSKI (POL) asked if it was necessary to change auditors on a regular basis to adhere to Swiss law. It was confirmed that this was not a legal requirement. However,

there was in any case to be a change of supervising Partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers for the FAI audit in 2009.

The FAI Executive Director (Finance) thanked the FAI Members and Air Sport Commissions for carrying out their financial responsibilities, and also gave special thanks to FAI Executive Secretary Mme. Cosette MAST for her good work in keeping FAI's accounts.

6. Election of Active Members to serve on Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

6.1. General Conference was invited to elect 5 Active Members to serve on CASI in accordance with FAI By-Laws 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.2. The representatives of the following countries, having served for 2 years on CASI, were required to stand down: Canada, France, Poland, Sweden, USA.

The following countries still had one year of their two-year CASI term left to serve, and did not need to be re-elected in 2008: Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Switzerland.

The following countries stood for election to the vacant CASI posts:

France :	Del : Jean-Pierre Delmas ;	Alt : Thierry Villey
Poland :	Del : Wojciech Krupa ;	Alt : Piotr Kasprzyk
Serbia :	Del : Ljubisa Naumovic ;	Alt : Aleksandar Lepir
Sweden :	Del: John Grubbström;	Alt: Lars-Göran Arvidsson
USA :	Del: Arthur.W. Greenfield;	Alt: Jonathan Gaffney

6.2. The representatives of France (315 votes), Poland (293 votes), Serbia (256 votes), Sweden (319 votes) and USA (315 votes) were duly elected. The full list of CASI NAC Members for 2008/2009 is therefore as follows, listed alphabetically :

Australia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.

7. Terms of Reference for Statutes Working Group

The General Conference was invited to consider proposals for changes to the Terms of Reference for the FAI Statutes Working Group, as shown in the following paragraphs:

7.1 The Chairman of the Statutes Working Group, Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER (CIA), discussed the mission of the Statutes Working Group. At its inception, the group's role had been clearly described, but this role had proved to be too restrictive. The SWG proposed a new version for its Terms of Reference (**ANNEX 7**). **This was approved by a majority, with 20 abstentions.**

7.2 The Chairman of the Statutes Working Group asked Conference to approve the following new wording in paragraph 5.4 of the FAI Statutes (see 8.11A below) to reflect these new Terms of Reference.

5.4.2. STATUTES AND BY-LAWS WORKING GROUP

5.4.2.1. *The Statutes and By-Laws Working Group is a Permanent Working Group of the FAI General Conference established by the 97th FAI General Conference under the provisions of Statutes 3.4.1.9 and 5.1.2.3.*

5.4.2.2. *The mission of the Statutes Working Group is:*

5.4.2.2.1 *To examine any proposals for changes to the Statutes and By-Laws appropriately submitted for inclusion in the agenda of the next General Conference, and to perform any other tasks related to the Statutes and By-Laws as assigned by the General Conference.*

5.4.2.2.2. *To examine and provide advice on any matter relating to the interpretation, enforcement or applicability of any provision of the FAI Statutes and By-Laws submitted by the FAI President.*

The above new Statutes were approved by a majority, with 20 abstentions.

8. Amendments to Statutes and By-Laws

The Chairman of the Statutes Working Group thanked the members of the SWG for their work during the year, and invited General Conference to consider the following changes to the Statutes and By-Laws:

8.1 Statutes Terms and Definitions

FAI Magazine: In the new electronic era it was highly improbable that FAI would decide to issue a paper magazine for world-wide distribution.

Conference agreed unanimously to delete the definition of “FAI Magazine”.

8.2. Statutes Terms and Definitions

Member of FAI: The current definition excluded the following categories of Members: International Affiliate Member, Temporary Member, and Founder Member. Conference was invited to approve the following revised definition:

*A national or international organisation which has been **accepted into one of the classes of membership as defined by Statute 2.1.***

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt this new definition of “Member of FAI”.

8.3. Statutes Terms and Definitions

Working Group: This definition was confusing (it referred to “Committees”) and duplicated the definitions of Permanent Working Group and Temporary Working Group.

Conference agreed unanimously to delete the definition of “Working Group”.

8.4. Statutes Terms and Definitions

Sporting Licence: The current definition did not allow for the possibility of FAI Sporting Licences to be issued by the FAI Secretariat under the circumstances defined in Statute 2.7.2.1. (Temporary Members) and Sporting Code General Section 8.1.3.5, (those who cannot obtain a

licence from a NAC because that NAC is not in good standing, or not yet confirmed in membership by the FAI General Conference). Conference was invited to approve the following amendment:

*An FAI licence of a standard type issued **to individuals by an FAI member or if appropriate by the FAI Secretariat** permitting them to compete in national or international sporting events or to undertake record attempts.*

Conference agreed by a majority to accept this amendment, with 41 votes against and 15 abstentions.

8.5 Statute 2.5.1.1 - Membership

General Conference was invited to amend this Statute to allow for the possibility (as is the case with Romania and Egypt) that an Active Member may authorize FAI to accept one or two Associate Members alongside the Active Member, for particular sports, without there having been formal “disciplinary” proceedings under By-Law 6.3.

Proposed new wording:

2.5.1 NATURE OF REPRESENTATION

2.5.1.1. An *national* organisation with *national* jurisdiction restricted to any single FAI Activity may ~~if the Country concerned has no Active Member~~ be elected as an Associate Member of FAI. If a country has an Active Member that ~~following receipt of a legitimate complaint,~~ has been found by the FAI Executive Board ~~under By-Law 6.3~~ to be in breach of provisions in 2.4.2.2, ~~above~~ or that has given written consent to the FAI to delegate its Sporting Powers for particular air sports directly to other organisations, the General Conference may also elect as Associate Members in that country *national* organisations with *national* jurisdiction restricted to a single FAI Activity.

2.5.1.2. ~~Except as provided in 2.5.1.1. above,~~ No more than ~~two~~ Associate *three* Members from any one Country may be represented in FAI without forming a *single* national organisation and applying for Active Membership.

2.5.1.3. If an Associate Member should come to represent a second FAI Activity, that Member shall *immediately* inform the FAI Secretariat. ~~immediately and shall then be eligible for Active Membership. If so elected, the new Active Member shall be listed in a membership classification to be determined by the General Conference.~~

Conference agreed by a majority to adopt the above amendments, with 25 abstentions.

8.6 Statute 2.7.1.2 - Membership

General Conference was invited to amend this Statute to allow for the possibility of having Associate and Temporary Members together in a given country.

Proposed new wording:

***“ ...for each FAI activity (See Statute 1.1.4.). No Temporary Members shall be admitted from a country that already has an Active Member. In countries with Associate Members, candidates for Temporary Membership may be admitted, subject to Statute 2.5.1.2., but only if they represent branches of air sports or astronautics other than those represented by the Associate Members.*”**

Conference agreed by a majority to adopt this amendment, with 23 abstentions.

8.7 Statute 2.10.1- Resignation

General Conference was invited to amend this Statute to read:
~~SUBMITTAL~~ RESIGNATION BY MEMBER.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt this amendment.

8.8. New Statute 5.7.1.5.- CANS

New Statutes were required to implement the General Conference's wish to create a new Technical Commission for Airspace and Navigation matters:
The Statutes Working Group was proposing a new Chapter 5 of FAI Statutes (see 8.11A below).
General Conference was invited to approve the following new Statutes for incorporation in the new Chapter 5:

5.3.1.5 *The FAI COMMISSION ON AIRSPACE AND NAVIGATION SYSTEMS*

5.3.3.5 *FAI COMMISSION ON AIRSPACE AND NAVIGATION SYSTEMS*

Co-ordination and dissemination of knowledge and information within and on behalf of FAI on Airspace rules, regulations and policy, and Air Navigation Systems, as they may affect the types of aviation in which FAI is involved.

Conference agreed by a majority to adopt these new Statutes (16 votes against, 3 abstentions).

8.9 Statute 6.3.1.1. – Vice Presidents

General Conference was invited to eliminate the current circular definition of "Vice President" by substituting "persons" for "Vice Presidents" (...nominated by Active Members).

The Vice-Presidents shall be ~~Vice-Presidents~~ persons nominated by the relevant Active Members, who shall be elected annually by the General Conference, and the Presidents of the FAI Air Sport Commissions, who shall be Vice-Presidents ex officio.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt this amendment.

8.10. Statute 7.5.1. – Audit Reports

General Conference was invited to delete "English and French versions of this..." (Audit reports were circulated in English only).

.....by the General Conference. ~~English and French versions of this~~ [A](#) summary report shall be made available to all FAI Members.

Conference agreed by majority to adopt this amendment (20 votes against)

8.11. New Statute 4.1.5.

Conflicts of Duty. A need had been identified to avoid conflicts of duty arising from the simultaneous holding of office in FAI Commissions and in the FAI Executive Board. Conference was invited to approve the following new Statute, including revised wording supplied by the Statutes Working Group:

Persons holding elected office in FAI Commissions may not combine their office with that of FAI Executive Board member. A Commission officer who is elected or ~~designated to the FAI Executive Board~~ must relinquish office in any FAI Commission as soon as possible

thereafter, and never later than the first Commission meeting following his election or designation as a FAI Executive Board member.

Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR) indicated that there was the possibility of a conflict of interest at all levels in the FAI, from the Commissions themselves to the Executive Board, and that he did not see the reason for this proposal.

Mr. Mike HEUER (USA) also spoke in opposition to the proposal, saying that FAI was best served by people with skill, talent and recent experience. There should be a connection between the Executive Board and those involved in Commissions. Commission Presidents, members of International Juries and Executive Board members should be trusted and their integrity respected. It would be difficult to change the Statutes in order to eliminate entirely the possibility of conflicts of duty. It was in his view undemocratic to restrict Commission Officers from standing for the Executive Board. Their character and honesty should be trusted.

Mr. Stan OLIVER (RSA) asked the reason behind the proposal and whether it would bring any positive benefits. In his view, replacing one set of partisan officers with another would not improve the situation, and individuals should be trusted to behave properly.

Mrs. Gillian WINTER (FRA) asked for clarification of the term 'designated'. Mr. WEBER explained that the Secretary General is a designated member of the board and not elected.

Mr. Robert HENDERSON (IGC) suggested that there could be a limit to the number of Commission Presidents on the Executive Board in order to eliminate the possibility of a 'power-block'. He too opposed the proposal, indicating that there were 20 Officers on the International Gliding Commission, all of whom would be ineligible to stand for the Board.

Mr José Luis OLIAS (ESP) questioned why the Conference was trying to restrict the number of members eligible to stand for the Board. Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM (SWE) replied that no-one was being excluded from being an Executive Board member, only that they would have to step down as a Commission Officer.

Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER clarified that FAI Statute 6.2.1.7. already placed limitations on the freedom of Executive Board members, and that this proposal was a logical extension of that existing provision.

Mr. Hannu HALONEN (FIN) said that the FAI family needed to be able to call on all of its resources and he did not understand why such restrictions were being sought.

The FAI President replied to the questions from the floor. He reminded Conference that the Board received their instructions from Conference, and its members no longer represented a country nor a Commission while serving on the Board. The FAI President had a duty to ensure that Office holders were not pulled in two directions, both to protect the interests of the individuals and also the FAI. Executive Board members could benefit from recent experience of Commissions but they did not need to hold two positions simultaneously. The interests of FAI as a whole and those of the Commissions overlapped, but were not identical. The Executive Board was not a representative body and it was unfair to expect a Board member to have to deal with split loyalties. The great majority of the current Board as well as the Statutes Working Group had considered this issue at length and supported the proposal. The Presidents of Commissions had regular meetings with the Executive Board. Commissions which did not have Board Members were at a disadvantage compared with those who had direct access to the Board. Commission Presidents who were also Executive Board members had to decide what information to distribute to their Commission colleagues, and this put them in an awkward position.

Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR) suggested that this was a desire to shift towards central control and a 'top-down' management hierarchy. Even if a Commission President had to resign his Presidency

when elected to the Board, he would remain partisan to that Commission, something which this proposal would not change.

Mr. Bernald SMITH (USA) indicated that if the President of the Soaring Society of America were to run for the Board, he would most likely have an even greater conflict of interest than a Commission President. This proposal would mean that the only persons able to run for the Board would be inexperienced outsiders.

The President moved for a vote. Mr. Mike HEUER (CIVA) had asked for a secret ballot to be conducted. The votes were: In favour: 175, Against: 154, Abstentions: 5.

Under FAI Statute 1.4.2., a two-thirds majority is required to change Statutes. **The proposed new Statute 4.1.5. was therefore not adopted.**

8.11 (A) New Statutes Chapter 5

The current text of Statutes Chapter 5 contained several inconsistencies and did not entirely reflect the structure of FAI's different working bodies as they had developed in recent years. The Statutes Working Group had therefore reviewed Chapter 5, and had come to the conclusion that a re-ordering, and in some cases slight re-wording of the articles in this Chapter was required to reflect the present situation accurately and make the Chapter more logical and easy to consult. Their proposals for re-drafting Chapter 5 of FAI Statutes, including the new Statutes required for the Statutes Working Group (see Item 7.2. above) and for the Commission on Airspace and Navigation Systems (CANS – see Item 8.8. above), are attached at **ANNEX 8**.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt this new version of Statutes Chapter 5.

BY-LAWS

8.12 By-Law 3.3.3 - Commission Representation at General Conference.

Since any Commission Delegate could be appointed to attend the Conference, there was a need to make explicit the fact that Air Sport Commissions were not entitled to appoint or hold proxies at General Conference. At the moment, this was implicit only. It was proposed to enter the following additional text to By Law 3.3.3:

Subject to Statute 3.1.1, an FAI Commission's delegation to the General Conference shall consist of elected officers or approved Delegates of that Commission. Commissions do not have the right to appoint or hold proxies.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt this new text.

8.13. By-Law 5.2.2.- Election to CASI – Proposal of Aero Club of Israel

The following proposal for amendment to By-Law 5.2.2. was made by the Aero Club of Israel:

*Annually, five members of the Air Sport General Commission elected under 5.2.1.1 above shall go out of office by rotation. **They may be re-elected for no more than two consecutive terms.** Elections shall be by secret ballot. For each round of voting, one ballot paper will be issued for each vote present ... <...>.*

Mr. WEBER explained that the Statutes Working Group believed that this proposal would limit the General Conference's powers to elect any member it considered best suited for the position. In

addition, it would be inconsistent with the rules regulating the terms of members of other Commissions and Working Groups. At present, only the FAI President's term was limited. Also, in view of the FAI President's efforts to re-define the CASI members' role, the Statutes Working Group did not recommend adoption of the proposed change.

The FAI President asked Mr. Omri Talmon (ISR) if he would consider withdrawing. **Israel withdrew the proposal.**

8.14 By-Law 5.4.4. (and related By-Laws) - Rules Governing Commission Officer Nomination and Election Procedures

An Air Sport Commission Delegate had taken exception to the fact that no secret ballot papers had been distributed when there was only one candidate who had accepted nomination for a Commission post. Although this procedure had been in use for many years, it was at variance with the current wording of By-Laws 5.4.4, 5.4.8 and 5.4.11. Many Commission Delegates believed that acclamation was acceptable if nobody answered "yes" to the question: "Do you require a secret ballot?"

The following amendments were proposed:

5.4.4. "Each Commission shall elect a President from among its approved Delegates or the existing President ~~by secret ballot~~. If there is only one candidate the election may be by acclamation, unless a secret ballot is requested by an approved Delegate or his Alternate. In cases where there is more than one candidate or where a secret ballot is requested by an approved Delegate or his Alternate, the election shall be by secret ballot. If an absolute majority is not obtained in the first vote, a second vote shall be taken at which a plurality shall carry the election.

5.4.8. The Members of each FAI Air Sport Commission and Technical Commission shall elect by ~~secret ballot and~~ plurality vote one or more Vice-Presidents from among its approved Delegates. If there is only one candidate the election may be by acclamation, unless a secret ballot is requested by an approved Delegate or his Alternate. In cases where there is more than one candidate or where a secret ballot is requested by an approved Delegate or his Alternate, the election shall be by secret ballot.

5.4.11 The Secretary of a Commission shall be elected by ~~secret ballot and~~ plurality vote and may be re-elected for an unlimited number of terms. If there is only one candidate the election may be by acclamation, unless a secret ballot is requested by an approved Delegate or his Alternate. In cases where there is more than one candidate or where a secret ballot is requested by an approved Delegate or his Alternate, the election shall be by secret ballot.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt these amendments.

8.15 By-Law 5.6.2 / 5.6.4. – Distribution of Commission Agendas

It was not necessary for the agenda to be circulated at the same time as the notice convening a Commission meeting. Convening notices were frequently sent out a long time before the agenda was ready, and this was an appropriate procedure, for instance to enable Delegates to get the best possible air fares.

The following By Law amendments were therefore proposed:

5.6.2. The notice convening the meeting shall be ~~dispatched not less~~ sent in good time to all approved Commission Delegates and the FAI Members by the FAI Secretariat, but not

~~later than 45 days before the date fixed for the meeting, in cases of urgency, this time limit may be reduced by the Commission President after notifying the FAI Secretariat.~~

5.6.4. A detailed Agenda for each Commission meeting shall be prepared at the direction of the President and shall be sent to ~~all Delegates by~~ the FAI Secretariat ~~at the same time as the notice convening the meeting, in time to allow the distribution to all approved Commission Delegates and the FAI Members by the FAI Secretariat not later than forty five days before the date fixed for the meeting.~~ The Commission's plenary meeting cannot make final decisions on items that do not appear on the agenda. For new items to be added to the agenda, at least two-thirds of the voting Delegates present must agree.

Conference agreed by a majority to adopt these amendments (9 abstentions).

