



**FAI Environmental Commission (EnvC)
Report to the 105th General Conference
Belgrade, 14-15 October 2011**

The Commission held its annual meeting on 22Jan11 in Lausanne, Switzerland in response to the FAI President's request to make that change from our previously planned meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. Altho most EnvCom members prefer worldwide centrally available easy-to-get-to locations, such as Frankfurt where we had been meeting in previous years, we accepted the request.

The meeting was attended by the usual very few persons, slightly less than previous meetings. Due to the untimely death of the EnvCom President Michael Goth in 2010, VP Smith presided since VP Liasjö was not present.

ATTENDEES

Vice President	Mr. Bernald Smith (BS) (also Representative of IGC)
Italy	Mr. Andrea Tomasi (AT) (Alternate Delegate)
Norway	Mr. Arne Mathisen (AM) (Alternate Delegate and also holding
Proxy for the United States of America)	
Sweden	Mr. Rolf Björkmann (RB) (Alternate Delegate)
Switzerland	Mr. Felix Kiser (FK) (Delegate)
United Kingdom	Mrs. Diana King (DK) (Secretary & Delegate)
FAI	Dr. John Grubbström (JG) (FAI President)
FAI	Mr. Stéphane Desprez (SD) (FAI Secretary-General)
FAI	Ms Ségolène Rouillon (SR) (FAI Members and Services
Manager)	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from

Germany	Dr. Wolfgang Scholze (Delegate)
Norway	Mr. Kåre Liasjö (Vice President & Delegate)
CIA Representative	Mr. Steve Ireland

FAI President, Dr. John Grubbström asked the members to consider whether it would be more appropriate to have a Commission with democratic NAC representatives or a group of technical experts. He also offered the support for EnvCom work from the FAI headquarters. (Later, at the FAI Presidents' meeting, Smith spoke strongly against changing TCs to experts, which point was supported by many others present at that meeting. It was pointed out that there would still be a need to have some point of liaison with each NAC/ASC).

It was unanimously agreed to elect Michael Goth as a posthumous President of Honour of the Environment Commission and to so notify his family and employer.

FELIX KISER, Delegate (Switzerland) reported on the improved situation on Landscape Rest Zones.

ARNE MATHISEN, Alternate Delegate (Norway) reported that he had been present at a Joint International Environmental Meeting and thought that it had no significant practical benefit, but that it was useful to have liaison with other motorised sports. There had also been a recent joint meeting with other sports and with the green movement including the media. This had been very useful and it was important that the media understood what airports are doing to take care of the environment. In addition, regarding a proposal presented to the FAI Executive Board (EB) by Norway in a letter dated 7 July 2010 he questioned why there had been no response or progress. It was

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explained that the EB had previously had no-one who could take this forward, but that the new EB members have portfolios with Otto Lagarhus having responsibility for environmental matters. A long discussion about it ensued. It was agreed that the EnvC should ask NACs and ASCs for their view on whether the fuel issue is of concern and whether the topic should be pursued. It was suggested that an international prize should be offered, for universities and researchers able to take on such a project.

Regarding the above, a letter was sent to all NACs and ASCs asking about their concern and names of potential experts for contact. The response indicated an overwhelming no to the question of concern about the fuel issue in that there were only 3 responses! The one from Australia reported that loss of the current fuel would wreak disaster on airports down under. There were two persons in Europe named as potential experts for consultation on the matter, but none has taken place. The Experimental Aircraft Association in the USA has an ongoing presence in that arena with which I am in contact/consultation.

DIANA KING, Delegate (UK) reported on the proliferation of wind turbines as a topic of greatest concern to many airports, due to the relatively restricted area of the UK and the great opportunities for wind energy.

ROLF BJÖRKMANN, Alternate Delegate (Sweden) reported that unleaded fuel was now being used by many aircraft. There was generally a low level of interest in undertaking work on environmental matters.

ANDREA TOMASI, Alternate Delegate (Italy) reported that there was a challenge to airports to improve their environmental sustainability in the EU 20-20-20 project, which aims for a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020. He suggested that the FAI should encourage airports to comply with that target and to develop greener ways of operating. In Italy, a battery-powered self-launching glider was under consideration, which the FAI could support. There was comment that it would be necessary to measure the current emissions created by airports compared with future possibilities in order to establish environmental credentials.

BERNALD SMITH, Delegate (USA) reported that no significant work was under way in the USA and that there was no vision or response from the National Aviation Authority. There had also been no reaction or communication from US airports to contribute to the EnvC report. Contact with local activities showed no interest in taking any time in such discussions.

IGC - Bernald Smith reported that, in compliance with FAI requirements, the IGC requires an environmental statement as part of the preparation for any international contest. It is noted that jet-engined motor-glanders are being developed.

A complete review of items from the previous meetings resulted in many remaining open for action including considering organisation of a joint meeting with CANS. Translation of documents continues to be a need – one had been completed by Max Bishop. Liaison with him was agreed re a translation project for publication of more documents to be put on the website, but this awaits further action.

Re Climate Change and Air Sports, it was agreed by all present that Wolfgang Scholze should be asked to make a presentation on environmental topics at the FAI General Conference.

A simplified and shorter version of the EMS was presented for consideration and it was agreed it was a useful document, but that some detailed guidelines were required to help users to understand what they need to do to achieve the standards. A DAeC Planning checklist for organization of environmentally-compatible air sports events was deemed an appropriate document for this purpose, but of course it needs translation.

We were advised that the EB has agreed to a budget of 25,000 CHF to support the TCs, to fund TC projects and the expenses of the Technical Commissions' Presidents.

Bernald Smith was elected by acclamation as President. Altho, pending his agreement, Wolfgang Scholze was elected VP by acclamation; DAeC responded that as an imployee thereof, he was unavailable due to heavy duties for them. Diana King was elected by acclamation as Secretary.

The next EnvCom meeting was provisionally agreed to be on 11 February 2012 in Lausanne starting at 10.30.

Report submitted by Bernald Smith, EnvC president