

## **AGENDA ITEM 7.2**

### **REPORT OF THE CONTEST DIRECTOR**

**Algimantas Zentelis**

#### **XIV EUROPEAN AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS Kaunas, Lithuania**

**22 July – 1 August 2004**

##### **General Information**

On behalf of FAI and CIVA, the 14<sup>th</sup> European Aerobatic Championships (EAC 2004) was organized by the Aerobatic Federation of Lithuania. The organizers and the volunteers put in a great deal of hard work before, during, and after EAC 2004.



EAC 2004 was held between Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004 on the S. Darius & S. Girenas airfield, which is one of the oldest airfields in Europe, and one of two airfields in Kaunas.

##### **Registration**

The competition attracted 41 pilots from 9 European countries and 3 independent pilots from the USA.

##### **Contest**

On the second day of the championships there were no flights due to the bad weather. Only on the third contest day, there were 17 pilots who flew from a total of 9 different countries. The contest was stopped each day from 13:00 to 14:00 for lunch break. Flights were daily until 21:00 each night, except one evening when the flights had to be stopped at 18:00 due to the concert, which was near the airfield. The 27<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> of July were also followed by the bad weather and no flights were completed. Although the weather was enough of a concern, we were able to complete all the programmes of EAC 2004. Even 31 pilots plus 3 independent pilots completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Unknown programme. The last day, the conduct of Programme 4 was allocated and we were able to fly 15 competitors in this event.

In order to ensure the correct evaluation of the programmes, three judging locations were set up. The main judges' location was set up on the roof of a building since the airfield is located near to the center of the Kaunas city.

The primary consideration during the contest was the flight safety and not a single incident was registered during the contest. From a technical standpoint, the contest was good. Some technical matters arose but were quickly solved via the Technical commission. There was

only one technical matter, which lead the Russian team's pilots to change planes. However, the Q programme was completed successfully.

### **Officials**

The Chief Judge of the 14<sup>th</sup> EAC, Mr. Pavol Kavka, conducted the activity of 9 International Judges in a very competent way during the whole time of the championship. It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Jiri Kobrle and Mr. Hans Vogtmann, whose pieces of advice were very helpful during the contest. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Domas Vilcinskas who did a terrific job on this contest. There was only one protest, which was upheld by the International Jury. No other protests were filed during the contest. It was a pleasure to work with these people.

### **Awards**

The winners of the championship programmes and final (freestyle) programme were awarded with the medals of the National Aero Club of Lithuania and FAI Diplomas. The winners of men and women overall ranks in the championship were awarded with the FAI Medals and FAI Diplomas. The EAC 2004 Overall Champion, Mikhail Mamistov, was awarded with the Manfred Strössenreuther Trophy. In the overall male team results, Russia won the FAI gold medal and diplomas. Besides that, the winner team was awarded with the Challenge Trophy of S. Darius and S. Girenas, donated by Lithuania at this contest (shown right).



### **Events**

The opening ceremony started in the S. Darius and S. Girenas airfield and was continued with the banquet in a hotel. During the contest there were organized four national evenings of these aerobatic teams: Spanish ("Sangria party"), Lithuanian ("National food and songs party"), Italian ("Spaghetti party") and French ("Wine and cheese party"). The teams hosted dinner and drinks for the pilots, judges and volunteers. The closing ceremony consisted of a winner award ceremony followed by an air show and the banquet at a "Jachtclub" restaurant.

### **Conclusion**

We put a lot of effort and hard work into the organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> European Aerobatic Championships in order to achieve the best possible conditions for all participants. Many thanks go to the volunteers, who helped during the championship. We gained a lot of experience, which will help us to develop aerobatics in Lithuania and for the future organization of aerobatic competitions. We met lots of interesting people from all over the Europe. It has been an honor for me to serve CIVA as the contest director for this event.

**Full results of EAC 2004 can be found at the following:**

<http://www.eac2004.lt/results/results.php>