8.16 By-Law 5.6.6 – Commission Minutes

This By-Law placed an obligation on the FAI Secretariat to distribute Minutes within 45 days of the meeting, but imposed no obligation on the Commission Secretary to write them, nor on the Commission President to approve them in good time to allow the FAI Secretariat to comply with the 45-day rule. An obligation on the Commission was needed to supply the Minutes to the Secretariat within 45 days (and on the Secretariat to distribute them promptly after receipt).

The following amendments were proposed:

5.6.6. The minutes of each meeting **shall be** drafted by the Secretary and approved by the President **within 45 days of the meeting and, in conformity with By-Law 9.1.1, notice of their publication,** shall be sent by the FAI Secretariat to all Members of the Commission and to all FAI Members ~~and interested Associate Members~~ as soon as possible, ~~and not later than forty five days after the meeting thereafter.~~

Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR) asked what sanctions were proposed should a Commission not comply with this proposal. Mr. WEBER replied that all of the usual sanctions were available to the Board. There were no specific sanctions for Commission Presidents.

The Secretary General explained that the current situation obliged the Secretariat to publish minutes within 45 days when at times the Secretariat was simply not in a position to do so. Commissions did not necessarily comply with rules even when sanctions were explicit. This revised By-Law would improve the position of the Secretariat to apply pressure on Commissions to supply Minutes in a timely fashion.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt these amendments.

8.17 By-Law 9.1.1. – FAI Publications

This By-Law pre-dated the Internet era. It could be interpreted as placing an obligation on the FAI Secretariat to distribute air and space records in the form of a paper publication. It was proposed that the Chapter 9 title be amended to make clear that "Publications" included publishing on the website.

The following amendments were proposed to Chapter 9 of By-Laws:

FAI ~~PUBLICATIONS~~ **COMMUNICATIONS**

9.1. GENERAL

9.1.1. FAI shall ~~issue publications~~ **publish information** regarding its activities and meetings and also the list of current air and space records, using the most appropriate available medium. The FAI Secretariat is responsible for the issuing of all FAI ~~publications~~ **communications.**

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt these amendments.

8.18 By-Law 10.1.3. / 10.1.3.1.- Nominations for Awards

This By-Law referred only to FAI Members, but the principle set out in the By-Law (only one nomination for a given award per year) also applied to other bodies and individuals empowered to nominate for awards.

The following amendments were proposed to By-Laws 10.1.3. / 10.1.3.1.:

10.1.3 Nominations for Awards. *Subject to the specific procedures set out elsewhere in these By-Laws, nominations for FAI Medals and Diplomas may be made by **any of the following nominating authorities** :*

- FAI Members,
- FAI Executive Board,
- FAI Commissions,
- FAI President,
- FAI Secretary General.

10.1.3.1. *In any given year, a ~~FAI Member~~ **nominating authority** may propose only one candidate for each FAI Award, except when expressly stated in these By-Laws.*

Mr. Otto LAGARHUS (NOR) proposed to include FAI Companions of Honour in the list of nominating authorities. The FAI President indicated that this proposal could not be considered this year, and would have to be deferred for future consideration.

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt these amendments.

8.19 By-Law 12.11.2.2 – Ann Welch Diploma

Under the present wording of this By-Law, a flight that took place on 30 September 2007, and was ratified as a world record in January 2008, could not be considered by CIMA until Nov 2009, with presentation of the diploma in Oct 2010. CIMA's wish was that the Ann Welch Diploma be presented for a performance in the immediately preceding year, not two years previously, by which time all topicality would have been lost.

The following amendments were proposed to By-Law 12.11.2.2.:

12.11.2.2. Eligibility. *The Diploma may be awarded each year to the pilot or crew of a Microlight who, **in the opinion of CIMA** made the most meritorious flight which resulted in a Microlight World record claim ratified in the ~~calendar~~ year ~~preceding the CIMA meeting~~ **in question.***

Conference agreed unanimously to adopt these amendments.

9. World Air Games 2009 and 2011

9.1. Mr. Guiseppe VIRIGLIO (Italy), President of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) gave a presentation on preparations for the World Air Games 2009, starting with a short video.

In 2008, eight test sporting events had been carried out with over 200 athletes from 23 different countries. These events had concentrated on the technical requirements of each event rather than publicising the events themselves. Despite this, over 30,000 spectators had attended and the

reception on the part of the media as well as the public had surpassed expectations and was very encouraging.

The major problem facing the organisers remained finding private sponsors; this could be explained by the current economic situation or competition from other sports. The LOC had agreed a media strategy with the national broadcaster RAI, including daily television coverage, and this agreement was expected to be in place by the end of November.

The World Air Games should not be seen just as a local or national event, and worldwide attention should be paid to the Opening Ceremony which would take place in downtown Turin. The closing ceremony would take place on Collegno airfield and include the Italian Frece Tricolore aerobatic display team; usually such events guaranteed 300,000 spectators.

9.2. Mr. Pierluigi DURANTI (ITA) spoke not as President of CIACA but as a member of the LOC. He detailed his long association and experience with air sport events.

Mr. Duranti gave further details regarding the technical aspects. Downtown Turin would stage the indoor aeromodelling competition and possibly also gas ballooning, though great doubt still existed regarding of this discipline. Mondovi was well known for ballooning and would host hot-air ballooning. Aeroporto Torino Alitalia would stage helicopters, some of the aeromodelling competitions, glider racing, hot air balloons, parachuting and microlights. Hang gliding and paragliding would take place at Avigliana Lakes.

Aerobatics: Glider and Powered. The test event had been successful and the box had been defined and its position optimised.

Aeromodelling: Test events in artistic aerobatics and hand thrown gliders had been conducted on Aeroporto Torino Alitalia airfield.

Experimental: There would be two main events – amateur built aircraft, and a restored aircraft fly-in. Mr. Duranti invited NACs to propose two aeroplanes for this event. Solar powered aircraft would fly, and downtown two microlights would be built during the competition, and flown on the final day of the Games;

GP Glider racing: This new-format event had been carried out for the first time in Italy. The test event was successful and evaluated the tracking system to be used for the benefit of spectators.

Helicopters: Successful test events had been held in all sub-disciplines.

Microlights: CIMA had proposed very innovative tasks. The pylon racing event was very spectacular and well received by the public.

Parachuting. The Games would include 5 different disciplines, 3 of which had been tested. Real-time transmission of TV pictures from air to ground had been rehearsed. No test had been held in Canopy piloting (swooping) because the pond had yet to be built on Torino airport (60m x 20m and 1m deep). However, a test event had taken place in Regio Milia and was very spectacular.

Hang gliding and paragliding: These disciplines had been successfully tested over Avigliana lakes, using a large raft on the lake for landings. Alternative launch systems for paragliding were being evaluated.

Ballooning: A test event with 25 balloons had been held at Mondovi, with a virtual-reality reconstruction of the balloons's tracks for the benefit of spectators.

Gas balloons still required work regarding airspace access. A final decision would be taken as soon as possible.

Mr Duranti stated that the World Air Games would involve 392 athletes in total. There would be live on-site television production, fed by a combination of services; non-live coverage, maxiscreen, on

board mini-cameras, GPS real time tracking, virtual reconstruction of trajectories and helicopter based cameras.

The LOC were working in parallel with the Aviation and Space Education Commission (CIEA) to create initiatives to involve the young in the different events. The LOC were slowly moving from virtual to reality and had confidence in being well prepared for the event in June next year.

9.3. Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR) asked if microlighters would be allowed to fly into the Aeroporto Torino Alitalia airfield. Mr. Duranti replied that every effort was being made to overturn the current ban on microlights flying into the airfield. Mr. Viriglio explained that the recent situation regarding the possible bankruptcy of the state airline Alitalia had caught the attention of the Italian aviation authorities lately but they were confident of a positive decision soon.

9.4. Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP) asked how much had the LOC learned and how could FAI retain this knowledge for future events? Mr. Viriglio replied that the way in which the sports were presented to the public was a learning curve and the LOC had tried to gain the maximum out of the test events. There was a need to reduce the competition time to a minimum and to consider the needs of the public – short, quick movies with the result of the competition at the end. The public wanted to know who had won and could not wait hours for the result. Television time was different from time in real life. If the Games were to attract the attention of the media, spectators and sponsors, then they would need testimonials – a link to well-known people.

9.5. Mr. Peter LLOYD (President of Honour, AUS) asked what measures the LOC were taking to encourage attendance and how entrance money would be collected. Mr. Viriglio emphasised that it was important to see the event in its totality, with large screens to enable the public to view the start, progress and conclusion. There was a need to involve the public for the entire duration of the competition. Side attractions were planned; an aircraft making flights at zero G, a continuous balloon flight and other activities to encourage spectator participation. In order to build interest in the run-up to the Games, films would be shown firstly in Turin, then moving on to Rome and other European destinations. Tickets would be on sale in advance.

9.6. The FAI President thanked Mr. Viriglio and Mr. Duranti for their presentations and their ongoing work and invited Jean-Marc BADAN to give details of the involvement of the FAI Secretariat in the World Air Games project and also the procedure for selecting athletes for the Games.

