



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

25 September 2020

Dear Friends

As we approach our General Conference and board elections, I want to take a moment to share my vision about how we might strengthen the FAI for the future and make it more efficient, effective and transparent.

Many of you will have seen the attached organisational diagram (or something similar), showing the various interactions across the FAI – representation, reporting and elections. Dotted lines reflect an informal relationship between the groups. This clearly shows the blurring of the functional pathways within the FAI at present.

Well-intended incremental decisions, taken over past years, have resulted in the FAI arriving at this complex structure.

We need to ask whether our Air Sport Person on an airfield, would have any awareness of whether this structure supports them competing or flying records? Would any of FAI's partners accept this complex set-up as a valid reason for the cost of the organisation, the time taken to reach decisions and the value and quality of the decisions taken to support them? If we were to ask experts how to design an International Federation to tackle the multiple challenges it faces (political, financial, airspace, competitions etc) would they produce a structure such as this?

The answers have been debated already.

In short, I believe that FAI is too complex, too slow and too expensive for the delivery of the core services it should provide. My vision is to empower the bodies we have; to do things once and do them well; to eliminate parallel functions; to optimize workflows; to identify best practice; and, to shorten decision making cycles.

I want Commissions, as owners of the specialized sections of their Sporting Codes, to become an integral part of FAI's management. They are the engine room of this organisation; they deliver hundreds of sanctioned Cat1 and Cat2 events each year which they support with hundreds of volunteers from their commissions.

I want to see a functionally more effective Executive Board that adds value for our APs, Members and Commissions. This board would be comprised of Commission and Member representatives and Independent Directors. It would be focused on delivering high quality competitions and protecting FAI assets, material and intellectual property, and supported by a modern office. The pathway to achieve this configuration of the EB will be to eliminate the Statutory requirement that elected board members give up their current role in the FAI.

As always, I welcome and highly value your contributions and anticipate that the incoming board will want to discuss these ideas with everyone.

Best regards and stay safe

Bob Henderson
President, FAI
25th September 2020

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

3. FAI Strategic Plan

■ Actual Flow

