



FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

FAI ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26 AND SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2001 AT THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

Present were:

In the Chair: Mr. Chris J. NICHOLAS, President (UNITED KINGDOM)

BELGIUM..... Mr. Louis BERGER, Alternate Delegate

DENMARK..... Mr. Finn LARSEN, Alternate Delegate

GERMANY..... Dr. Wolfgang SCHOLZE, Alternate Delegate

ITALY..... Mr. Antonio FUMAROLA, Alternate Delegate

NORWAY..... Mr. Kare LIASJÖ, Alternate Delegate

SWEDEN.....Mr. Rolf Björkman, Delegate

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....Mr. Bernald S. SMITH, Delegate

HUNGARY/CIMA (MICROLIGHT COMMISSION) Dr. Martin Ordody, Delegate

FAI: Mr. Wolfgang WEINREICH, FAI President
Mr. Thierry MONTIGNEAUX

Ref. 1. – Opening of Meeting – Welcome by Chris J. NICHOLAS – Commission President

Chris J. Nicholas opened the meeting welcoming those present including FAI President Wolfgang Weinreich, and Thierry Montigneaux.

Chris J. Nicholas said that apologies had been received from:

Dr. Per V. Bruel President of Honour, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION;
Mr. Leo Caminada (SWITZERLAND Delegate);
Dr. Michael Goth (GERMANY Delegate);
Mr. David Hamilton (BALLOONING COMMISSION Observer);
Mr. Alain POULET (BALLOONING COMMISSION Observer)
Mr. Jos Schockmel (LUXEMBURG Delegate);
Mrs. Ann WELCH (UK Alternate Delegate)

Ref. 2. – Approval of minutes from the last meeting – 22nd/23rd January 1999.

The Commission approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Ref. 3. – Report on work done since last meeting – Chris J. NICHOLAS

Chris J. Nicholas gave his report as attached (appendix 1) to these minutes.

Comments to the report:

Wolfgang Weinreich asked which Commissions have nominated and sent delegates to FAI Env.Com. Microlight Commission is present, Rotorcraft and Ballooning want to send a delegate. Model Aircraft would be important, as environmental problems are possible. Thierry Montigneaux informed that noise regulations are existing for larger and heavier models.

TD 11/00 (Finnish Hanggliding Association project on environmental effects of air sports) is still open. Bernald Smith will liaise with them.

Ref. 4. – Report from Information, Awareness and Nature conservation sub-committee by Dr. Michael GOTH

As Dr. Michael Goth was absent Chris J. Nicholas read M.G.'s apology. Due to heavy workload M.G. could not work on his topics.

Thierry Montigneaux asked for a internet-coordinator within Env.Com. He explained the Env.Com. website. (envir-com-l, envir-info-l, online disc board). Word-documents easily could be put on FAI Env.Com website. Nevertheless "traffic" = use of Env.Com. website /discussion forum still is not as busy as expected. T.M. emphasised the need to have more links as important sources of information. The problem of workload was discussed.

A decision was made to distribute the minutes on the net. Chris J. Nicholas and/or Wolfgang Scholze will send the minutes to (participating) delegates to check/correct it within a certain time period (two weeks?). Thereafter the minutes will be sent to Thierry Montigneaux for putting it into Env.Com website (**TD 01/01 CN, WS**).

TD 01/00 (leaflet "airports and nature conservation – bird conservation areas in Brandenburg") was still open. It has to be added into the literature reference list (**MG, WS**).

TD 02/00 (have a designated person for helping Thierry Montigneaux with the Commission's web site) was still open. The Commission has to find a person with experience **(all)**.

TD 03/00 (section "how to manage planning problems" within the Commission's web site) was still open. Chris Nicholas will send it to Thierry Montigneaux **(CN)**.

TD 04/00 (section "how to apply for an airport-area / gliding field etc." into the Commission's web site) was still open. Chris Nicholas will send UK paper to Thierry Montigneaux **(CN)**. German paper was still in preparation.