9.7. Mr. BADAN highlighted the work done so far. This included coordination with the individual FAI commissions as well as other external bodies, including the media, press, volunteers and several other entities. FAI continued to publish news on its World Air Games and main websites. FAI had given assistance to Air Sport Commissions in their preparations for the test events. The Secretariat continued to work closely with the LOC; Mr. Badan had attended each of the test events in order to gain a greater understanding of each of the sports. He had been particularly pleased with the number of LOC volunteers involved. Outstanding issues included the development of the FAI World Air Games website, the process of selection of athletes and the web-based database of athletes' information aimed at providing profiles to the LOC, media, commentators and spectators during the Games.

Mr. Badan was currently dedicating 70-75% of his time to this project and other members of the Secretariat were involved in specific projects, for instance the athletes' database. Mr. Brian SPRECKLEY had been engaged since the beginning of the test events and had brought his perspective as former World Champion and experienced event organiser. The involvement of the Secretariat would increase in the remaining months leading up to the Games, requiring Mr. Badan's full attention. Mr. Spreckley would continue working on subjects such as the presentation of sports and results to the media and public along with relations with athletes.

Another important project was the athletes' selection procedure. The objective was to select the best of the best in each sport. There were two options; Either Air Sport Commissions would make

their selection on the basis of a world ranking list, another selection list or previous world or continental results. Or FAI members would be invited by Air Sport Commissions to propose athletes for allocated slots. In both cases, athletes needed to be approved by both the Air Sport Commissions and FAI members, this being coordinated by the Secretariat. This process was well under way with some sports having completed their selection procedures. The aim was to send all official invitations by the end of December and to publish all profiles by the end of February 2009. This was an ambitious target and would require collaboration and efficient working on all sides. Mr Badan extended his thanks to the LOC, in particular to Mr. Duranti, to the Air Sport Commission liaison officers and to the athletes who had attended the test events. If preparations were to continue in a similar vein, then confidence was high for a successful Games.

9.8 Report on the selection process for World Air Games 2011.

The Secretary General informed Conference that only one bid to host the World Air Games 2011 had been received; it seemed that potential bidders were waiting for the outcome of the 2009 World Air Games. The one bidding country was Russia. The stage 1 bid had been made on time and stage 2 was due to have been handed in by the middle of summer 2008. The Russian organisers had then asked for an extension to this deadline. The Executive Board had agreed to this on condition that the Russian National Aeroclub would be prepared to discuss the initial terms of agreement, following experience gained from the 2009 bid; the Executive Board considered it was necessary to renegotiate the media rights and worldwide distribution of footage. During discussions held with General Vladimir IVANOV (RUS) at the Conference, the Russians had asked for a further delay until November; this was necessary because of the internal workings of the Russian government and the length of time required to gain support and financial. The Board would consider this new request but had not been able to discuss it at the time of the report.

The FAI President explained that further extensions to this deadline were not possible, and that the Board would have to consider this latest request in detail.

Mr. De Orleans Borbon (ESP) replied that if the Russian bid were not to continue, then FAI should look to other alternatives, even to organise the Games internally, but that the World Air Games should be held in 2011 to maintain the timeline.

10. Situation of FAI Membership

10.1. Resignations

There had been no resignations from FAI since the previous year.

10.2. Defaulters

Three countries were considered to have resigned from FAI membership due to non-payment of fees: **Algeria, Qatar and Uruguay.**

10.3. Suspended Members

The following FAI Member was suspended for non-payment of membership fees: **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (PRK).** The Executive Board had resolved at their meeting of 30 September 2008 to make one final request for payment of the outstanding fees. Conference was asked to empower the Executive Board to make a decision at the end of the year, if necessary, to consider PRK to have resigned and to write off CHF6,000 in outstanding fees. **Conference agreed by a majority (2 abstentions) to empower the Executive Board to make this decision at the end of the year.**

10.4 Membership Changes

The Secretary General reported on proposals for changes in FAI membership. Three countries had applied for temporary membership: Bahrain, Oman and Vietnam, largely thanks to the efforts of Asiana and its President Mr. LEE Jonghoon. The FAI Executive Board was in favour of accepting all three as temporary members:

Bahrain (BRN) - Acceptance as Temporary Member

In 2007, an application for FAI Associate Membership had been received through Asiana from the Bahrain Parachuting Association. The Executive Board had decided to invite the General Conference to accept Bahrain as a new Associate Member for parachuting, subject to completion of the necessary formalities. But as at 1st October 2007, no payment had been received for the membership subscription. **General Conference had agreed to empower the FAI Executive Board to take the necessary action should payment be received.** The fee for temporary membership had subsequently been paid, instead of for associate membership, as originally intended.

Oman (OMA) - Acceptance as Temporary Member

An application form and subscription fee for Temporary Membership (Parachuting) had been received from the Oman National Free Fall Team.

Vietnam (VIE) - Acceptance as Temporary Member

An application for Temporary Membership had been received from the LIÊN DOÁN THỂ THAO HÁNG KHÔNG VIỆT NAM (Aero Sport Federation of Viet Nam), and the fee of CHF 500 had been paid.

General Conference agreed unanimously to accept all three countries (BRN, OMA, VIE) as FAI Temporary Members.

Morocco (MAR) – Possible re-admittance of a previous member

As reported to the 2007 Conference, Morocco had been expelled from FAI for non-payment of subscriptions in 2004, and arrears of CHF 14,190 had been written off at that time. Morocco had applied again for membership. In accordance with By-Law 2.1.1.5., the applicant had been asked to pay in advance 3 years of subscription. Morocco had paid CHF 3'000 to FAI, but had replied that they were not in a position to pay for 2 additional years immediately, and would transfer that amount as and when the necessary subsidies were received from government. The Executive Board had decided that this was not acceptable. Conference had therefore agreed in 2007 to give power to the Executive Board to make a decision in this case. Nothing more had happened until a meeting had taken place in Athens in June 2008 between the FAI President and Mrs. Nawal EL MOUTAWAKEL, Moroccan Sports Minister. A few days later, the 2 additional years' subscription had arrived on FAI's account. Conference was therefore invited to accept the readmission of the Fédération Royale Marocaine d'Aviation Légère et Sportive as an Active Member in Class 10, subject to acceptance by the NAC of attendance at a meeting, held under the aegis of the Ministry of Sport, during which FAI Officials would have a chance to ensure that the NAC, whose status was challenged by some air sport groups in Morocco, properly represented all sporting aviators in the country. **Conference agreed by majority (4 abstentions) to accept the Fédération Royale Marocaine d'Aviation Légère et Sportive as an FAI Active Member in Class 10.**

Egypt (EGY)

The Egyptian Sport Parachuting and Aeronautic Federation (ESPAF) had applied to be an Associate Member for parachuting. After lengthy negotiations, the FAI Active Member in Egypt,

the Aero Club of Egypt, had agreed in writing to ESPAF's application. **Conference agreed unanimously to accept ESPAF as an Associate Member for parachuting only.**

10.5. On-going Membership Problems

Bosnia & Herzegovina (BIH)

The General Conference had agreed in 2007 to extend the Executive Board's powers to continue working towards a satisfactory resolution of the problems between the two Bosnian FAI Members. On 12 December 2007, FAI had been informed that a successful meeting had been held between leaders of the two Associations. Certain agreements and plans for common actions had been made. A week before the Conference, FAI had been informed that:

- 1) The Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina had adopted a new Law affecting air sports in BIH five months previously. The two FAI Member organisations were cooperating and participating in its implementation together.
- 2) Under the Law, the National Aero Club of BIH should be approved by both Associations (Aeronautic Association of Federation of BIH and Aeronautic Association of Republic Srpska).
- 3) The approved Association should then become the member of FAI, and FAI would be informed by the responsible Ministry about this in due course.
- 4) The Aeronautic Association of the Federation of BIH was already established.
- 5) The establishment of the Aeronautic Association of Republic Srpska was expected in the next few months.
- 6) The parties were close to solving their problems locally: both associations were close to an agreement.

A further extension of the Executive Board's powers to work towards a satisfactory resolution was requested. **Conference agreed unanimously to this proposal.**

France (FRA) – Relations between Aero Club de France and CNFAS.

The Aeroclub de France and the CNFAS (National Council of Air Sports Federations) had invited FAI to a meeting as mediators. Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON and the Secretary General attended the meeting, which led to provisional agreement on a document which essentially left the Aero Club de France as the FAI Active Member, but with sporting powers delegated to the CNFAS. The Secretary General had heard very recently that the President of the Aeroclub de France was on the point of signing the agreement, putting to an end a period of 25 years of conflict within the air sport organisations in France. **Conference took note.**

Germany (GER) – Relations between the National Aeroclub of Germany (DAeC) and the German Aeromodelling Federation (DMFV) and other single-sport federations.

