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IPC PRESIDENT'S REPORT **64th IPC ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING 2013** **BANJA LUKA, BOSNIA HERZOGOVINA**

2012 ACTIVITIES

Some of the decisions at last year's Plenary meeting in Buenos Aires have led to a very busy workload for the bureau. This has been because of obstruction to implementing those decisions by the FAI Executive Board.

First there was the Plenary decision to adopt an IPC medal policy, which would allow organisers to produce medals to a certain standard for the competitions they organise. Finally, in a meeting with representatives from the FAI EB in July 2012, agreement in principle was reached on a way to accommodate the IPC decision.

Then there was the decision to award the 2013 Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing World Cup and European Championship to the bid from Russia, with the location being Grozny in the Chechen Republic. FAI obtained a risk assessment on the merits of proceeding with an event in Chechnya and this was shared with the IPC Bureau representatives at the meeting with FAI in July. There is strong advice that FAI/IPC should not proceed with the event in this location because of high-risk security concerns.

The third decision by the last Plenary to meet resistance from the FAI was the decision to establish the IPC's own event and tours company, International Parachuting Events and Tours Agency, IPETA. The company was formed principally to organise world tours and series, beginning with a CP world tour. The target date set for company formation by the Plenary was mid May 2012. The company was finally established in the UK on 19 June 2012. However, an Expenditure Approval Form submitted in accordance with FAI requirements to the FAI for seeding capital in the form of a loan from IPC reserves remains unprocessed. At the time of writing, a TASK Force comprising two FAI EB members and two IPC Bureau members has reached agreement on how the IPC proposals can progress within the current FAI constitutional provisions. The result of these recommendations should be available at the Plenary.

The result of these discussions was a joint recommendation that FAI/FAME will own IPETA, but full control will be vested with IPC.

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The events outlined above, combined with the normal Bureau workload, have resulted in an especially busy year. It has also led the Bureau to review the IPC Strategic Plan to include a new pillar of "autonomy and freedom" and this will be presented to the Plenary. A review of the Newsletters and the list of Bureau decisions since last the Plenary meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, indicates yet another hard working year by your Bureau.

As Delegates have been kept well up to date with Newsletters, this report will not be as expansive as it has in previous years. It will instead provide summary positions to consider in moving forward. This report also needs to be read in conjunction with my report to the 2011 FAI General Conference at which a number of challenging issues were addressed and settled.

Competition in 2012

A European Championships and World Cup in Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events were conducted in Prostějov, Czech Republic in August 2012. The event attracted a small number of participants, presumably due to the prospect of the forthcoming Dubai Mondial. A test event for World Games in Cali, Columbia was also held and will be the subject of a separate report by the IPC WG Liaison Officer.

It really is a pleasure to include in my report the success of the Mondial 2012 World Championships held in Dubai from 29 November to 9 December 2012. This event was the epitome of everything dreamed of in the IPC Strategic Plan. A new benchmark has been set in running this event by a very well prepared organiser. The efforts of His Highness, Sheik Mansour Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum and the Higher Organising Committee, which included IPC and FAI Delegate Yousif Al Hammadi as Event Director has resulted in a wonderful exposition of what can be achieved. With 7 aircraft, including two helicopters, all utilising the same airfield and 4 Drop Zones all operating concurrently, and with the presence of good weather for most of the time, the operating machine is working flawlessly. I have no doubt that in the remaining few days, successful World Championships will be concluded in each IPC summer event discipline, as well as concluding very successful demonstration events in Para-ski and Speed Skydiving. This has been the biggest World Championships in the history of parachuting, and Mondial 2012 World Parachuting Championships in Dubai will be long remembered.

From a personal perspective, it was my pleasure to participate in Para-ski as a guest competitor and experience at first hand the efforts made by the organiser to cater for the huge number of competitors at this event.

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IPC must continue to work on assisting organisers to capitalise parachuting events to reach even higher with the objectives outlined in the IPC Strategic Plan.

FAI

My report to the FAI General Conference appears separately in the agenda (Annex 3).

