

REPORT FROM THE IGC REPRESENTATIVE TO CASI

For the IGC meeting March 2006

By Tor Johannessen

At the FAI General Conference (GC) in October in Paris there were two CASI meetings, respectively before and after the GC.

CASI consists of the 10 representatives from FAI's Air Sport Commissions, normally the presidents, plus 10 members from designated NACs. These 10 NACs are elected during the GC, 5 NACs each year. CASI has traditionally had its main meeting just before the GC, and then usually a very short meeting after the GC to elect the new president and bureau. Due to this setup these two meetings have a somewhat different membership as 5 of the 10 members representing NACs are new. These new members have of course relatively little knowledge of what happened in the first meeting. If there are matters undecided after the first meeting there will be a lot of extra explanations and new discussions of the same items at the second meeting.

As a trial it was decided in 2004 to have the CASI meeting together with the FAI Board and the ASCP Group (the Air Sport Commission Presidents' Group) between the GCs. Consequently, CASI met in Lausanne in May 2005. At this meeting it was decided to revert to the traditional system with meetings at the GC.

This year there has been a lot of commotion in the commission, and the Bureau has not been very successful in getting the members to work constructively together. The Bureau consisted of President Sandy Pimenoff (CIAM/Finland), Vice Presidents Art Greenfield (USA) and Adam Ustynowicz (Poland), and Secretary Ian Strachan (UK).

The agenda for this year's meeting carried three major items, 1) the status and function of CASI, 2) the so-called "3-year rule" regarding citizenship and representation and 3) the proposed new Sporting Code for Solar Powered Aeroplanes.

1. **Future structure and terms of reference for CASI.** CASI has over the years been criticized for sometimes doing too much and sometimes doing too little. For the May meeting the President had written a discussion paper on the future of CASI. This was misconstrued by some members to mean that the president was trying to make some kind of coup and a lot of confusion arose around this matter. At the second meeting after the GC the task to forward proposals in this matter was given to a small 3-man working group. This WG has until the middle of February to make its recommendations.
2. **The 3-year rule.** After heavy lobbying from IPC (the International Parachute Commission) CASI decided at its last meeting that the rule for participation in FAI events for a different NAC should be interpreted strictly as 1095 days. This ruling was contested by the Aero Club of Italy as much too limiting. The FAI General Secretary had written a position paper on the subject, and the meeting agreed to follow his advice to use two calendar years. This means that if you have dual citizenship and participated for one NAC in 2005 you cannot participate for another NAC before 2007.
3. **Solar Powered Aeroplanes (SpA).** The most difficult question was how to handle solar powered electrical aeroplanes. At this time these aeroplanes are "motor gliders with in-flight refuelling", mostly modified sailplanes. The technical development has until now been handled by CIACA (Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft Commission), as the president of this commission is very interested in SpAs. However, the future will obviously see serial built SpAs (e.g. Antares), and then they will no longer be amateur-built. Furthermore, a technical commission will not be the correct "home" for them. On behalf of IGC I have over the years claimed them for IGC as soon as the development has reached such a level that sporting contests will be held. The CIACA President has now written a full size Sporting Code for SpAs and CASI will have to decide how to go forward with this. Until further, the previous situation will probably be maintained with CASI as the responsible sporting commission and CIACA appointed as its agent. But the time is ripe for deciding where the SpA matters will be handled in the future in FAI. A serious discussion of IGC's role is necessary.

Elections

The NACs from the following countries will send delegates to CASI for the next year: Australia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.

In the elections at the end of the meeting Henry Lindholm (Sweden) was elected president, Art Greenfield (USA) and Tor Johannessen (IGC/Norway) were elected vice presidents and Thierry Villey (France) was elected secretary.