



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

29 April 2020

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Markus Haggenev on his appointment as FAI Secretary General and I and my fellow board members look forward to working closely with Markus.

As we start to see some of the Covid-19 restrictions lifted by countries, it is timely to consider the next 6-12 months of FAI activity. After the initial burst of work with the onset of the Covid-19 problems, we have now gained some time to reflect on the future.

I appreciate that many NACs will be working hard to figure out how to support air sport and recreational flying activities in their countries in the immediate future. There is, it seems to me, an opportunity now to think carefully about how we might all conduct our activities and focus our energies to ensure a positive future for air sports. I suggest that we will be unlikely to return to "business as it was". We need to be innovative, to embrace new technologies, to create new ways of thinking about flying sports, to explore opportunities to be environmentally friendly, and reach out to potential members. We need to help each other by sharing with each other our thoughts and ideas to support the efforts of everyone.

At the office - our newly appointed Secretary General has agreed to a salary that acknowledges the budgetary constraint under which FAI is working. We have also taken full advantage of the Covid-19 support provided by the Swiss Government and the Canton du Vaud, to complement staff remuneration and we are at the forefront of planning for the future compared to many other sports federations. The staff numbers in the office have been rationalised, partly because of the changed workload and partly because of the success of the creation of our virtual office. In mid-2019 we had some 8.6 full time equivalent staff; we now have 4.5 full time equivalent staff. And we are now looking at the virtual office as the potential future way of conducting business and continuing the 2-weekly zoom meetings for the executive board rather than periodic and expensive face-to-face meetings.

The Air Sport Commission Presidents have, to a large extent, completed the re-planning of their Cat 1 Championships. The latest change was the decision to move the ISC Mondial to 2021. This is a major logistical effort as it involves some 1000 participants. With time now to catch our collective breath, I have initiated a zoom meeting with the Commission Presidents to review their plans so far and start a discussion about how flexible we might need to be to achieve valid World Championships in 2021. We will also review the impact on the ASCs from the loss of sanction fees for 2020. This meeting will happen early next month.

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

The FAI 2020 group are now looking at the likely scenarios that face the FAI for the future. The focus now is on providing clarity about the roles and responsibilities of the NACs, ASCs, office and all others involved in the ensuring high quality, safe and efficient championships, and an awards and records management schemes with high integrity. This will help us define the shape of the organisation for the future.

For the General Conference, we are watching carefully what other major sports organisations are planning. For your convenience, I have included the message from Andrew Hofer, at the IOC, with the links to the World Health Organisation risk analysis for sports events. Even a quick calculation of the risk factors shows that our large, indoor meetings, combined with the demographics of our attendees, places us in the high-risk category. We are working closely with CIMP to develop ideas on how to reduce this risk profile.

In the meantime, we see that organisations such as GAIFS (who have the same risk profile as us) are moving towards holding an entirely electronic annual meeting. We could do the same. Before we go down this path, we would need to develop a plan for handling documents and proposals and enabling debate on proposals. Voting is relatively easy and we already have a voting tool that can track the number of votes attributable to a response and we can achieve secret voting by having the votes collated by a neutral party. Any permanent progress along this path, possibly used for all of our meetings, will significantly reduce expenses and add environmental benefits to the way FAI conducts its business.

On the governance of the organisation's finances, the Executive Board is being updated every two weeks, at each zoom meeting, on the current financial situation. In addition, we have launched a project to simplify the finances and transfer all routine financial transactions to an electronic platform. Both actions will reduce the cost of the overheads associated with financial processes.

As always, I welcome your feedback and your views on FAI matters of importance to you.

Best regards and stay safe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Bob Henderson
President, FAI
29 April, 2020

Mass gatherings COVID-19 risk assessment

The following provides a COVID-19 risk assessment and mitigation checklist for use by host countries and mass gathering organizers. It also includes an operational tool which offers guidance for organizers holding meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak and which should be accompanied by the WHO COVID-19 Generic Risk Assessment Excel file. It should be read in conjunction with WHO's Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak (Interim guidance).

It is WHO's view that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing mass gatherings that bring people together and have the potential to amplify disease and support the recommended best practice of physical distancing. Any decision will be supported through the use of WHO tools, in particular the Risk Assessment for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19.

If movement restrictions and further national measures have been established in the country, the WHO RA does not apply. However, when the process of re-opening/conducting mass gatherings is being considered post movement restrictions, it will be key to ensure any decisions are based on a risk assessment, such as the WHO Mass gatherings COVID-19 risk assessment.

[- Access the publication](#)

[- Access the tool](#)

[- Access the decision tree](#)

[- Access the publication for sports federations / sports event organizers](#) (uploaded 15 April 2020)

[- Access the tool for sports federations/sports event organizers](#) (uploaded 15 April 2020)

Andrew J. Hofer
Recognised IFs and Organisations Senior Manager
Sports Department

+41 21 621 6287
andrew.hofer@olympic.org

International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland