



*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

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# Minutes

of the  
**Annual Meeting**  
of the  
**FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)**

held in Lausanne, Switzerland  
**on 9 February 2013**  
at Maison du Sport International

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## ATTENDEES

### PRESENT

President	Mr. Bernald Smith (BS) (also Representative of IGC and USA delegate)
France	Mr. Pierre Duval (Delegate)
Italy	Mr. Andrea Tomasi (AT) (Delegate)
Netherlands	Ronald Schnitker (RS) (Delegate)
Sweden	Miss Annika Burström (AB) (Alternate Delegate)
Switzerland	Mr. Marc Robert (MR) (Delegate)
United Kingdom	Mrs. Diana King (DK) (Secretary & Delegate)
FAI	Mrs. Ségolène Rouillon (SR) (FAI Members and Services Manager)

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from

Germany	Miss Denise Kluge (Delegate)
Norway	Tom-Erik Hole (Delegate)
Denmark	Soeren Pedersen (Delegate)

#### 1. Opening Remarks by the President, Bernald Smith

Bernald Smith welcomed those present and thanked everyone for coming. He called the meeting to order at 11:00 hours.

#### 2. Remarks by Ségolène Rouillon, FAI Members and Services Manager on behalf of FAI Secretary General

SR reported on the last FAI General Conference in Turkey. John Grubbström was re-elected for two years as President and there had been some changes in board members. Nine new countries had joined as members, making a total of 105 FAI members. The USA National Model Aviation Museum had been recognised as an FAI recommended museum and two Companions of Honour had been appointed. The FAI is participating in the IOC Women in Sport Award, nominating one woman from four suggestions received.

The new structure of a Regional Management System was coming into force, with Regional Vice Presidents nominated by each region and appointed by the Executive Board to promote and represent the FAI in the regions. There were now Regional Vice Presidents in Asia and South America, with another planned for Africa. The creation of expert groups was put into place in 2012, using volunteers nominated by their countries. The work is done by email, Skype and similar communications, with recommendations made to the Executive Board.

SR also reported on the creation of Fame and the sponsorship contract with Breitling. Requirements of the World Anti-Doping Agency were being followed, including the establishment of a Registered Testing Pool of ten athletes (two from each of five sports) in order to retain IOC recognition. The bid for the World Air Games 2015 had not yet been finalised.

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting in Lausanne 11 Feb 2012

It was agreed unanimously that the Minutes be accepted, subject to correction of the FAI address on the front page.

#### **4. President's and Secretary's Reports**

BS reported that he had made great efforts to persuade ASCs and NACs to take an interest or get involved in the EnvC's work, but that it had been very difficult to achieve any progress in this.

DK expressed concern at the poor level of attendance at meetings and the lack of progress with any projects. She suggested that the Commission members should consider the purpose of EnvC and the sort of work that should be done. Activity and constructive thinking would be required in order to make progress.

#### **5. Reports from Air Sport Commissions**

**IGC** - Bernald Smith

BS reported that the IGC requires bids for international championships to include environmental commitments and expects championship organisers to comply with those commitments. There was, however, little evidence that much is done in practice and there was limited other activity on environmental matters.

AT suggested that requiring airports to award environmental points as part of the overall contest scores could improve the level of attention to environmental matters.

#### **6. Reports from Delegates**

##### **6.1 Ronald Schnitker, Delegate (Netherlands)**

RS reported that there were now substantial restrictions on paramotors taking off in the Netherlands. He also commented that 8.33 KHz radios were to become mandatory in Netherlands from January 2014, although the European requirement does not come into force until 2018. This had caused many complaints. RS presented a written report, attached at Appendix 1.

##### **6.2 Pierre Duval, Delegate (France)**

PD reported that the greatest environmental difficulty for airports was complaints about noise. Keeping GA airfields available was also a challenge because many were vulnerable to redevelopment as shopping malls, industrial and storage use or renewable energy sites. A study carried out by the French CAA, on the users of airfields and the distances they travel to reach their airfields, had enabled more accurate calculations to be undertaken on the effects of closing or redeveloping an airfield. The study was able to demonstrate the potential for increased emissions due to people travelling further to alternative sites, or dropping their flying activities, and could be used to develop strategies for airfield locations and to assist in negotiations with local authorities. The study, of 450 airfields and 40,000 power and ULM pilots, cost €25,000 based on the availability of data in the French environment. A sub-product on airfields' area of attraction with accompanying factors could be developed at lower cost for other countries if data are available.

##### **6.3 Annika Burström, Alternate Delegate (Sweden)**

AB reported that minimal environmental work had been undertaken by the NAC, but that the separate airports had done some work, such as the carbon offsetting programme by the Swedish Parachuting Union. The number of jumps offset had increased from 10,000 in 2011 to 20,000 in 2012.

##### **6.4 Marc Robert, Delegate (Switzerland)**

MR reported on problems of closure of small airfields for redevelopment or for noise reasons. Some aircraft have been forbidden from flying because of noise complaints, which had also caused the prohibition of use of heli-landing pads in the mountains. Switzerland was

adopting the German Luftsport Audit and would be holding meetings to promote the idea. The NAC was planning to appoint a full-time in-house environmental specialist, to be paid for by the CAA.

#### **6.5 Andrea Tomasi, Delegate (Italy)**

AT reported that a prize has been proposed for the Italian aero club that devises the best environmentally sustainable activity.

#### **6.6 Denise Kluge, Delegate (Germany)**

A written report by Denise Kluge was tabled (Appendix 2), covering developments in the Sport-Audit Luftsport, the Natura 2000 brochure and a new concept of 'airy meetings'.