The FAI President had sent a letter to the newly elected DAeC President, Mr. Klaus KOPLIN (GER), who was negotiating with the different parties involved to find a solution. The Executive Board was following the situation closely. The aim was to ensure that all Air Sport persons (APs) in Germany were properly represented internationally. The General Conference was invited to give powers to the Executive Board to take the action it considered appropriate in this case. **Conference agreed by a majority (20 abstentions) to grant the necessary powers to the Executive Board.**

Ireland (IRE) - Relations between National Aero Club of Ireland and Irish Powered Paragliding and Hang Gliding Association

A request for FAI Associate Membership had been received in 2007 from the Irish Powered Paragliding & Hang-gliding Association, which considered that its interests were not being properly represented at international level. This application was not supported by the Irish NAC, which had

attempted to set up a mediation procedure. However, the mediator had declined to continue the process, as he saw no basis for reconciliation. The NACI was now considering its options. The General Conference was invited to give powers to the Executive Board to take whatever action it considered appropriate in this case. **Conference agreed unanimously to grant the necessary powers to the Executive Board.**

Slovenia (SLO) - Relations between NAC and Slovenian Free Flight Association

A request for FAI Associate Membership had been received in 2007 from the Slovenian Free Flight Association, which considered that its interests were not being properly represented at international level. The Association had agreed not to press its application if FAI was reviewing policy on membership more generally. This had now happened and the General Conference had decided to modify membership rules slightly to allow for some Associate Members in FAI alongside an Active Member. The situation in Slovenia concerning Hang Gliding and Paragliding had not evolved positively since 2007. The General Conference was invited to authorise the FAI Executive Board to take appropriate action in this case. **Conference agreed unanimously to accept this proposal.**

Pending Applications. Other enquiries about FAI membership had been received from organisations in Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands Antilles, Qatar, Somalia, & Trinidad and Tobago. Conference was invited to authorise the FAI Executive Board to continue membership negotiations with organisations in these countries. **Conference agreed unanimously to accept this proposal.**

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The United Arab Emirates had offered to host a meeting of the FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) but the person responsible had disappeared and the offer fell through. The CIA were therefore obliged to move the venue, at significant cost, to Luxembourg. No satisfactory outcome had been achieved so far, and if this issue remained unresolved then a board of enquiry would be set up to investigate the matter and to decide which penalties should be applied if a violation of the Statutes and By-Laws had been committed. **Conference took note.**

10.6. Dispute in Brazil

Brazil (BRA) – The General Conference was invited to give consideration to an application from the Brazilian Airports Committee (CAB) to replace the Aeroclub do Brasil as the FAI Active Member.

Representatives of both parties were present as Observers at the Conference; Mr. Claudio CONSOLO, representing the President of the Aeroclub of Brazil and Mrs Carmem PETTENA and Mr Gustavo ALBRECHT representing the President of the CAB. Mr. Consolo had distributed a paper to Delegates, but it was ruled that this paper was not to be taken into consideration by delegates, since its contents had already been considered by the FAI Board of Enquiry.

An Executive Board paper making recommendations concerning the situation in Brazil was distributed [**ANNEX 9**] and the Secretary General presented a summary of this paper.

Mr. Flip KOETSIER (CIVL) asked what the status of the individual air sport associations would be. The Secretary General explained that only the CAB would have sporting powers which they would not be entitled to delegate. It would be up to the CAB how to manage Brazilian internal affairs; the Secretariat would only monitor their activities.

Mr. José BUENROSTRO (MEX) asked which association had organised the 1996 General Conference in Rio de Janeiro. The Secretary General replied that the Conference was organised by a professional company acting on behalf of the Aeroclub de Brasil.

Mr. Omri TALMON (ISR) sought clarification of the position of the two Brazilian factions. The FAI President replied that it had become necessary to set up a Board of Enquiry since the two sides were unable to agree a compromise between themselves. The CAB had orally accepted the conditions contained in the Executive Board's proposal – that CAB would offer membership to the ABP (Association of Brazilian Paragliding) and that the aeromodelling association COBRA would be allowed to become an Associate Member of the FAI.

Conference voted on the 6 proposals contained in the paper at [ANNEX 9] and **agreed by a majority (7 abstentions) to accept these proposals.**

10.7. Mexico

Mr. José BUENROSTRO (MEX) asked for the floor. In 2007, Mexico had been awarded the 2009 World Paragliding Championship but the commercial interests of the local aeroclub had threatened the staging of the championship. The FAI had understood the problem and sought to bring about an agreement. On 19 September 2008, the company involved had signed a contract obliging them to follow the FAI sporting code and rules. Mr. Buenrostro thanked the FAI President, Secretary General and CIVL President Mr. Koetsier for their support and patience which had been key to solving the problem.

11. Election of FAI Honorary Patron

The FAI President invited Conference, under the provisions of Statute 2.11.1., to appoint Mr. Bertrand PICCARD, pilot in command of the first non-stop circumnavigation of the earth by balloon (1999), and instigator of the “Solar Impulse” project to fly a solar-powered aeroplane around the world, as Honorary Patron of FAI, in succession to the late M. Jean Blériot.

Conference agreed unanimously to elect Mr. Bertrand Piccard as FAI Honorary Patron.

Full biographical details of Bertrand Piccard are at:

<http://www.bertrandpiccard.com/fr/index.php>

Note: Mr. Piccard gave a memorable lecture to all delegates present in St Vincent on the evening of Friday 3 October 2008, during which he thanked FAI delegates for bestowing this honour on him.

12. Election of Members to serve on Statutes Working Group (SWG)

There were no resignations from the SWG and therefore no need for elections. The FAI President gave his thanks to the members of the SWG for their continuing work.

13. Commission Presidents' Forum

13.1. Commission Presidents' and International Affiliate Members' Reports noted by General Conference are at:

ANNEX 10 FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

ANNEX 11 FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)

ANNEX 12 FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)

- ANNEX 13 FAI Gliding Commission (IGC)**
- ANNEX 14 OSTIV**
- ANNEX 15 FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM)**
- ANNEX 16 FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)**
- ANNEX 17 FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA)**
- ANNEX 18 FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission (CIVL)**
- ANNEX 19 FAI Astronautics Records Commission (ICARE)**
- ANNEX 20 FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG)**
- ANNEX 21 FAI Microlight Commission (CIMA)**
- ANNEX 22 FAI Aviation and Space Education Commission (CIEA)**
- ANNEX 23 FAI Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft Commission (CIACA)**
- ANNEX 24 FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (CIMP)**
- ANNEX 25 FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)**

No discussion proposals had been received; therefore the FAI President invited the Commission Presidents to speak in an open forum.

Mr. Graeme WINDSOR (IPC) asked about the relevance and suitability of Commission Presidents' reports, which previously were read out at Conference, whereas now they were submitted in writing in advance. The FAI President underlined the relevance and importance of Commission reports and asked that Commission Presidents focus mainly on their Commission's activity during the year.

Mr. Windsor continued with a description of the current activity within IPC (**ANNEX 16**). This was an exciting time for parachuting. The IPC Bureau expressed its support for the initiatives taken by the Executive Board in developing and implementing the FAI strategic plan, pursuing sponsorship opportunities and creating the new format World Air Games. Following their lead, IPC had developed its own policy paper, entitled 'Attractive & Dynamic'. This specified how IPC would implement its mission of 'pursuit of excellence in sport parachuting'. In the future IPC would proactively seek bids from a new set of event organisers whose goal would be greater public participation in the sport. To achieve this, IPC would have to adjust its competition rules and scoring systems, in particular to provide instant results. The aim was to combine five of its six disciplines into one competition, labelled 'Mondiale' comprising 11 events.

Instant scoring was clearly necessary, based upon experience gained at the test events for the World Games 2009 in Kaohsiung, and it was hoped that the this experience would be shared across other Commissions. IPC congratulated the Board on appointing Mr. Brian SPRECKLEY to help with this project. Safety remained paramount in air sports; IPC requested the cooperation of the FAI and the Air Sport Commissions in the creation of an accident reporting system on the FAI website. The IPC Bureau had taken the opportunity to meet with the Executive Board to discuss future strategic directions. This was a frank and open exchange which had been of immense benefit to the Bureau, resulting in a sense of direction of moving forward with the FAI. Mr. Windsor called on all members of the FAI to work together and to strengthen their partnership so that all airports would become increasingly attractive.

Mr. Stan OLIVER (RSA) suggested that Commission Presidents should be encouraged to use a universal format for their reports to make their digestion easier. He went on to describe a new organisation in South Africa, financed by the government, which had recently taken over responsibility for issuing licences for microlights, gyrocopters & light sport aircraft. Mr. Oliver saw this as the first step towards developing more and deeper controls over recreational activities in South Africa.

Mr. Omri TALMON (ISR) indicated that Israel wanted to be able to follow suit; However, the issuing of pilot licences created a legal liability. Any accident was swiftly followed by lawsuits, creating a problem for finding insurance. The only solution would be for the Government to take on the liability attached to the process.

Jean-Marc BADAN presented a short video entitled 'A Year in Airsports', which showed the wide range of activities in the FAI family. The Secretary General encouraged Delegates to take the time to explore the FAI website to learn about the other air sports under FAI's jurisdiction and to give constructive feedback to the Secretariat as to how to improve the website and the access to the wide range of information available within it.