Ref. 5. – Report from Dr. Wolfgang Scholze – Environmental work in Germany and Europe, and report on conferences attended

Wolfgang Scholze reported about his participation at the annual meeting/conference of the Swedish Gliding Association. A new environmental law enforces all airfields to undergo an environmental assessment on output and effects of noise, waste etc. The communities are enabled to set regulations and restrictions if necessary, which are based on the results of the assessment. Swedish Gliding Assoc. now has decided to have an environmental officer, similar to German Aero Club. Swedish Aero Club is preparing to do so as well, eventually the same person. WS suggests to invite the new Swedish environmental officer to participate within Env.Com.

The microlight/goose project is still going on. Continuation is under preparation, this time (hopefully in 2002) a hundred geese will be guided by five microlights. A special three axle steered microlight, the Australian "Dragonfly" shall be used, which allows safe, comfortable flying. The project has enormous positive public potential for sports aviation.

The first part of the study "Solutions of conflicts between sports and nature conservation on example of the Rhön area" will be finished this year. The second project, which will lead to a new model-aircraft sports ground and a new one for hanggliders and paragliders as well, could be started in 2002. They will be financed by environmental funds.

A conference "Air sports and nature conservation" will be carried out in Braunschweig this year. Air sport and nature conservation specialists will come together to discuss and work on focussing conflicts and possible solutions. Based on the results of this conference a handbook "air sports and nature conservation" will be prepared.

The German blue flag scheme will be generalised for practical use in all different airports and airfield types (not only gliding fields): an "Airfield check" as a practise of the code of conduct will be prepared. As well a guidance for environmental friendly airport competitions is in preparation.

Ref. 6. – Review of progress on the Commission's objectives.

- a) Evaluate the influence of air sports on the environment – is still ongoing
- b) Develop an FAI Environmental Policy Statement – FAI has already
- c) Advise General Conference and Air Sport Commissions on environmental matters affecting sports – is still ongoing

There was a discussion about what we would like to do and what we can do (in terms of workload). Chris Nicholas explained the situation and his work in UK. He asked whether Env.Com. should try to influence authorities on national/international levels. If so we would have to change our objectives. Wolfgang Weinreich argued that, concerning working capacity, collecting and providing information must be the target of Env.Com. The NAC's have to be "woken up" to become pro-active within their countries. Env.Com. should try to influence authorities on European/international level, if possible.

The main question is how FAI can encourage their members to actively incorporate environmental aspects into their work. FAI should set the rules (with the help of Env.Com). But how to get into ICAO? Wolfgang Weinreich will discuss this point within next Executive Board meeting. At the next FAI General Conference in Oct. 2001 / Montreux an open discussion could be carried out concerning environmental themes. The target will be to get more active people into Env. Com., especially specialists and professionals.

It was decided to leave the commissions objectives and workload as they are in the moment, awaiting the Board's opinion and discussion with it.

Chris Nicholas should prepare a environmental "wake up"-proposal in accordance with Max Bishop to be discussed at the General Conference; Thierry Montigneaux will coordinate **(TD 02/01, CN, TM)**.

Ref. 7 - Report from the noise sub-committee and proposal for future action and evaluation by Dr. Per V. Brüel.

A standard noise measurement system (ISO) can be used in discussion with legal administrations within countries. Therefore it is important for FAI to seek to have a simple, acceptable system adopted.

Dr. Per V. Brüel had not prepared a report. Mr. Kare Liasjo (Norway) demonstrated a simplified total noise energy (dBA) model, which allows the total noise dose (figure) for a given period / no. of operations to be calculated based on noise certification levels for different aircraft types. This very simple model for example allows comparison of a certain period (actual) with a period before ("better" = lower noise dose or "worse"...).

Per Bruels noise dose concept (TD 05/00, TD 06/00) was not accepted by ISO. It was thought that ISO Working Group 43 (ISO 3891: Standard of noise measurement of aircraft on ground) would be reconstituted. Wolfgang Weinreich emphasised that Env.Com. should be incorporated. Norway was not asked to participate until today. FAI can participate at ISO Working Group as an observer (one person), Norway could send a direct representative (another person).

Env.Com will await a decision by FAI Executive Board before making a recommendation for a person as observer at ISO Working Group. Eventually Gerard Früh could be asked. Chris Nicholas will inform Per Bruel personally. Chris Nicholas will write a letter to Executive Board explaining situation incl. Observer to ISO WG **(TD 03/01)**. Kare Liasjo will try to contact Gerard Früh for asking him for engagement for Env.Com. at ISO WG **(TD 04/01)**.

