

FAI International Gliding Commission (IGC)
President's Report to the 2025 IGC Plenary 7th and 8th March

The IGC Bureau is unchanged since 2023:

President Mr. Peter Eriksen, DEN

1st Vice-president Mr. Rick Sheppe, USA

Vice-president Mr. Angel Casado, ESP

Vice-president Mr. Christof Geissler, GER

Vice-president Mrs. Frouwke Kuijpers, NED

Vice-president Mrs. Mandy Temple, AUS

Vice-president Mr. Brian Spreckley, GBR

Secretary Mr. Vladimir Foltin, SVK

Treasurer Mr. Patrick Pauwels, BEL

The **38th FAI World Gliding Championships 2024** in the 18m, 20m Multi-seat, and Open Classes took place in Uvalde (TX) USA from the 18th to the 31st August 2024.

Worlds Champions are

18-meter Class: Stefan Langer, GER

20-meter Multi Seat Class; Arnold & Striedieck, USA

Open Class: Felipe Levin, GER.

Winner of the Team Cup: Germany

The **13th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships** took place in Ostrów Wielkopolski Michałów, Poland from the 14th to the 26th July 2024.

The Junior World Champions are

Club Class: Martijn Eerdeken, BEL

Standard Class: Max Maslak, GER

Winner of the Team Cup: Germany

The **22nd FAI European Gliding Championship 2024** in the Club, Standard and 15m Classes took place in Tabor, Czech Republic from the 3rd to the 17th August 2024

The European Champions are

15 Meter Class: Lukasz Grabowski, POL

Standard Class: Robin Sittmann, GER

Club Class: Jacek Flis, POL

Winner of the Team Cup: Poland



The 4th FAI 13.5 Meter World Gliding Championship 2024 in the 13.5 meter, scheduled to take place in Ostrów, Poland, was cancelled due to too few registered pilots.

The 4th FAI Pan-American Gliding Championship 2024, planned to take place in Hutchinson (KS) USA was also cancelled due to too few entries.

The IGC Champion Pilot of the Year 2023 is Stefan Langer, GER. The IGC Champion Pilot of the Year is the World Champion who gains most of the points available in the class.

The **IGC Bureau** met online six times since the successful Plenary meeting in Toulouse, hosted by the French Gliding Federation. The Bureau also had a very fruitful face-to-face meeting on the EASA premises in Cologne last October. Once again, we had to agree that while on-line meetings are good when dealing with operational matters, but more in-depth discussions require a physical meeting.

We have asked **OSTIV** to look at the definition of glider or sailplane. The technical development has brought us right to the edge of what can be considered as a glider. We have more electric power available on board the gliders due to effective solar panels. It is not a problem that this power is used for the onboard avionics, but what about using power to manage control surfaces, and can this have a positive effect on the glider performance – can you use electric power to “paddle” with the ailerons?

Our Proximity Analysis Tool (PAT) is gaining maturity, and we are now making it available for use at national events. Additionally, we can use the PAT algorithms to better understand risk areas under competitions. When and where do we have many risks and do certain task geometries or start procedures create more risk than others.

We now have broadband internet connections available in the cockpit. This will impact on the way we compete. More and more information becomes available. We will have to address this in IGC and will organize a panel discussion at the Plenary meeting in Celje

Safety is our top priority. A safety project was initiated in Copenhagen two years ago. The results and recommendations of this group of people have already resulted in a number of changes, including formalized training of officials, analysis of IGC files to better understand risk areas and implementation of strobe lights. We need to consider the future of this group. We should also consider if all proposed rule changes must undergo a more formal safety risk analysis before being presented to the Plenary.

Training of Event Directors and Sporting Directors starts in February 2025. This is an important element to improve the quality of IGC championships. We hope that this will be more than a one-way lecturing and also lead to cross fertilisation of experiences between our top event managers.

The Bureau has started to reserve a yearly budget for the next generation flight recording. Not only do the current recording systems and file format not live up to modern security standards, we also miss opportunities to make our sport more spectator friendly. Several other FAI Sporting Commissions have the same needs as IGC have, and we expect this work to include other FAI Commissions as well as industry.

As in previous years, the FAI Office in Lausanne headed by the Secretary General, has provided good support to IGC. Thank you to the entire staff for your work.

Finally, I would like to thank the IGC Bureau, the IGC Committees, Working Groups, Experts, Stewards and Jurors for your good work and support to IGC in 2024. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Eriksen'.

Peter Eriksen
IGC President