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GAC PRESIDENT REPORT TO THE FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE

October 2010, Dublin (Ireland)

The year 2010 starts officially at the end of 2009 with the GAC Plenary Meeting, held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th, November 2009.

Members of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) were welcomed to Palma by Mr. Manuel Roca, President of the Real Federación Aeronáutica Española, and Mr Jose Luis Olías, President of Real Aeroclub of Spain.

The meeting was called to order November 5th 2009 at 09:00 by Mr. Pedro Cabañero, GAC President. He welcomed all persons in attendance, and offered a special welcome to the delegates of new countries attending the conference for the first time, such as Mongolia delegates. He also welcomed Mr Pierre Portmann, FAI President, and Mr Max Bishop, FAI Secretary General, to attend the meeting. He thanked Mr. Jesus Mas, Spanish delegate for his full help organizing the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved, with the addition of two new items: the approval of international jury members & judges and the approval of new GNSS dataloggers. The minutes of the meeting held in Prague, Check Republik, October 2008, were unanimously approved.

I myself reported on commission-related activities during the year. I congratulated the organizers for a very successful combined Precision Flying and Rally Flying World Championships that were held in Poland and Castellon, Spain, in July and August. The GAC Bureau held a meeting during the championships.

I also informed the delegates that FAI had signed a contract with Red Bull earlier this year. The contract allows Red Bull to use the title "Red Bull Air Race World Championship" and to declare a World Champion each year. Known formerly as the

Red Bull Air Races, the championships are now purely racing and do not include aerobatics. Sanction fees for the event will go directly to FAI, since GAC did not play any role in securing the contract. The Secretary General of FAI has forwarded an amendment to Section 2 of the FAI Sporting Code which would give the FAI General Conference responsibility for the Red Bull competition rules. This amendment will be considered later in the agenda. All that was fully accepted by delegates and I also informed about some news in order to cancel the exhibition completely during the year 2011. At the time to write this report, these news are confirmed. Unfortunately, I should inform you, that the only Spanish pilot flying in Red Bull Series, Alex McLean, died last August in Spain, in a tragic accident, when training for a Spanish local exhibition.

Talking about the competitions during the year I remit myself to the official information sent to GAC by the International Chief Judge, Mr Andrej Osowsky from Poland to whom I liked to thank from here his perfect job, and also to the Jury members, Mr Jiri Dodal, president, from Czech Republic, Mr Vang Jensen from Denmark, and Mr Kris Lenartovicz from Poland. And also to the Organizers, Mr Jan Chudy, Competition Director, and all his staff. The competition was held in Dubnka nad Vahom, Slovak Republic, from 9th to 15th August 2010, and was successfully done and organized.

About World Precision Flying Championship and World Rally Flying Championship in 2012, It was noted that Hungary expressed an interest in organizing world championships for both Precision Flying and Rally Flying in 2012.

Subcommittee Reports

Air Navigation Race Subcommittee

Mr. Heini Schawalder, Chairman of the Air Navigation Race Subcommittee, reported on the development of ANR as a new GAC competition. First official Championship is been done in Switzerland in August 2010 with fully success.

Precision Flying Subcommittee

Mr. Johann Gutmann, Chairman of the Precision Flying Subcommittee, proposed several changes to the Rules and Regulations for Precision Flying. Mr. Gutmann also proposed that additional medals be awarded at Precision Flying Championships to the best individuals (top three) for the Navigation tests and also for the Landing tests. This would allow for a total of six additional medals to be awarded at each championship.

Rally Flying Subcommittee.

Mr. Andrzej Osowski, Chairman of the Rally Flying Subcommittee, proposed several changes to the Rally Flying

Records Subcommittee

Mr. Art Greenfield, Chairman of the Records Subcommittee, proposed changes to Section 2 of the Sporting Code, Annex 2, and Annex 3. He noted that perhaps the most significant proposed change was to require that all records for Speed Over a Recognized Course be a minimum distance of 400 kilometers (regardless of where the start and finish points are located), and that all current records not meeting this requirement be retired on January 1, 2009

Awards

Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma

I noted that no country had made a nomination for the Charles Lindbergh Diploma. However, the Bureau wished to nominate Mr. Krzysztof Lenartowicz for the award, and he made a motion for the commission to approve the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved, subject to approval by the NAC of Poland.

About Red Bull Air Races, Mr Art Greenfield noted that delegates were sent a message from Max Bishop, FAI Secretary General, proposing an amendment to Section 2, paragraph 7.1, as follows:

“The regulations summarize the general contents of the rules for competitions under GAC responsibility. The detailed Competition Rules for these competitions shall be approved by GAC. Rules for Red Bull Air Races are under the responsibility of the FAI General Conference.”

I'm sorry that I can not inform you about this year GAC meeting, because it will be held next October 28th in Lausanne, two weeks after the general Conference in Dublin. . The inform about it will come next year.

My last words to you are more personal.

Due to personal reasons, basically to professional ones, I have been obligated to decide to quit the GAC Presidency, after six years in it. Being the President is been one of the biggest pleasures and honour, that I have got in all my life time. And I have been supported and fully helped for all the GAC delegates world wide. From here, I want to thank them all for it. And also the GC for the same reason.

Finally, it is a pleasure and a honour for me, to acknowledge the excellent support provided by our Secretary General Mr Stephane Desprez, and all his staff in FAI Office in Lausanne, and to thank them all for their big job on behalf of the GAC. Thank you very much.



Pedro Cabañero
FAI GAC President.