



# FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

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## ANNUAL REPORT

**To the 98<sup>th</sup> FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE**  
**Paris, France 13-14 October 2005**

### Highlights 2005

#### CIA Annual Meeting

The CIA's annual meeting took place in **Lausanne** on March 11/12. 30 NACs were present or represented at this very successful meeting, perfectly organised by the FAI Secretariat at the Olympic Museum. The FAI Secretary General, Mr. Max Bishop, was in attendance for the whole meeting. The meeting successfully dealt with its agenda and among the items discussed the following are noteworthy:

- CIA delegates reported on ballooning activities in their respective countries, and the CIA statistics return for the year 2004 show the following particulars (2003 figures in brackets):
  - 28 or 61% (27) NAC delegates returned the statistics questionnaire on their respective activities. 18 (19) delegates did not return the statistics questionnaire.
  - 17 of the 28 reporting NAC delegates indicated that the sporting powers for ballooning (including the right to issue Sporting Licences) in their country were held by Balloon Federations (delegated by their respective NAC), 3 delegates said that their NAC held the sporting powers, 8 did not know.
  - 9 delegates reported dedicated youth activities in their respective countries
  - 94.39% (94%) of 12,556 (12,600) reported licensed balloon pilots are hot air balloon pilots and 7.5% (4%) are pilots under training, and 10.7% (8%) are licensed flight instructors.
  - 98.6% (98.6%) of 12,579 (12,874) reported balloons with valid CofA are hot air balloons
  - 53 (50) balloon manufacturers reported 395 (301) new balloons built
  - CIA member NACs claimed 24 (28) National Records and 5 (10) FAI World Records
  - CIA sanctioned 7 (6) Category 1 & 2 events for the year 2005, and CIA member NACs again reported **476 (453) non-sanctioned ballooning events**
  - A total of 453 (461) competitors participated in 309 (279) National Championship tasks
  - 1002 (823) FAI Sporting Licenses were issued to balloonists by CIA member NACs
  - 20 (18) CIA member NACs use a National Ranking List for the FAI Championship selection process
  - CIA member NACs reported (1,657) 1,508 competition officials and record observers
  - 591 (907) ballooning associations
  - 44,400 or 99.7% (44,800 or 88.9%) out of a total of 44,500 (47,000) balloon flights were hot air balloon flights
  - A total of 56,600 (39,200) hours were flown in balloons and airships
  - 1,776 (1,625) commercial balloon operators were reported to account for 40% (37%) of all ballooning activity
  - 15% (17%) of the overall activity is reckoned to be competition and records, and 31% (26%) pleasure and fun flying.
  - **Accidents/Incidents:**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Per 100,000 flights</b>	<b>Per 100,000 hours</b>
Flights	44,500 (47,000)		
Hours flown	56,600 (39,200)		
Accidents	36 (43)	80.9 (91.5)	63.6 (109.7)
Incidents	60 (49)	134.8 (104.3)	106 (125)
<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>4 (0)</b>	<b>9 (0)</b>	<b>7 (0)</b>
Injured	35 (34)	78.7 (72.4)	61.8 (86.7)

- definitively approved a new Event Bidding Process for CIA sanctioned events to be incorporated into the Sporting Code Section One,
- adopted the "Protocol for FAI and CIA sanctioned events" as an advisory document to be used at all sanctioned events,
- was presented Hans Akerstedt's new book "Notable Achievements – From historic times to 2004, Balloons and Airships (available from FAI for a modest 15.- Euros)
- took note that the German Balloon Federation successfully re-certified the 40 litres Worthington aluminium flight-cylinders and that they could again be legally carried by road after testing. CIA delegates decided to financially support the German Balloon Federation's efforts in this respect,
- decided to ask the FAI General Conference to change the FAI By-Laws to allow the Montgolfier Diploma to be awarded to the same individual more than once, but not in the same category.
- regrets the lack of progress concerning the future (World) Air Games, but will continue to support the FAI's efforts in this respect,
- decided to develop an "On-Line Contest" for balloon pilots, and decided to financially support its Tracking/Scoring Working Groups' efforts to devise and implement an "on-line contest" as soon as possible,
- decided to grant a sanction to Germany for the organisation of the 15<sup>th</sup> European Hot Air Balloon Championship, to be held in Magdeburg from August 17-25, 2007,
- decided to grant a sanction to Austria for the organisation of the 18<sup>th</sup> World Hot Air Balloon Championship, to be held in Hofkirchen (Styria) from September 13-21, 2008
- decided to hold its 2006 Plenary meeting in Dmitrov (Moscow Region, Russia) from 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

#### **Major 2005 CIA Category One Events**

##### **14<sup>th</sup> European Hot Air Balloon Championship**

The event was successfully held in Debrecen (Hungary) from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. 81 competitors flew 16 tasks in difficult conditions, and the new World Champion is **Uwe Schneider** from Germany (12,592 points). Second place went to **Zoltan Nemeth** from Hungary (12,380 points), and third place to **Josep Llado Costa** from Spain (11,833 points).

##### **49<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett**

The event took place at Albuquerque (NM, USA) from September 29 to October 8, 2005, and was won by  
(at the time of writing, the event has not yet happened and winners will be announced during the General Conference)

#### **Other CAT1 events successfully staged in 2005:**

13 <sup>th</sup> Coupe d'Europe & Ladies World Cup	AX	Mainfonds/France	4 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> August 2005
Mobilux Trophy & World Honda GP 2005	AX	Echternach/Luxembourg	27 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2005

#### **CAT1 event to come:**

2005 Motegi International Championship	AX	Motegi/Japan	18 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2005
49 <sup>th</sup> Coupe Gordon Bennett	AA	Albuquerque/USA	October 2005

#### **FAI Class A and B World Records**

FAI has ratified 13 Airship and 1 Free Balloon World Record since the 2004 FAI GC. Details of these records are available on the FAI webpage at [http://records.fai.org/balloons/#history\\_A](http://records.fai.org/balloons/#history_A)

#### **FAI / CIA Awards**

Montgolfier Diploma-best performance Gas Balloon	<b>Mark Sullivan</b>	USA
Montgolfier Diploma-best performance Hot Air Balloon	<b>Markus Pieper</b>	Germany
Montgolfier Diploma – Contribution to the Sport	<b>Arnost Hönig</b>	Czech Republic
Santos Dumont Gold Airship Medall	<b>David Hempleman-Adams</b>	UK
CIA Hall of Fame Nomination	<b>Norman Pritchard</b>	UK

#### **Major developments during the year**

The CIA President visited Russia and South Korea on a ballooning event promotion tour. Both countries have fast developing ballooning communities and are keen to get into the CIA event sanctioning process, in order to improve the quality and reliability of their events. Both visits resulted in bids for at least one CIA sanctioned event in the respective countries.

In September, our venerable and venerated President of Honour Karl Stefan chose to retire after many years from active service as Chairman of the CIA Records Subcommittee. With this note in my report, I would like to pay tribute to Karl for the eminent services rendered to the ballooning community within FAI.

J.C. Weber,  
President, CIA