#### **6.7 Diana King, Delegate (UK)**

DK reported that there had been little change since the previous year. Noise was a major factor in decisions by local planning authorities and wind turbines continued to present a threat to a number of airfields. Significant positive environmental activity in air sport was limited, but a number of gliding clubs had ordered Eurofox towplanes, which should use far less fuel than conventional towplanes and so would have significantly reduced emissions. The use of UL91 was becoming popular where possible. The main pre-occupation of many clubs and airfields was survival through the recession, so they did not have the capacity to give much attention to environmental policy. Reduced activity due to the recession was very noticeable, with one effect being that emissions were undoubtedly reduced due to fewer flights.

### **7. FAI Environmental Diploma**

A written proposal had been circulated in advance (appendix 3) and was presented by AT. He suggested that it could be a mechanism to promote environmental concepts for airports and to encourage NACs to give time to the topic. AT also presented a short video about Angelo d'Arrigo, whose name he was suggesting should be attached to the award. After some discussion it was agreed to adopt the idea and that it should be presented to the Executive Board after the wording had been slightly improved. It needed to be sent to the EB by 15 March for their meeting in early May. SR clarified the procedure for awards, that nominations have to be invited either by 31 May for general awards or by two months before the relevant Commission meeting if the award is to be considered by a Commission. Nominations may be made by the EB, NACs or Commission Presidents.

**ACTION Bernald Smith, Diana King and Andrea Tomasi**

### **8. Environmental Workshop**

BS suggested that there should be an event at the General Conference, organised and presented jointly with the Education Commission (CIEA) with the aim of communicating to and educating members about the importance of environmental work. There was considerable discussion about the way that this could be achieved and PD proposed that the key message to be presented should be the threat to airports from environmental considerations and the help that can be offered by the EnvC. He proposed a title based on 'Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' (appendix 4) with some themes that could be included. It was agreed to request a joint EnvC/CIEA presentation slot at the Conference. PD would prepare a proposal on the Commission's policy, to be agreed by email after the meeting, with a presentation plan to be submitted to Jean-Marc Badan by the end of February. A request should also be made for funding to be made available to enable the presenters to attend the Conference.

**ACTION Pierre Duval**

## **9. Electric-powered competitions**

A suggestion had been made by the FAI President that competitions should be developed for electric-powered aircraft. After some discussion it was agreed that, although a good idea with considerable potential, it was too early to be developed because of the small number of suitable aircraft. It was agreed that the issue should be raised with the Presidents of the ASCs, at the Commission Presidents' meeting, as an idea to be considered for future action.

**ACTION Pierre Duval**

## **10. Project Status**

### **10.1 Flying Sites' Environmental Management**

No information was available about the document discussed in 2012.

### **10.2 Fuel situation**

BS presented a paper (Appendix 5) outlining the communications he had had with various organisations regarding the continuing availability of 100LL or substitutes. He reported that some solutions were in hand. PD tabled an article on the subject (Appendix 6). It was agreed that no significant action was required but that a watching brief should continue.

### **10.3 Website changes and problems**

SR reported that she had reviewed the FAI EnvC web pages and she suggested that the contents needed a full review by someone sufficiently knowledgeable to decide whether the documents contained on the site were still relevant or needed updating. There were also a number of other environmental documents, of which many were in German, on the FAI server. RS offered to review all the documents and make recommendations.

**ACTION Ronald Schnitker**

### **10.4 World Air Games**

DK suggested that this topic should also encompass World Championships and proposed that organiser agreements in all FAI international competitions should include a commitment to comply with the environmental requirements of the FAI Environmental Code and with local (i.e. national, regional and local) environmental requirements. This requirement should be incorporated into the Request for Bids for all events. This was agreed and should be proposed to the Executive Board.

**ACTION Pierre Duval**

## **11. Status and Effectiveness of EnvC**

A discussion took place on the most appropriate way to improve the effectiveness and credibility of EnvC. There had been pressure from the Executive Board to replace the Commission with an Expert Group. Three delegates or NACs not represented at the meeting had written in favour of such a change and two of the members present (AB and MR) also indicated their approval of the concept. Countering this view, it was considered that the status of Commission gave greater credibility and that it should be possible to recruit appropriate experts within the framework of the Commission, to help with the FAI work and also be available to assist NACs. The list of experts could be posted on the website. It was recognised that activities needed to be pursued during the coming year in order to demonstrate the value of EnvC and to justify the continued existence of the Commission.

After considerable discussion it was proposed by RS, seconded by PD and agreed unanimously to retain the Commission for the time being and to find experts to work within

the Commission. The next steps would be to define the type of experts needed and to recruit suitable people within those areas. RS offered to start this work.

**ACTION Ronald Schnitker**

<b>12. Other business</b>
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**12.1 Joint meeting with CANS**

It was agreed that this should not be pursued.

**12.2 French research on airfields**

PD made a short presentation giving more detail about the project that he had described earlier.

<b>13. Elections</b>
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**President** – Pierre Duval was nominated and elected by acclamation.

**Vice-Presidents** – Bernald Smith was nominated and elected by acclamation.

**Secretary** – Diana King was nominated and elected by acclamation.

<b>14. Next Meeting</b>
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The meeting should take place in January or February 2014. AT made an offer to host the meeting in Rome and this was accepted subject to the detailed bid being received and considered appropriate.

**ACTION Andrea Tomasi**

The meeting closed at 17.45.

Minutes prepared by:  
Diana King  
Secretary  
FAI Environmental Commission

19 February 2013

**List of Appendices**

1. Report from Netherlands – Deregulation from the national authority to the local authority (provinces)
2. Report from Germany from Denise Kluge
3. Proposal for FAI environmental diploma
4. Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> century
5. Report 1 on communications regarding availability of 100LL
6. Web article regarding availability of 100LL