



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Minutes

of the
Annual Meeting
of the
FAI Astronautic Records Commission (ICARE)

Held in Lausanne, Switzerland,
on Friday 26th April 2013
at the Maison du Sport International

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**FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE
FAI ASTRONAUTIC RECORDS COMMISSION (ICARE)**

Annual Meeting

on 26th April 2013, starting at 09h15

MINUTES

1 WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT

The President welcomed all attendees, in particular Mr. ALAA, Dr. SENGIL, Mr. BEREND and Mr.TASAROV who were attending for the first time. The President expresses his satisfaction to see the number of countries now taking interest in space matters, and sending delegates to ICARE.

2 ROLL-CALL

Eight countries are represented (Egypt, Germany, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA) and no proxies. Also present is Mr. Nicolas Berend, from France, who accepted to be the new technical expert replacing Mr. Marchal, who retired after many years of excellent work in such capacity.

The list of attendance is attached as ANNEX 1.

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (27th April 2012)

The Minutes of the 2012 meeting are approved unanimously.

Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic and/or communication problems, the ICARE minutes of meetings have been published very late in the last years. Dr. Miles underlined the importance of publishing the Minutes of the meeting as soon as possible, something everybody supports.

NOTE post meeting: Notwithstanding the above decision, the present minutes have only been available even later than in previous years. Mr. Robert Hughes, who attended the meeting on behalf FAI, and took care of taking notes, left FAI soon after the meeting without having the opportunity to write the minutes. The present minutes are written by the President with the major help of the Vice President, based in the notes of Mr. Hughes. I apologize for possible mistakes.

5 FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE, MEETINGS and ACTIVITIES

a. Report on FAI General Conference 2012

Mr. Hughes gave his report on the General Conference and other FAI matters for last year. The information in full is available at the FAI web page.

b. Report from UK delegate on CIEA

ICARE Vice President Dr. Miles explained that he would attend the second day of the CIEA 2013 meeting the next day. He advanced to ICARE the report he would present. The report is a very clear presentation of the actual situation of various space vehicles, and the plans of the scientific community (from a variety of space agencies and countries) for the use of such vehicles. It contains as well a description of the various advanced research experiments which are being carried on in the ISS. The Presidents thanks Dr. Miles for such a precise and interesting report that will be attached to the minutes (ANNEX 2).

6 ASTRONAUTICS ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

a. Progress report by FAI and Delegates from Member countries.

UNITED KINGDOM:

ICARE Vice President Dr. Miles presents a summary report on the space activities (ANNEX 3). He expands the report about some of the private activities taking place. He explains that a Company in Isle of Man, Excalibur Almaz Limited, acquired soviet spacecraft and is planning to refurbish them for space tourism. The spacecraft have flown and are flight worthy. They will use an American launch vehicle and there are proposals for mining activities on asteroids and tickets to the moon. Other interesting activities of the UK in collaboration with other parties are described in ANNEX 3.

SWEDEN

National space board, has been on decline in last 2 years. ODIN successful satellite was launched 10 years ago and no new major development is taking place. Sweden is collaborating with ESA in the planned mission to Jupiter and its moons, planned for 2022. No manned space flight is envisaged. Volvo aerospace sold to a UK company the interesting Copenhagen suborbital – basically a nylon rope between 1st and 2nd stages that melts when engine ignites.

FRANCE

ESA keeps its participation to Ariane, a major French interest in space. Novaspace is considering for parabolic flight, possible for public to fly in it. One flight has already taken place, and one more is scheduled later this year. In the other hand, French space agency does not support building of dedicated manned space flight.

TURKEY

The country is beginning phase of involvement in astronautic business. Just 4 months ago they launched its second observation satellite with Chinese launch vehicle. The country tendency is to work with Asian rather than western suppliers.

RUSSIA

No special information available. The work in SAMARA space centre proceeds smoothly.

USA:

Newspaper sends out yearly review. Most information is published and easy to obtain in http://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/pdf/716971main_winter_2013_508.pdf

The delegate explains about Orion vehicle (see Annex 2 referred above. Orion is currently a USA vehicle, but they envisage a contract to ESA for future.

GERMANY

Most activities are linked to ESA's centre close to Cologne. It has been newly structured and well organised. At the moment, 3 of 6 astronauts recruited by ESA are assigned to flights. In next two years three of them will be on ISS long duration flights (6 months).

The Delegate gave information on the actual situation of ESA, the European Agency for which Germany is a main contributor. ESA has a council, but every 3rd year the main decisions are taken by ministers (very important decisions). The last Ministerial conference took place in Italy 2012. Delegates from all member states take the strategic decisions, many of which are controversial. On the table were proposals for €12bn and finally they approved almost €11bn. Earth observation programs were oversubscribed, which was important for budget. Ariane was financed to end 2014, which gives security.