14. Environmental Management System

The President of the Environmental Commission, Dr. Michael Goth, presented the Commission's proposals for an Environmental Management System (EMS) (**ANNEX 26**).

Dr. Goth explained that an EMS should be simple and easy to understand. The FAI EMS was a ten page document with four clear objectives.

Local flying clubs should be encouraged to adopt an EMS to counter the real effects of flying on the environment, local wildlife and noise pollution, with the added benefit of improving the image of air sports to others.

The process of creating an EMS was explained in the paper. It was a code and not a standard which would define rules. Other standards were available for reference, such as ISO 14001. It would be possible to gain certification which would require an external audit. This approval could then be submitted to FAI in return for an award and also a flag which could be flown at the local airfield. The administration involved would be dealt with by the Environmental Commission.

By adopting an EMS, local clubs, air sports and the FAI in general would benefit from positive publicity.

15. Report of the FAI Secretary General

15.1. FAI Secretary General Mr. Max Bishop presented his report (**ANNEX 27**) which was adopted by Conference.

15.2. The Secretary General underlined the requirement for NACs to submit their data for the Sporting Licence database which would become effective from 1 January 2009. He also encouraged FAI Vice-Presidents to participate more fully in the voting for FAI awards and to consider each award separately with regard to their suitability.

15.3. An informal survey was conducted to ascertain the level of interest in a proposed Conference for Presidents of FAI Active Member organisations. The main topic of this Conference would be to discuss the agenda for the upcoming General Conference. The results were:

<i>Definitely would attend:</i>	19
<i>Probably would:</i>	11
<i>Probably would not:</i>	7
<i>Definitely would not:</i>	1

15.4. The Secretary General introduced proposals for a revised contract with the Red Bull Air Race (**ANNEX 28**). Dr. John GRUBBSTRÖM (SWE) asked to hear the opinion of CIVA, the aerobatic commission on this subject. The Secretary General pointed out that (under FAI Statute 5.6.3.2.) air racing was subject to Section 2 of the FAI Sporting Code (GAC) and was not an aerobatic event.

Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP) explained that he had initially been against this proposal, since he believed FAI's role was to select the best air sports competitors in the world by maintaining Sporting Codes and overseeing international competitions. The Red Bull Air Race was an invitation-only event and therefore not open to all. However, Mr. de Orleans Borbon had since had the opportunity to witness the competitiveness of the event and could confidently claim that any participant in the race would be among the world's best. The Red Bull Air Race rules were not against the FAI spirit and it would be beneficial to FAI to position itself in such a way as to be able to influence the rules in the future.

Mr. Alfred-Pierre HERBERT (SUI) spoke as a Companion of Honour and long-time participant in FAI activities as well as a television commentator. It was of great interest to see the FAI involving itself in this new dimension. The Red Bull Air Race attracted hundreds of thousands of spectators and it was the FAI's duty to promote the cause of air sports. Whether Conference agreed to the proposal or not, it would go ahead and it was in the interest of the FAI to be a part of it.

Conference was invited to vote on the proposal which was approved by a majority (5 votes against).

16. Proposals For Future Constitutional Changes

General Conference was invited to consider the following proposals for future constitutional changes:

16.1. Control of FAI By-Laws. To allow for greater flexibility, By-Laws could be placed under the control of the Executive Board instead of General Conference. The FAI definition of "Statutes" refers to "permanent features" of FAI, implying that By-Laws are concerned with *temporary* features. General Conference would of course always have the right to reverse or override a decision of the Executive Board to amend By-Laws.

Traditionally (prior to 2000) the power to change the FAI By-Laws "with immediate effect" had rested with the now defunct FAI Council. When the Council was abolished, it was considered wise that the power to change the By-Laws should revert to the General Conference and not to the Executive Board. This decision did not contribute to keeping the By-Laws flexible, but rather made the process more difficult (GC decision required) and more time consuming (only one possibility to change per year).

It had become evident that for many issues the Executive Board needed more flexibility and freedom to decide and efficiently manage a "modern" organisation. It was the SWG's opinion that Statutes and By-Laws could perhaps be combined in a single document under the responsibility of the General Conference, covering all vital constitutional aspects, and that all executive matters

could be combined in an “Executive Order” document under the responsibility of the Executive Board.

16.2. FAI Vice Presidents

16.2.1. Statutes Terms and Definitions

The present definition of “Vice Presidents” was circular. It did not describe what Vice Presidents are for, nor what they should do. Consideration needed to be given to widening the source of recruitment of FAI Vice Presidents to include Technical Commission Presidents.

16.2.2. A new Statute was required describing the role, duties and rights of FAI Vice Presidents.

16.2.3. A new Statute was required describing the qualification criteria for persons proposed for election as FAI Vice President (aeronautical experience, previous contribution to FAI activities, English language proficiency, time available to do the job effectively, office held in NAC etc).

16.3. FAI President

6.1.1.1. The list of categories of persons from whom the FAI President may be chosen could be expanded to include other categories of persons, for example present and perhaps former Executive Board Members, even though they may never have been FAI Vice Presidents.

16.4. CASI

Qualification criteria for NAC delegates eligible to serve on CASI (eg prior experience of FAI activities, air sport experience, Jury service, English language proficiency etc) were needed. CVs needed to be submitted in advance and to be screened by the Executive Board prior to the CASI election; this would permit unsuitable candidates to be removed from the ballot in advance where necessary. There was possibly a need to clarify that election of an Active member to CASI was dependent on that country being represented by the agreed delegate/alternate delegate only. Change of a delegate in mid-term would be subject to approval by the agreed body of the new nominees. The overall status of CASI needed to be reviewed to see if the present composition was the best possible in the circumstances.

16.5 Honorary Group Diplomas

By-Law 11.13.2. states that Honorary Group Diplomas may be awarded to “*groups of people (design offices, scientific bodies, aeronautical publications, etc.) that have contributed significantly to the progress of Aeronautics or Astronautics during the previous year or years.*” There have been several cases recently of possibly inappropriate groups such as formation aerobatic teams and airlines being proposed for the Honorary Group Diploma. This matters needs to be reviewed

16.6. Conference was invited to task the Statutes Working Group with examining the questions in sub-paras 16.1 to 16.5 above in depth and making recommendations to the General Conference in 2009. It was noted that the SWG had a heavy workload, and that therefore an order of priority would be needed.

Mr. Henk MEERTENS (CASI) had no objections to the reviewing of FAI functions but objected to any screening process which would prevent a Delegate nominated by a NAC from fulfilling his responsibilities. The Secretary General noted this important point and made clear that the SWG would take all views into consideration when discussing these issues.

Mr. Robert HENDERSON (IGC) welcomed the intention of the proposals while agreeing the point raised by Mr. Meertens. He suggested that questions 16.1 and 16.2 on the agenda were of greater importance than the others.

Mr. Omri TALMON (ISR) was unhappy that the recipient of the FAI Gold Air Medal had neither been present at the Awards Ceremony to receive his award, nor had sent an apology. He suggested that the By-Laws should be changed to oblige the FAI Gold Air Medal winner to attend the Opening Ceremony. The Secretary General took note of this proposal for consideration by the Statutes Working Group.

Having first consented to vote on all five questions en bloc, Conference agreed by a majority (20 abstentions), to task the Statutes Working Group with examining the questions in sub-paras 16.1 to 16.5 above in depth and making appropriate recommendations to the General Conference in 2009 .

17. Election of FAI Vice-Presidents for 2007/2008

Two late nominations had been received: Mr. Henk MEERTENS (AUS) and Mr. Radu BERCEANU (ROU). Mr. Meertens disputed the notion that his nomination was late since he claimed it had been submitted in good time. The Secretary General undertook to investigate the situation (*Note: The nomination had not been forwarded by the AUS NAC*).

Mr. Jack HUMPHREYS (CAN) could not find a nomination for South Africa on the list of nominations. The Secretary General explained that there was no obligation to nominate a Vice President and South Africa was not the only country which had not done so. Mr. Stan OLIVER (RSA) replied that he was happy with the situation and did not want to register a nomination. Mr. Terry ROWAN (IRE) spoke as a Companion of Honour and long-time Vice President. He made clear that, as a Vice President, he represented FAI and carried out this responsibility with diligence, responding immediately to requests from the Secretary General. A country should not nominate a Vice President if that person were not willing to act in a proper manner.

The FAI President underlined these comments. Vice Presidents were liaison officers for the FAI in their own countries; their duties included ensuring that FAI correspondence was dealt with and that the national Delegates attended Commission meetings.

Mr. Omri TALMON (ISR) suggested that the length of a Vice President's term should be extended to 2 years. The FAI President asked Mr. Talmon to submit his proposal for the General Conference in 2009.

