

Annex H

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Records

Hi Henry:

You said that you are working on the CASI agenda, and there is one thing I would like you to consider putting on that agenda. It is the homologation fee for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle records.

FAI charges 1500.00 CHF for homologating UAV records, compared to 100.00 CHF for all other records. The main argument in favour of this disparity at the time was that UAV records weren't considered "sporting performances" (like other FAI records).

Since that fee was implemented in 2001, there have been only four UAV records set (all from the USA). As I said before, that is quite an astounding fact, given that UAVs are perhaps the fastest growing segment in all of aviation. I have taken several phone calls from potential record-setters since that time, and what I have found is that many of the UAV manufacturers are small operations (in fact, some actually got their start in aeromodelling). The bottom line is this: we have priced ourselves out of the market.

Please do not think that this is solely a money issue. I honestly believe that FAI will lose this segment of aviation to some other organization if we do not do something to encourage activity in this area. I believe it has the potential to evolve into its own Commission, like the FAI Astronautics Records Commission. But maybe there are some political reasons for not wanting this to happen?

Art

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