



## PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

7 June 2020

Dear friends, this edition of Musings is a chance to consolidate some information for this year so far.

### **What has happened ....**

Covid-19 has impacted on everyone – the internal activities of all members, the sanctioned international championships, the Commission plenary meetings and the day-to-day work of the office.

The Commission Presidents, in conjunction with the organisers, have done an excellent job repositioning their sanctioned events in a very uncertain environment. The office moved into work-from-home mode prior to the formal lockdown being imposed in Switzerland and the work flows in the office have been reduced.

The Executive Board now meet every two weeks via videoconference, which is proving to be very effective, and Commission plenary meetings and meetings between the Commission Presidents and the EB have all been held on-line.

Financially, we have reduced the salary bill and meeting expenses. We have also been able to apply for financial support from the Swiss Government to assist with maintaining capability during the pandemic.

What is not so transparent to everyone has been the impact on members. To help us understand the effect of covid-19 and ideas that may benefit all, we are planning a series of zoom meetings with NACs for August. Invitations and details will be sent out shortly.

### **What is happening right now ....**

We are in the final phase of preparing the annual accounts for 2019 for audit. This will be completed in mid-June. We have initiated a financial planning project to update and simplify all our financial processes and reports. Our aim is to significantly reduce the multiple handling of financial matters by moving to integrated systems supporting enhanced automation of the processes.

We continue to work with the Commissions on the planning for their next round of sanctioned events. CIMP are providing advice to the Commissions on future risk planning for a covid-type situation. We are updating the Organiser Agreement, in response to the Covid-19 experience, to provide some additional clarity.

We are delighted to see that informal air sports events are already being planned as countries relax their restrictions. These aim to allow competition pilots and enthusiasts to preserve the feeling of competition and to introduce new pilots to the sports.

The FAI 2020 group have confirmed the priorities for the FAI as delivering safe and efficient championships, and award and record processing with integrity. The EB is now working with the SecGen to define the work flows to facilitate the focus on these activities. This will then enable us to focus on the assignment of roles and responsibilities within the office.

### **What will be happening ....**

Once the audit for FY19 is completed we will start work on the budget for 2021, which will include a thorough examination of the resourcing required to support all agreed FAI activities.

*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

The General Conference has been set for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December (tentative dates: Tuesday 1 to Saturday 5). We cannot guarantee the levels of international travel that will be supported by then, but we need to plan to a date to provide a degree of certainty for all.

The FAI 2020 group and an EB working group are considering how we achieve a competent and appropriate GC. And we are reviewing how other organisations are managing their annual meetings. The GC will be designed to ensure we meet statutory requirements. We anticipate that there may be one in-person representative per NAC or Commission and an on-line presence for many. Let me assure you that we are working to ensure we have a rigorous and valid voting procedure.

We also have elections at this GC, so we will be calling for nominations at the end of June to provide ample time for nominees to be considered. We intend to provide formal notification of the GC by the end of July. There is, of course, a risk that the GC may have to be delayed, in which case all due dates for providing nominations and proposals will also be deferred.

The EB will continue to meet via videoconference with, at this stage, one face-to-face meeting planned for late October as preparation for the GC.

#### **And for the future ....**

This crisis has provided ample opportunities for us to identify best practices across other International Federations, exchanging with other NACs and introducing smarter workflows. Following the GC in 2019 and prior to the Covid-19 intervention, we had already started the work necessary to sustain the FAI on a significantly reduced budget. That work, in fact, gave us a head start on reacting to the challenges presented by the pandemic.

There still remain many areas to be considered. These include, for example, working with the ASCs to implement harmonized procedures to simplify the many individual financial systems in place (such as expense claim handling, sanction fees, commission services and currencies) and, providing support to NACs for maintenance and development.

The challenge for us all for the future is how we can deliver on these thoughts, which I included in my musings of 29 April:

*"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."*

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

Best regards and stay safe



Bob Henderson  
President, FAI  
7 June 2020