Ref. 8 – Policy to contact other organisations working in the environmental field.

WWF has answered, they are not interested. Nevertheless we should perhaps seek other environmental organisations in future where we have a "common cause" **(TD 05/01 CN)**.

Ref. 9 – Review of the Code of Conduct: Air Sports and the Environment

There was no more request from any country or NAC to work on (TD 12/00, 13/00, 14/00).

Ref. 10 – NAC's and Environmental Progress

See Ref. 6, "Wake up"-call at General Conference in Oct. Incorporation of environmental aspects into championship rules (suggestion Wolfgang Weinreich) is regarded as a long term duty.

Ref. 11 – Rotorcraft, Balloons, Ultralight aircraft and Model Aircraft Noise certification.

This topic is still open, depending on whether the respective Commissions request any action.

Ref. 12 – Election of Commission Officers (President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary)

Mr. Chris J. Nicholas was re-elected as Commission President.

Dr. Michael Goth and Mr. Bernald Smith were re-elected as Commission Vice Presidents.

Dr. Wolfgang Scholze was elected as Commission Secretary

Mr. Michael Goth was elected as President of Subcommittee "Information, Awareness and Nature conservation"

The Subcommittee "Noise" was suspended until the situation is clarified.

Ref. 13 – Any other business

No remarks.

Ref. 14 – Date and place of next meeting.

The Commission decided to meet again for the 7th official meeting on 1st - 2nd February 2002 at Lausanne, Olympic Museum. The meeting will start at **15.00 hrs on Friday 1st February 2002.**

Braunschweig, Germany, 08.Oct. 2001, amended 23. December 2001 (CJN).

Dr. Wolfgang Scholze
Secretary to the FAI Environmental Commission

FAI Environmental Commission President's Report - Commission Meeting 26th January 2001

Environmental Codes of Conduct for Air Sport Disciplines

No changes have been made by any Air Sport Commission to the detailed codes of conduct specific to its sport. I have written to each ASC President to remind them that it is now the responsibility of each ASC to implement the FAI policy statement, which includes: "and ensure that these [Codes of Conduct] are implemented by its member organisations". Commission Presidents' views, so far, are to agree that every member organisation be encouraged, or even obliged, to affirm that in organising any FAI-recognised competitions, the host organisation will adhere to the code in as much as it applies to an organising body.

I have also written to each NAC, requesting them to respond to this need and asking if they need any assistance in other aspects of this Commission's work.

As we had no expertise in Astronautics and they have their own experts, I have drafted a letter to that Commission, as we agreed, for Bernald Smith to discuss with them.

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
| TD 12/00: | Letter to FAI ASC's concerning adoption and compliance of Codes of Conduct: CN | Status: Completed |
| TD 15/00: | Note concerning Environmental Committees of NACs to be distributed also via internet: CN | Status: Completed |
| TD 13/00: | Draft letter to President of Astronautic Record Commission, Codes of Conduct; send to BS: CN | Status: Completed |
| TD 14/00: | Work on draft (Astronautics), send back to CN for distribution: BS | Status: BS to advise |

Information, Awareness and Nature Conservation Sub-Committee

The sub-committee chairman, Dr. Michael Goth, is unable to attend the 2001 Commission meeting owing to an urgent professional assignment. He advises me that little work has been done in progressing the Commission website and reference list of available literature.

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| TD 01/00: | Add Brandenburg-Info-Leaflet to the literature reference list: WS / MG |
| TD 02/00: | Find a experienced, engaged person for work on the Commission's website: all |
| TD 03/00: | Incorporate section "how to manage planning problems" within the web site of the Commission: MG |
| TD 04/00: | Incorporate section "how to apply for an airport-area / gliding field etc." into the Commission's web site: MG |

All remain to be completed.

Noise Sub-Committee

I understand from sub-committee chairman, Dr. Per V. Brüel, that little progress has been made. I discussed with the FAI delegate to ICAO, Andre Dumas, what opportunity there might be to obtain support in ICAO for a helpful world-wide airfield noise measurement system for small airfields, and he advises that ICAO have far too many assignments to work on with large aircraft to pay any attention to our issues.

Dr. Bruel has advised that he believes FAI should do something further, and he will no doubt enlarge upon that in his report.