On the other hand a manned ATV has been shelved despite being so close and being 20t, 3 times bigger than any Russian vehicle now in use. Thus, ISS will have to keep relying on Russian vehicles which is a constraint for the ISS. The big problem is still down weight since Soyuz can only bring down a few kg extra.

SPAIN

Spain has been a big contributors to ESA for a long time, in fact the 4th bigger after Germany, France and Belgium. But at present, and given the serious economic problems, they suspended their contribution, something that has created big concern at ESA. There are discussions going on between ESA and the Spanish government to try to find some solution.

7 FAI SPORTING CODE

SECTION 8 (ASTRONAUTICS).

The matter of the 100km altitude (Karman line) and its significance comes back again. Once more it is stated that the 100 km is an arbitrary limit; there is no change at this level. Mr. Berend explains that atmospheric drag is still a significant factor at 100km and orbiting needs drag compensation units. Drag becomes almost negligible at around 120km. 100km is simply an agreement.

Mr. Henrik Akerstedt proposed a simplified version of the rules and modifications. A very interesting discussion followed, to which practically all delegates contributed. The general feeling is that the rules in the code itself have to be technically very precise to avoid problems of interpretation. It is also recognised that some times extreme precision can make the code too long and difficult, but simplification to make it understandable by general public will lead to severe problems to decide on records. As in many previous occasions, it was agreed that a high level summary for those reading the code will be useful so long as precise rules are kept in the code itself. The problem is drafting that summary. Mr. Akerstedt declares his willingness to try doing it and submit to delegates .

8 NEW ASTRONAUTICAL RECORDS

There was a claim for accumulated space flight time by cosmonaut KRIKALEV of 803d 9h 41m 9s. Inspection of the files by Mr. Berend found 2 minute error, which was acknowledged by Russia, the accumulated time being really 803d 9h 39m 9s.

The Commission accepts absolute world record of accumulated space flight time set by Krikalev for a total of 803d 09h 39m 09s. The basic information in the dossier has been corrected for the difference of 2 minutes for total flight time, a minor discrepancy.

Information is available on FAI website.

The discrepancy however led the President to ask Mr. Hughes how exactly are approved the records for other FAI Commissions. Mr. Hughes informs that in the other Commissions there are not special experts to review the dossiers. The Secretary, and other FAI officials, are very competent to judge in Aeronautic matters, so they do it directly. It is only in Astronautic matters that they expect the advice of the Commission, or at least of the nominated technical expert (nowadays Mr. Berend) before they approve a record. But so far, the record keeps being approved by FAI as such, in parallel to Aeronautic records.

9 PROPOSALS FOR FAI AWARDS

1.- General review of awards (from 2012 meeting minutes)

Gagarin Gold Medal: A proposal is presented to suppress awarding to a crew, and to award to only one a year to an individual. The proposal is approved by majority.

The minority opposing the proposal argued that most flights are a team effort. As for the limitations of people recognized for an award, it is a general matter. Just for one, a Nobel prize can be recognized to a maximum of 3 people per year. If a team of 5 signs the paper, the Nobel prize is not awarded.

The Commission decides to remove the phrase "The medal may also be awarded to a crew" from the rules of the Gagarin Gold Medal.

2.- Yearly awards

According to USA delegate, the nominations (which he hands to the delegates) were sent to FAI in February, but apparently were not received or lost. Nevertheless, the President reminds the Commission that it will be not the first time that nominations received after the deadline have been accepted if nobody rejects such move. Nobody opposing, the Commission accepts reviewing the nominations..

The Commission approved the following

- a. Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal
Dr. Donald R. Pettit
- b. Komarov Diploma
Crew of ISS Expedition 31
- c. Korolev Diploma
Crew of ISS Expedition 32
- d. Other nominations
None

There is no nomination for Gold Space Medal. This medal is no longer decided by the Commission, but certainly it has a lot to say about it. Of course, like all nominations must be supported by NAC or by commission, and the Commission can propose candidate.

10 INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTIC FEDERATION

Report on the 2012 IAF Congress and nomination of FAI delegate to the 2013 IAF Congress.

Mr. Berend, which attended the Congress (not as FAI Delegate) informs that it was a record of attendance. Most attended topics were Space Transport and Debris – the last one being a hot topic, talking about active debris removal.

FAI has post of Observer at IAF General Conference. Mr. Berend is happy to accept role.

11 PRESENT WORLD RECORDS – REPORT

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gregory Oliver is retiring and will no longer attend the ICARE meetings. The delegates thanked him for his contribution to ICARE al these years.

13 ELECTIONS

President: Dr. Segismundo Sanz Fernández de Córdoba

Vice President: Dr. John MILES

Technical Expert: Mr. Nicolas BEREND

14 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT ICARE MEETING

Next meeting will take place at FAI Headquarters, Lausanne, on 25 April 2014