

GAC PRESIDENT REPORT
23rd - 26th October 2003
LUXEMBOURG

Dear Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

We held our annual commission meeting on the 16th and 17th of October 2002 in Moscow, hosted by the Russian Aeronautical Federation, with good organisation and excellent hospitality. The Bureau met before the meeting.

The 13th European Precision Flying Championship was held from the 21st to 28th of June 2003 in Ried, Austria, with 41 pilots from 8 countries, and the 13th World Rally Flying Championship took place in Pilanesberg, South Africa, from the 27th of July to 3rd of August 2003, with 51 teams from 14 countries.

The competition in Ried was held on a small but a very nice airfield owned by the local aero-club. We had a wonderful family atmosphere and a very good support from the local authorities. The Bureau took the opportunity to have a meeting in Ried, most of the members were present for the championships.

The South African competition was of a total different outfit and surrounding. Sun City is a unique and extraordinary location. The South African wintertime was for Europeans, "summer", with nice, cool nights. The weather was excellent, no clouds during 10 days.

The Rustenberg airfield is a typical SA general aviation airfield with a nice club house of the local aero-club. The opening and closing ceremony took place in the Sun City resort, in a very elegant and comfortable environment.

If we stick to our policy to have in the future only combined competitions, this year we had for the last time two competitions in two different places and countries.

There is no doubt that we have to continue to adapt our rules and competitions to the requirements of the NAC's and Pilots. Time and costs are of great importance to all competitors and aero-clubs. For this reason, we decided, to have in 2004, at the same time and at the same place, World Precision and World Rally championships, in Herning, Denmark. By this decision, we hope to persuade competitors to fly both disciplines, to have high participation and to reduce the fixed costs for the organiser.

We have to start to prepare rules for a rally with different legs allowing pilots with no competition experience to participate in an event giving fun.

I will not repeat all the arguments developed in the past to come to the combined solution - precision and rally at the same time and place - but I have to mention one of these arguments, which is also linked to the successful introduction of GNSS. The fix costs for the organiser are, with the new concept definitely lower. We invite therefore the future bidders to take this point into consideration for the calculation of the entrance fees for 2005 and 2006.

FAI wishes that the different Air Sport Commissions organise a special event or label an existing competition, at the occasion of the centenary of our federation in 2005. I invite therefore the chairmen of the sub-committees to make proposals linked to their competitions and all the delegates for other proposals outside of existing competitions.

Many thanks to my colleagues of the Bureau, delegates of all countries and to our Secretary General, Max BISHOP, and his staff, they do a very good job and give us full support all the time.

Pierre PORTMANN

President

General Aviation Commission