



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS #3

On the 15th of March we all witnessed a horrific event when people praying peacefully in their local mosques were attacked in Christchurch, New Zealand. This was an abhorrent act that has served to remind us all that there are people in the world who actively and openly discriminate against others and victimise them on the grounds of ethnicity, gender and religion.

This has shocked my country and the response from individuals and communities nationally and globally has been incredible and supportive. To see religious leaders of all faiths standing side-by-side and embracing at memorial ceremonies has been wonderful.

This experience has made me thoughtful about how fortunate we all are – our hundreds of thousands of air sports persons and the hundred plus nations in our community – who all share passion for aviation activities and common respect for each other that reaches across the barriers that divide so many people in other walks of life. We need to always remember and value our shared sporting beliefs and visions.

This latest edition of my musings is late; I had intended to write it when I returned home from meetings in Europe in early March. I am now catching up so please excuse me using bullet points here to record recent activities and plans for the near future:

- 28th February – a 3-hour meeting with Kit McConnell (IOC Sports Director) and Andrew Hoffer (IOC Manager Recognised IFs) attended by myself, Susanne and Ségolène. Key discussion points included: the appropriate recognition of IFs and the AFA by the Olympic Council of Asia; the difficulties posed for national recognition of athletes by some countries; and, the correct naming of countries.
- 5th March – a full-day workshop in Istanbul with the FAI team and THK team – supplemented by many of their key sports persons - to review and challenge all elements of the existing plan for the WAG 2022. Outcomes included: deleting Antalya from the list of sites; concentrating the opening and closing ceremonies in Ankara; and, thanks to the input from the THK team, also included clarity about what disciplines could practically be accommodated at the various locations.
- 6th March – a full-day Coordination Committee (CoCom) meeting. The Terms of Reference for the CoCom were agreed and there was a focus on defining safety personnel and safety requirements and the financial payment schedule. A number of actions were established, with reports required at the mid-June meeting, including: the nomination of a Chief Safety Officer; confirmation of the Local Organising Committees; a meeting with the CAA Turkey; and confirmation with the ASCs on sports and venues.

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- 7th and 8th March – a two-day EB meeting. The Minutes of this meeting will be made available. Key outcomes include: the EB adding a full-day financial planning session to the EB meeting at the end of April; extending the Commission Presidents Group meeting at the end of April to two days to ensure time to discuss WAG 2022 and address other issues raised by the Commission Presidents; and, confirmation of the Asian Summit in Bangkok on the 12th of June (in place of the informal NAC meeting). Invitations for this Summit will be coming out shortly.
- 12th to 14th March – President of Honour Frits Brink and EB member Alvaro de Orleans Borbon were in Riyadh representing the FAI at the 1st Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They were hosted by Crown Prince Sultan. Also present, of course, were EB member Abdullah M. Al-Jawini and FAI RVP, Captain Ayed Alkasme.
- 22nd to 30th April – The 74th CISM¹ General Assembly and Congress, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. President of Honour, John Grubbström will attend to represent the FAI.
- 28th April to 1st May – EB and Commission Presidents meetings in Lausanne. We have a presentation being provided by the IOC, courtesy of Kit McConnell, planned for the Commissions Presidents meeting.
- 6th to 10th May – the 17th SportAccord Convention in Gold Coast, Australia. Susanne, Markus and myself will be attending. This event includes the annual assemblies of ARISF², SportAccord, IWGA³ and GAISF⁴. The FAI will also have a booth at this event, co-hosted by Red Bull Air Race.

One closing thought – I have recently learnt to put only a single attachment on emails, rather than multiple attachments, to avoid the risk that they are not all seen and therefore not read.

Best regards



Robert Henderson
FAI President

31st March 2019

¹ The International Military Sports Council

² Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations

³ International World Games Association

⁴ Global Association of International Sports Federations