This year, the FAI Secretariat issued a form to the Air Sport Commission Presidents asking them to fill it out. The form I submitted for IPC appears as Annex 3. At the FAI General Conference, each ASC President is allocated a 5-minute time slot to present their sport. My presentation focussed on the provisions in the FAI Constitution on the authority given to the Air Sport Commissions to manage their own affairs, and in particular FAI Statute 5.2.3.3.7 which gives IPC specific duties and powers for all matters relating to parachuting. I will expand on this in my address to the plenary meeting in January 2013.

At the time of preparing this report, official minutes of the ASC Presidents' meeting with the Executive Board and the FAI General Conference itself, both of which meetings were in October 2012, have not been distributed.

Air Sport Commission President's Meeting with FAI EB

In the IPC Newsletter of 30 October 2012, I reported on the ASC Presidents' Group meeting with the FAI President. In fact, this meeting also now comprises the full FAI Executive Board, Technical Commission Presidents and FAI staff. The minutes of this meeting are still to be distributed. The two major items that I have already commented on include:-

1. Autonomy and Freedom for ASCs

My brief presentation to the FAI Conference on the state of parachuting focussed on the matters raised in the discussion paper, and was centred on those parts of the FAI Statutes which allow IPC to be fully responsible for parachuting matters within FAI. The presentation received a positive reception.

A small task force comprising IPC Vice-President Niels-Christian Levin Hansen and myself will meet with FAI EB members Otto Lagerhaus and Alvaro De Orleans Borbon during the course of Mondial 2012, in an effort to settle the questions surrounding the establishment of IPETA, so that we can finally establish a way to go ahead with the IPC funds we need to kick start a World CP tour and undertake other activities outside the remit of IPC.

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2. Anti-Doping

The FAI anti-doping measures are now being rolled out into all air sports. This is causing some concern among some, although the measures have been part of Parachuting First Category Events at a national level for many years. A time table has been adopted for implementation of FAI initiated out-of competition testing on a risk target basis. As many countries in IPC already have this testing and "whereabouts" registrations at a national level, IPC will not be required to submit nominations to the FAI Registered Testing Pool for out-of-competition testing in 2013. There will be 10 air sport competitors selected from Microlights and Paramotors, Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, General Aviation and Ballooning, for the Registered Testing Pool, and these competitors will need to comply with the whereabouts requirements of the FAI/WADA provisions. Any testing required will be carried out by the international SportAccord organisation on FAI's behalf.

Parachuting competitors in IPC events will remain subject to the possibility of testing in competition, and I am asked to remind all Delegates to make sure competitors have a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) registered with FAI (and local organisations), if they need one.

Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

I should report that once again I have been re-elected to be President of the Air Sport General Commission. I was quite honoured to accept the appointment, and I wish to thank those in the IPC who have contributed to CASI work to keep the Sporting Code General Section current, and to help FAI develop other air sports. In particular, CASI 1st Vice President Richard 'Buzz' Bennett and CASI Secretary Gillian Rayner have both contributed generously to CASI's work.

FAI Secretariat

I wish to record my thanks to the support given to IPC activities by staff at the FAI office. The staff clearly has a difficult task in supporting the Air Sport Commissions, particularly at this time of innovation and change, as some of the more mature FAI Air Sport Commissions are embracing opportunities in a more commercial environment.

BUREAU WORK

I commenced this report by referring to the workload of the Bureau. I wish to thank all the Bureau members for their continued and untiring efforts, through the IPC, to carry out the wishes of the Plenary meeting, and to make the world a better place for skydiving. There is a constant stream of communication and much robust discussion from this energetic group.

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IPC Committees and their Chairs continue to have plenty to do and I wish to thank them also for their diligent efforts looking after the interests of their various disciplines, and keeping on eye on the strategic objectives of the IPC as we move forward.

CONCLUSION

The contribution of all Delegates is important to the work of the IPC, and on behalf of the Bureau, I wish to thank all Delegates, advisors and other volunteers who have contributed to the work of the IPC during the year. I would also like to send a special message of thanks to all those volunteers that support the work of IPC, through participation as judges, officials, etc. in competitions, which they do willingly because of their love of this wonderful sport. Without these valuable people, IPC would not be able to achieve its objectives and our competitors would not have the valuable arenas they now have to perform in at the world level.

Graeme Windsor
5 December 2012