

**Agenda Item 01:**

**Opening Remarks 08.03.2025** (submitted by Markus Haggenev, FAI Secretary General)

**Dear Delegates, Esteemed Guests, and Friends,**

On behalf of the **FAI President, Mr. Greg Principato**, who extends his warmest regards, I am honored to address you at this **50th annual meeting of the FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission (CIVL)**. Reaching such a milestone is a remarkable achievement, reflecting the dedication, resilience, and innovation that have shaped CIVL over the past five decades. This golden jubilee stands as a testament to the passion of this community and its unwavering commitment to advancing our disciplines.

A special acknowledgment goes to **CIVL President, Mr. Bill Hughes, and his Bureau** for their tireless efforts in guiding the commission and shaping its future. Their dedication ensures that CIVL continues to thrive, adapting to new challenges while preserving the spirit of our sports.

We are also especially grateful to our hosts here in **Montenegro** for welcoming us and for their warm hospitality in staging this important gathering.

Montenegro's return to the **FAI family as a member since 2024** is a great moment for our Federation, and we are delighted to be here. Our sincere thanks go to **Mr. Dragan Ivancevic, President of the Montenegro NAC, Mr. Juskovic Nebojsa, CIVL delegate**, for their leadership and commitment to air sports in this country. I am also pleased that I could meet the **Mayor of Budva, Mr. Nikola Jovanovic** yesterday, as appears, a new strong supporter for the development of paragliding here in the region. I would also like to extend my gratitude to **Mr. Zeljko Ovuka, the delegate from Serbia**, for his valuable support of this plenary, and in fostering collaboration in this region, not only in Hang Gliding and Paragliding but in other air sport disciplines as well.

**CIVL disciplines embody the key characteristics of a modern sport.** They offer thrilling competition with **close to zero environmental impact**, fostering a strong connection with nature as pilots harness the power of the elements. These disciplines are **accessible**, attracting a diverse community that includes a significant number of **young pilots and women**. Their dynamic and inclusive nature contributes to their continued growth and development within air sports.

As we celebrate this rich history and look ahead to the next 50 years, let this assembly serve as a catalyst for even greater achievements. Let us continue fostering **innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability** in our sports, ensuring that future generations can experience the joy and freedom that hang gliding and paragliding bring.

**Congratulations, and thank you!**