

56th FAI/IPC PLENNARY MEETING 2005

Subject :	Mission plan	Annex	2 B
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FUTURE OF THE MISSION PLAN AND IT'S PURPOSE

During the last Plenary session in Lisbon, I committed to review the Mission Plan and to come up with a proposal for an update of this document that is supposed guide us in our actions.

This review was motivated by the rejection in the past of certain points of this Plan by the Plenary but also by the double disappointment of the failure of the World Air Games and our inclusion in the Olympic Games.

In order for this project to be accepted by the majority of the delegates and the core of the IPC that are our commissions, I asked the Chairs of the commission to work with their teams and to make proposals that I would then coordinate and consolidate into a coherent plan that I would present to you.

Unfortunately this has not worked as the commissions have not been able to come up with any suggestions or proposals. As one chairperson put it, the commissions are capable of looking at the is necessary for their own commission but are not able to see the overall needs of the IPC. I personally don't blame the commissions for this lack of response especially as they already dedicate a lot of their time to run their own commissions. However, it does means that the proposals I put to you are mine in spite of my desire to work as a team.

Below you will see the points that I believe are worth maintaining and those that it is preferable to suspend or even abandon.

Long Term Goals : to be maintained as long at the WAG and WG remain.

Ranking System : to be suspended until such a time that this idea becomes acceptable to all delegates. Such a system needs to be managed professionally and requires much personal investment either by an unpaid volunteer member of the IPC who is prepared to invest the time or by a supplier who would collect the data necessary to maintain the system but at a cost.

New Media Plan : to be suspended

Mondial Structure : to be maintained. The structure that allows all the IPC Championships to be run together as a whole is, and must remain, different to an event that just runs individual Championships at the same time and in the same place. More and more organisers combine several disciplines and this is a sign that medium term, we should be able to perpetuate the concept and change our habits so that we no longer talk about a Mondial but about the World Parachuting Championships.

Synchronisation : this needs to be maintained but in a modified format. We must not move too far away from the spirit of each discipline just to try and find a common standard that will never satisfy everybody. A typical example is the minimum number of jumps per competition. Although no discipline should be obliged to betray its basis, some questions are legitimate such as, for example, why does one discipline need more views than another,...

Event development : to be maintained. Originally this objective was to develop the number of competitions and their frequency. Other parameters need to be considered such as the format and the rivalry that major events can cause each other. The review of the World Cups could lead to an increase in the number of competitions but with a more simple organisation. In my view it is risky to develop different competitions of similar importance without giving it a lot of thought. The World Cup format does need to be reviewed as it is a way of finding private organisers and a way of integrating continental championships and even parallel structures to the IPC such as Asiana.

Active Website : it is obvious that we need to be able to manage such a vector of communication. However, the site does not belong to the IPC but to the FAI. This obliges us to respect the common image but allows us to control the content. The management of the FAI site is undergoing change and will allow easier use. In order to have more autonomy, we need to find either a volunteer amongst our delegates who has the time and the skills to maintain the site or else to use a provider who would update our pages and could, with the agreement of the FAI, find partners for our pages.

Image capture and Image Handling : to be abandoned. Overall, technical development is now so fast that it is not worth investing at such a small scale. In addition to this, delegates were never really in favour of a centralised system for copying and distributing images. The commercial implications should be defined and made clear and this is not easy to do. Each event organiser has their own solution to offer and the IPC probably needs to be less flexible on this point in its contracts. Finally, no clear solution was found for the maintenance and repair of such a system.

Sport Scoring : to be maintained but adapted. It would seem possible to standardise the formats used for judging and scoring (Word Excel ?????) It is vital to update and modify the specifications of judging systems discipline by discipline, as they evolve. To open up to competition would allow other companies to offer systems based on IPC criteria and not on the criteria of the manufacturer (freeze frame, timing,; computer process, screen size and resolution, etc..).

Sports Vision : to be maintained but adapted. The IPC image must be included in any contractual agreement with competing companies. The key would be a graphical charter for each discipline but with sufficient flexibility to allow for a little freedom of the imagination of the different organisers. The current trend is for a less strict uniformity (Olympic Games but also the World Game image)

Financial Plan : to be maintained. The abandonment of certain options such as the creation of a technical system that the IPC could have rented or the potential actions that the merchandising paragraph foresees need to be submitted to the FAI. I believe that the current treasurer should be able to organise a study of the potential sources of income which is the really the main problem. The creation of a portfolio and its direct management by the IPC treasurer et the finance commission is a possible solution.

A mission needs to be added to this list, it relates to the history of the IPC and the need for archives so that we can look back at decisions taken, it could be called **Archives and Memory**.

Proposed Mission Teams and Team Leaders to be approved in Poland :

1. Long Term goals : Graeme Windsor
2. Mondial structure : Patrice Girardin
3. Format synchronisation : Ronald Overdijk
4. Event développement : Rainer “Exi” Hoenle
5. Active Website : to be appointed

6. Sport scoring : to be appointed
7. Sports vision : to be appointed
8. Financial plan : Buzz Bennett
9. Archives : Larry Bagley

If my ideas and this proposal are approved by the Plenary, I would ask each Leader to redefine the specifications and actions of their field of competency to be submitted to the Bureau for action in 2005. The current document reflects the vision of my predecessor for the future of the IPC and the way it is run. Based on the well-thought-out original plan, this updated Mission Plan should be approved by a majority of delegates and comprises concrete actions that are more realistic.

Patrice Girardin
12/2004