In the UK, the GAAC (General Aviation Awareness Council) has initiated a study into the existing governmental "planning policy guidance" PPG 24, which partly is related to aviation noise. The noise expert who has done the GAAC study has produced a draft report. This proposes the "INM - Integrated Noise Model", as a method of small airfield noise measurement. The concept originated in the USA. A draft paper is appended for the CONFIDENTIAL information of Commission members.

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

TD 05/00: Contact ISO Secretary concerning WG 43, report back to Commission: PB

TD 06/00: Prepare paper about noise contour measuring method: PB

Status: Both remain to be completed.

TD 07/00: Inform Commission on progress on noise measurement discussion
in UK: CN

Status: Completed

TD 08/00: Inform EA about Fennoscand. Sport Commission / noise regulation: WS

Status: WS to advise

Policy to Contact Other Organisations Working in the Environmental Field.

I have written to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) but their attitude was good wishes in our own work, and no desire to work in any way with us.

I do not wish to write to Friends of the Earth or Greenpeace, because they have engaged in controversial and in some cases illegal activities, with which I do not wish myself or the Commission to be associated.

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

TD 09/00: Contact letter to WWF: CN

Status: Completed

The Commission's Objectives

I have written to the Executive Board requesting changes to the words of our objectives, as we agreed at our last meeting. Because there is no longer an FAI General Council, and there is now an Executive Board, further changes to the wording are also required and I have included that in my letter to the Executive Council.

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

TD 10/00: Report as clarification to the council concerning "evaluation"-objective: CN
Status: Completed

Rotorcraft, Balloons, Microlight Aircraft, Model aircraft, and Astronautics Noise Certification.

As we agreed to do no more than advise the relevant ASC's that the Commission was always willing to discuss any issues they may wish to raise, I have advised the Presidents of the Specific Commissions of our limitations, invited them to tell us what noise certification issues they do have, and sought their views as to whether they wish to send their own noise experts to attend this Commission.

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

TD 16/00: Letter to Presidents and delegates of Commissions for Rotorcraft, Balloons, Ultralight aircraft and Model Aircraft concerning noise certification:
CN **Status: Completed**

Finland Project on Hanggliding

Status of items on the "To Do" list appended to the January 2000 Commission minutes:

TD 11/00: Info about Finnish project on hanggliding, inform MG / WS: BS
Status: BS to advise

Future Work and Status of the Commission

Although this is the concluding section of my report on the Commission's work, I regard it as perhaps the most important.

It is apparent from the status of "To Do" items known to me that we have more work to do than our limited resources of volunteers can easily carry out.

Many of us also perceive a need to try to influence the national and larger-than national authorities that airfields are unfairly threatened by alleged environmental issues. Air Sports cannot operate with flying sites, and flying sites cannot start or develop if the climate of opinion is against them. Most of the work I do in the UK is geared to addressing this problem.

The Commission needs to discuss to what extent it is realistic to seek better influence in all countries with this problem, and in the international arena.

Our third objective: "To advise Council [now the Executive Board] and Air Sport Commissions on environmental matters affecting air sports" could be regarded as encompassing this aspect of work needed to be done; but if it is agreed that this is an important topic, I believe it should be more clearly shown, perhaps as a fourth, specific objective.

If our progress on this is to improve, we need to work on several fronts at the same time. That can only be done by sharing the work, both between ourselves and by joining with others where we can. I have pointed out before that there are only 19 airport organisations in the UK; but by joining with non-sport aviation interests, in the body that we call the GAAC, we can present a united front of 89 member organisations working towards fairer decisions. The joint effort can raise more support, and embark upon more initiatives. And the UK authorities are starting to listen, and to change their written policy guidance to our advantage.

If this Commission is to become effective on the issue of helping to preserve and develop flying sites, will also need to use the joint approach, with IAOPA, Europe Airports, and anyone else with whom we have a common cause.

Alternatively, if we do not undertake this task, and no-one else does either, the future for flying site development is bleak.

I look forward to the discussion we shall have on this, under Agenda Item 6.

Thanks to FAI Officials

I have been grateful for the help and support given to me in the past year, particularly from the General Secretary, Max Bishop, and his team at Lausanne.

Chris J Nicholas
President, FAI Environmental Commission
25th January 2001