Mr. Bengt-Eric FONSELL (SWE) had been tasked with preparing a general handbook for FAI competition organisers and he presented the table of contents (**ANNEX 29**). He had received support from some Commissions and was keen to take submissions from others since the different Commissions could learn from each other's experience. He then discussed a proposed seminar to be held in conjunction with the General Conference 2009 in Korea. It would be 1.5 to 2 days in length. Mr. Fonsell presented a 1st draft proposal (**ANNEX 30**) and invited comments. The target audience would be Delegates from NACs and Air Sport Commissions, with a minimum of 25 and maximum of 35 participants. Approximately 8 countries indicated their willingness to take part and the Executive Board would make a decision at their next meeting. Lastly, a Powerpoint presentation entitled 'What FAI can do for you' would be available from the FAI website in the near future; this could be used to answer questions regarding the FAI in members' countries.

The list of persons nominated to serve as FAI Vice Presidents for 2008/2009, subject to the incorporation of the list of amendments, (**ANNEX 31**) **was unanimously approved by Conference.**

18. Approval of Delegates Nominated for FAI Commissions 2008/2009

Several amendments to the previously distributed list of nominations had been received , and several countries had submitted new lists of nominees. **Conference unanimously approved the list, subject to the incorporation of these amendments.** The up-dated list is attached at (ANNEX 32)

Following the decision by the General Conference to award sporting powers to the CAB in Brazil, the Secretary General proposed that the Executive Board be given the power to accept late nominations from the CAB. **This was unanimously approved.**

19. Presentation of Bids and Vote on Award of 104th FAI General Conference – 2010

Croatia and Ireland were invited to present their bids for the 104th FAI General Conference, in alphabetical order.

The results of the voting were:

Croatia: 36

Ireland: 290

Abstentions: 8

The FAI President congratulated Ireland on being awarded the 2010 FAI General Conference, and thanked Croatia for their excellent presentation. Mr. Tom McCormack (IRE) thanked Conference for their support and gave his assurance that every effort would be made to create an exceptional Conference. He would endeavour to secure sponsorship in order to be in a position to invite countries which were not present this year.

20. Open Forum

The FAI President invited the Air Sport and Technical Commissions to continue the Commission Presidents' Forum.

Mr. Pierluigi DURANTI (CIACA) pointed out that the Amateur-built Aircraft Commission had proposed the definition of solar-powered aircraft several years ago. This was particularly relevant, given the presentation by Mr. Bertrand PICCARD the previous evening, since any solar-powered record would be ratified by the FAI. Currently Chapter 13 of the Sporting Code came under the auspices of CASI but Mr. Duranti hoped that this issue would be re-visited in the future.

Mr. Michiel KASTELEIJN (CIEA) raised the subject of the Young Artists Contest, whose 'Best of the Best' contest winning paintings were on display in the hotel. CIEA had had a broad discussion on what they had termed the 'generations issue': how to get the young involved in air sports, aviation and space. The Commission had sent a questionnaire to all the NACs to gather information and Mr. Kasteleijn urged the countries invited to take part to submit their answers. Mr. Kasteleijn reassured the other Air Sport Commissions that they would attend to any tasks which were submitted to them. The FAI President thanked Mr. Kasteleijn for his Commission's work and congratulated the young artists on the quality of their paintings.

Mr. Robert HENDERSON (IGC) questioned the status of Commission Representatives in Commission meetings. The FAI By-Laws stipulated that they hold Observer status and therefore may neither vote nor hold Bureau positions. He felt that this issue should be examined. Air Sport Commission representatives at Technical Commissions should in his opinion have Delegate status. The FAI President stated that this proposal would be put to the Statutes Working Group and included on the agenda for the 2009 General Conference.

Mr. Flip KOETSIER (CIVL) asked Conference for help. Pilots without the necessary FAI Sporting Licence at CIVL Category 1 events were refused entry. NACs should ensure that all competitors sent to FAI competitions were qualified and held an FAI Sporting Licence. If a competitor was not in the FAI Sporting Licence database from 1 January 2009, then he would not be entitled to compete.

Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER (CIA) disagreed. He would not send someone home if their name did not appear on the database. If they were in possession of a FAI Sporting Licence, then they would be allowed to compete, subject to revision of scores later if the licence were found to have been invalid. Mr. Koetsier agreed that pragmatism was necessary but he urged the NACs to comply with the requirements of the database.

Mr. Günter BERTRAM (GER) agreed with Mr. Weber since the database was not reliable. The Secretary General clarified that the database would be officially introduced on January 1st 2009.

Mr. Koetsier agreed on the need for flexibility. Pilots were given the opportunity to put their papers in order but ultimately they would be refused entry if they were unable to produce the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP) described how one FAI member had set up an online contest in one particular sport on the FAI website. He had included in the rubric that FAI approval in the form of a letter of recognition from their Commission was necessary to compete. He urged the Conference to visit the website and to examine the list of countries in the registration process. Most were labelled as 'Not an FAI Member'. What was FAI doing for all of these non-member countries?

Mr. Ian STRACHAN (GBR) discussed the new Technical Commission on Airspace and Navigation Systems (CANS). The first official meeting of the new Commission was due to take place immediately after the General Conference. Mr. Strachan invited Members to discuss their issues with the Commission so that these could be raised in the meeting, to send Delegates to the Commission's meetings and to visit the CANS website, where a lot of useful information was available.

21. Prince Alvaro de Orleans Borbon Fund

Professor Louis BOERMANS (NED), Trustee, reported that the 2007 award had been ceremoniously presented to the inventors of the in-flight glider anti-collision system FLARM in the prestigious surroundings of the Friedrichshafen Aero Expo in April 2007. There was no nomination for the award in 2008, following the decision to present the award every two years. René DE MONCHY (NED) had maintained the financial bookkeeping of the fund since its establishment in 2000 but he had resigned the day before. Prof. Boermans thanked Mr. De Monchy for his work and for keeping the fund in a healthy financial state. A successor had been found in the General Director of the Dutch National Aeroclub KVVJ, Mr. Kuttering. The 2008/9 award would be presented in 2009; Commission Presidents were invited to nominate candidates in accordance with the objectives of the fund. These may be persons or institutions who had devoted themselves to, or who had promoted technical developments in, aviation, especially in air sports and this included simulation flying.

The FAI President thanked Prof. Boermans for his work. He also thanked Mr. de Monchy for his careful administration of the fund which was currently invested in first class AAA bonds. Therefore the ability to award the prize in 2009 was in no doubt.

22. International Calendar of Sporting Events for 2009

The calendar was distributed and **Conference took note**. The updated version is attached at **ANNEX 33**. The Secretary General gave particular thanks to Christine Rousson for her administration of the calendar.

23. Calendar of Meetings for next 12 Months

This calendar was distributed and **Conference took note**. The Secretary General reminded Delegates that this information was available on the FAI website. He also pointed out that there was a section on the FAI website entitled 'About the FAI'. This contained information regarding meetings and FAI officials ("Who's who"). The updated version of the calendar is attached at **ANNEX 34**.

24. Recommendation of Museums

No applications had been made for Museum recognition under FAI By Law 15.1.1.

25. Any Other Business

Mr. Omri TALMON (ISR) believed that there was stagnation in air sports. He asked what the FAI was doing about the global situation; people were being pushed out of general aviation, largely due to the increasing regulation imposed by international organisations such as ICAO, EASA, Eurocontrol and JAA, together with national authorities. This in turn increased the cost of flying, thereby decreasing the amount of flying, with a resultant reduction in safety. While some issues did not directly affect air sports, they would infiltrate sporting activities in the future. Were the FAI lobbying the international bodies for the benefit of air sports?

The FAI President praised Mr. Talmon's analysis. The FAI enjoyed Observer status with ICAO and the President had visited Montreal twice. ICAO had introduced an English language requirement which seriously threatened air sports. FAI had fought this for several years and had succeeded in delaying the introduction of the language proficiency requirement until 2010.

The FAI President invited Mr. Günter BERTRAM (GER) to speak as a Europe Air Sports (EAS) Vice President. EAS was formed to deal with regulatory matters in Europe. The current issues included licensing, operations, airspace, airfields and language proficiency requirements, all of which would cost individual pilots money. EAS enjoyed a good relationship with FAI. The fight against legislation was ongoing and EAS welcomed volunteers to help with the work. The FAI President qualified this request by pointing out that EAS was chiefly manned by professionals and experts who were working as volunteers. EAS simply did not have the means to pay for the range of skills necessary to carry out their work. The FAI President urged NACs to support EAS by proposing suitable Delegates. It may not be the intention of the regulators to destroy air sports but their actions may have that effect if they are unchallenged.

Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP) reminded Delegates of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that this should be quoted when access to airspace was threatened. This access was a fundamental human right and any regulation restricting it should be strongly opposed.

Mr. Günter BERTRAM (GER) informed Delegates that the European Gliding Union had written a position paper regarding access to airspace which was available on their website. The new

Technical Commission CANS should adopt a similar stance. EGU had produced stickers with the motto 'Gliding needs Airspace' and encouraged the FAI to do the same.

