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GAC PRESIDENT REPORT TO THE 100th FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE

October 2006, Santiago (Chile)

The GAC meeting 2006 took place from 6 to 8 of October in Iraklion, Crete. In this meeting, we had 22 countries present, and also it was a pleasure for us the presence of Mr Pierre Portmann, FAI President, and Mr Max Bishop, FAI Secretary General.

First of all, we took a minute of silence for our friends William H. "Bill" Ottley, from the USA, President of Honour of this Commission, and Bernard Lamy, from France, Chairman of Long-range activities into this GAC. They both passed by during last year. God bless them.

In this meeting, we told long about the past, the present, and the future of our Commission. Past and present were detailed by the president in his report from last year. We had the last competition in Troyes, France, last days of July 2006. And the reality was that we had some problems in them. Problems about personal performing , and about absence of fairplay. And permit me explain this a little bit to my colleges as a Presidents of other Commissions.

I told seriously about that. I told the delegates that we are going on very fast and clever in technology, scoring systems, and so on, but we are probably going back, also very fast, in human feelings, fairplay, and common sense. We are in the way to stop the ancient

feeling in which, being in a yearly competition, was like a spent some days into friends, living into family. And this is not the way I like this Commission. We have paid a very expensive price, this year, for that, and I kindly asked to all delegates to work in order to recover the way of life we had before. If not, no one of our advanced technological systems, or our extremely fine rules will be enough to maintain the spirit of this Commission alive.

We had our last World Championships, both, Rally and Precision Flying, in Troyes, France, from 21 July to August 1st, and the results were:

In 15th World Rally Flying Championship:

1. Wieczorek Waclaw – Wieczorek Michel (father and son) , from Poland.
2. Filip Jiri – Filip Michal (brothers) from Chech Republic.
3. Opat Petr – Radjl Tomas from Chech Republic,

Over a total of 65 crews in competition, of 23 countries. And the countries classified:

1. Chech Republic
2. Poland
3. France
4. Spain
5. Austria.

In 17th World Precision Flying Championship:

1. Wieczorek Krzystof from Poland.
2. Darocha Janusz from Poland, and
3. Skretowicz Krzystof from Poland.

Over a total of 61 pilots, and the countries classified:

1. Poland
2. Chech Republic
3. France
4. South Africa
5. Austria.

We also had a good event in our specially of Long Range, Directed by our Chairman Johann Gutmann, from Austria. It took place in July and August and was called 42° East, going from Salzburg (Austria) to Cape Town (South Africa), and back.

Due to political problems in Spain, the preliminary bid for the next Europeans 2007 in Lleida (Spain) was cancelled. The organisers had already got good guarantees for this event, but advanced elections in Cataluña make all that went in a trouble, and so close to the events, according rules, the best way was this. So that, we will not have international first class event in GAC this 2007, but we will do other competitions in its place in order to maintain the level of training of all crews.

Talking about the future, this Commission is thinking about two new lines. First of all is trying to create (and develop during this year to be presented to the next meeting 2007), a new competition thinking basically in order to get new young people in competition. We think in a funny and cheap rules, completely new, which make new people to be used to compete, as a starting point, and then to be able to pass to other advanced rules, like Rally and Precision are. And the second line, is trying to recover an ancient rules of competition we had time ago, based in pillion racing. Mr Max Bishop explain the idea to the delegates and ask them to allow the GAC Bureau to work in it during this next year.

Those new lines are trying to increase the number of participants in our competitions, and also another important thing, which is to improve the way that GAC events could be shown in media events, and probably to be included in future situations in competitions like Wag's.

The new GAC bureau for 2007, elected in Irakion last meeting was:

President, Mr Pedro Cabañero from Spain.

Vice president and Treasurer, Mr Henry Lindholm from Sweden.

Vice president and Secretary General, Mr Art Greenfield from the United States.

Chairman of Rally Subcommittee, Mr Andrzej Osowski, from Poland

Chairman of Precision Subcommittee, Mr Johann Gutmann from Austria.

And also:

Long Range technical adviser, Mr Johann Gutmann from Austria.

FAI environmental commission, Mr Henry Lindholm from Sweden.

CASI delegate, Mr Pedro Cabañero from Spain.

Sporting code/record rules supervisor, Mr Art Greenfield from USA.

Web Master for GAC, Mr Hans Schwebel, from South Africa, and

Technical advisers for GNSS and FR's, Mr Dieter Stephan (Germany) and Mr Jan Hanekom from South Africa.

This commission had two more bureau meetings along this year 2006. One was in Troyes, in July, before the Worldchampionships, and the other in Crete, before the General meeting. Next one, GAC meeting 2007, will take place next October, in Cape Town, South Africa.

Finally, it is a pleasure and a honour for me, to acknowledge the excellent support provided by our Secretary General Mr Max Bishop 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Cabañero', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left and a horizontal line underneath.

Pedro Cabañero
FAI GAC President.