Mr. Peter LLOYD (AUS) explained that FAI used to be able to rely on Mr. André DUMAS (CAN) representing FAI at ICAO, though he was now ill. He used to write, via the FAI Secretariat, to the various countries where issues on airspace affecting sport aviation were to come up at ICAO. The NAC would then lobby their national representative at ICAO to seek discussion and to vote accordingly. ICAO Representatives were often willing to listen to reasoned argument when it was presented to them in an effective manner and this system should be encouraged.

Mr. Otto LAGARHUS (NOR) asked if the video 'A Year in Air Sports' was available. The Secretary General explained that not only was this video available but also the other videos which had been shown as these had been produced by Jeff Zaltman for the FAI.

Mr. John GRUBBSTRÖM (SWE) gave thanks to the Aero Club of Italy, the local organisers, the FAI Executive Board and the FAI Secretariat for their excellent work in the arrangements for the General Conference 2008. This was warmly received by the Delegates. The FAI President reiterated this sentiment.

Mr. Hannu HALONEN (FIN) asked as to the availability of the material and presentations which had been used during the conference as he had made good use of the information in Finland during the year. The FAI President reminded Mr. Halonen of the book of Minutes and Annexes which were published after the Conference.

Mr. Pierluigi DURANTI (CIACA) followed up on his presentation the day before of the different air sports which were participating in the World Air Games 2009 by giving details of CIACA's involvement. There would be a competitive fly-in for amateur-built and experimental aircraft. Each country was allowed to send in two aircraft, belonging to either the amateur-built or replica/historic built classes for the fly-in. Mr. Duranti invited Delegates to consider this issue and to start the selection process of candidates in their own country.

Mr. Jose-Luis Olias (ESP) proposed that the FAI create a collection of videos. At each General Conference each discipline would present a video of their sport, with images taken from competitions which had been staged that year, and a prize would be awarded for the best video. The FAI President clarified that Technical Commissions could also be involved and pledged that if someone were prepared to organize such a competition, FAI would pay for the prize.

Mr. Graeme WINDSOR (IPC) stressed that there was a greater need to promote air sports to the general public and not just internally at the General Conference.

Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER (CIA) informed Delegates that a major event in ballooning was about to take place, the Coupe Gordon Bennett in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The launch had been postponed until the following Monday due to meteorological conditions. He asked the General Conference's permission to send their best wishes to all the competitors, and this permission was enthusiastically given.

26. Election of FAI President

Mr. Pierre PORTMANN, FAI President, had completed his second two-year term of office. The General Conference was invited, under Statute 6.1., to elect a President.

The following nominations were made for the post:

Mr. Willi ARPAGAUS (SWI), Mr. Robert CLIPSHAM (CAN), Mr. Robert HENDERSON (IGC), Mr. Mike HEUER (CIVA), Mr. Peter LLOYD (Honorary President) Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP), Mr. Pierre PORTMANN (incumbent President), Mr. Jean-Claude WEBER (CIA)

All except Mr. Pierre PORTMANN declined their nominations. The Secretary General asked for a vote to elect the new FAI President. **Mr. Pierre PORTMANN was re-elected unanimously as FAI President for a third two-year term.**

27. Presentation of Candidates and Election of FAI Executive Directors

The two year term of the FAI Executive Board having expired, the General Conference was invited to elect 6 Executive Directors.

The following nominations (alphabetically by nominating countries in brackets) had been received:

Mr. Robert CLIPSHAM (CAN)

Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP)

Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR)

Mr. LEE Jonghoon (KOR)

Mr. Robert HENDERSON (NZL)

Mr. Radu BERCEANU (ROU)

Mr. Willi ARPAGAUS (SUI)

Mr. Bengt-Eric FONSELL (SWE)

Mr. Michael HEUER (USA/RSA)

All candidates presented themselves or were introduced by heads of delegation and the voting procedure was initiated.

28. Arrangements for Future General Conferences

Secretary General HWANG Chang Yung of the Federation of Korea Aeronautics introduced Incheon City Deputy Mayor Mr. HONG Chong Il who expressed his pleasure at being able to welcome FAI Delegates to Incheon City in 2009. Mr. Hwang showed a video detailing the arrangements for 2009 before inviting all FAI Delegates to Incheon City next year.

The FAI President thanked the delegation for their presentation and declared that he was looking forward to the 2009 Conference, which he knew would be very well organised.

The following Members indicated or reconfirmed their intentions to bid for the 2011 and 2012 FAI General Conferences:

Bosnia & Herzegovina 2011

Croatia 2011

Sweden 2011

29. Discharge of FAI Executive Board

Mr. Terry ROWAN (IRE), being the FAI Vice-President for Ireland, invited the General Conference to give discharge to the FAI Executive Board of responsibility for the management of the FAI's

affairs during the year from 13 October 2007 to 4 October 2008. This proposal was supported by Sweden and Norway.

Conference unanimously gave discharge to the Executive Board.

30. Results of Election of FAI Executive Directors

The following Executive Directors were duly elected on the first round of voting by an absolute majority of votes:

Mr. Robert CLIPSHAM (CAN)	311 votes
Mr. LEE Jonghoon (KOR)	292 votes
Mr. Alvaro DE ORLEANS BORBON (ESP)	286 votes
Mr. Robert HENDERSON (NZL)	202 votes
Mr. Bengt-Eric FONSELL (SWE)	173 votes

(Unsuccessful candidates scored as follows: Mr. NEGAL 158, Mr. HEUER 151, Mr. ARPAGAUS 122, Mr. BERCEANU 112)

There followed a second round of voting for the election of the sixth Executive Director. Conference voted on the remaining candidates:

Mr. Willi ARPAGAUS (SUI)	67 votes
Mr. Radu BERCEANU (ROU)	62 votes
Mr. Michael HEUER (USA/RSA)	129 votes
Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR)	68 votes

None of the four candidates achieved a simple majority. Having received the least number of votes, Mr. Radu BERCEANU agreed to withdraw. A third round of voting was then carried out involving the remaining candidates, who achieved the following results:

Mr. Willi ARPAGAUS (SUI)	177 votes
Mr. Michael HEUER (USA/RSA)	91 votes
Mr. Keith NEGAL (GBR)	57 votes
	4 abstentions

Mr. Willi ARPAGAUS was therefore duly elected to the Executive Board. The FAI President congratulated the new members of the board, thanked Conference for their patience and looked forward to the next General Conference to be held in Incheon City, Korea.

Annexes

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Report by FAI President | Pierre PORTMANN |
| 2. Financial report by the Executive Director Finance | Robert CLIPSHAM |
| 3. Report on FAI Commissions' Finances | |
| 4. 2007 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report | |
| 5. Scale of Subscriptions for 2009 | |
| 6. Budget for 2009 | |
| 7. New Terms of Reference for Statutes Working Group | |
| 8. New Chapter 5 of FAI Statutes | |
| 9. Brazil – Executive Board's Recommendations (Based on Board of Enquiry Findings) | |
| 10. Report by the President of the FAI Air Sport General Commission(CASI) | Henk MEERTENS |
| 11. Report by the President of the FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) | Jean-Claude WEBER |
| 12. Report by the President of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) | Pedro CABANERO MARIMON |
| 13. Report by the President of the FAI Gliding Commission (IGC) | Robert HENDERSON |
| 14. Report by the President of OSTIV | Prof. Loek BOERMANS |
| 15. Report by the President of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM) | Bob SKINNER |
| 16. Report by the President of the FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC) | Graeme WINDSOR |
| 17. Report by the President of the FAI Aerobatics Commission (CIVA) | Mike HEUER |
| 18. Report by the President of the FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Comm.(CIVL) | Flip KOETSIER |
| 19. Report by the President of the FAI Astronautics Records Commission (ICARE) | Segismundo SANZ FERNANDEZ DE CORDOBA |
| 20. Report by the President of the FAI Rotorcraft Commission (CIG) | David HAMILTON |
| 21. Report by the President of the FAI Microlight Commission (CIMA) | Tomas BACKMAN |
| 22. Report by the President of the FAI Aviation and Space Education Commission (CIEA) | Michiel KASTELEIJN |
| 23. Report by the President of the FAI Amateur-Built and Experiment Aircraft Commission (CIACA) | Pierluigi DURANTI |
| 24. Report by the President of the FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (CIMP) | Dr. Peter SAUNDBY |
| 25. Report by the President of the FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC) | Dr. Michael GOTH |
| 26. Environmental Management System | |
| 27. Report by the FAI Secretary General | Max BISHOP |

- 28.** Red Bull Contract Extension
- 29.** Handbook for Contest Organisers – Contents
- 30.** Proposal for Seminar
- 31.** List of Vice-Presidents for 2008-2009
- 32.** List of Delegates of Commissions for 2008-2009
- 33.** International Calendar of Sporting Events 2009
- 34.** Calendar of FAI Meetings 2009

Additional documents are annexed as follows:

- 35.** List of FAI Award Winners for 2007
- 36.** List of Participants at the General Conference
- 37.** List of Companions of Honour
- 38.** List of FAI Members

Minutes approved by Mr. Pierre Portmann, FAI President on 12 December 2008.