



*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

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# **Minutes** of the Plenary of the **FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission**

**Zoom**

February 4 to 7, 2021

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**Invitation and timetable were published in separate documents.**

**All annexes and Open meetings 'Record of discussions' were available on the cloud**

**<https://cloud.fai.org/s/bwaqrHi5XDbnKqY>**

**They are now in the Document chapter of the CIVL website.**

## **1 Opening of the meeting**

The Plenary overall procedures are detailed in CIVL Internal Regulations: Annexe 1a. Majority and voting procedures are explained in a table: Annexe 1b and 1c.

The CIVL President welcomes everyone

- Delegates, alternate delegates and observers
- CIVL bureau members, committee Chairs and Officers
- Honoured guests
- And last but not least: David Monks, the new FAI President

This is not a typical plenary. We trust that everything will go smoothly, just like the Open meetings did: 79 people from 37 nations participated in efficient discussions.

The ePlenary specific procedures are explained: who takes the floor and how; screen sharing kept to the minimum; voting procedures for non-secret votes. All secret votes to be run on Session 4, Sunday February 7.

- **Roll call, apologies and proxies.**

**CIVL Bureau members, Committee chairs, officers, administrator**

Andy Cowley – Claudio Cattaneo – Elena Filonova – Goran Dimiskovski – Igor Erzen – Jamie Shelden – Jun Zhang – Riikka Vilkkuna – Stephane Malbos – Zeljko Ovuka

**Honoured guest**

FAI Executive Board: David Monk – Agust Gudmundsonn – Pankul Mathur

FAI Commissions : Jurgen Knueppel – Marja Osinga

FAI Secretariat: Markus Haggenev – Visa Matti

**Registered NAC**

Argentina – Australia – Austria – Brazil – Bulgaria – Canada – China – Croatia – Czech Republic – Denmark – Finland – France – Germany – Great Britain – Honk Kong – Hungary – India – Indonesia – Iran – Island – Italy – Japan – Kazaksthan – Latvia – Lithuania – N. Macedonia – Malaysia – Mexico (suspended) – Mongolia – Netherland – New Zealand (proxy to Australia) – Norway – Philippines – Poland – Portugal – Romania – Russia – Serbia – Slovenia – Spain – Sweden – Switzerland – Chinese Taipei – Thailand – Turkey – USA – Vietnam

- **Welcome from the FAI President.**

David Monk introduces himself as a helicopter pilot, a reasonably successful competitor, a manager involved in his club and FAI commission (CIG) for a long time as secretary and chairman of rules, also involved in the Royal Aeroclub of the UK, lately as President. So he has a good knowledge of air sports and hopes to bring this to the service of the FAI.

Two years ago, he represented the CIG at the Luxor FAI General Conference, where he met the other presidents of Commission and started to work closely with them. The FAI problems became very apparent and this is why he stood up for the role of President.

The FAI has been lacking transparency and honesty, and has developed a large gap between a business-oriented Executive Board and how the Commissions operate. We need to restore the trust between these entities so we can work together. Finances need to be returned to stability. Commission reserves have been exploited for return in the form of sponsorship without success, which has left the FAI financially weak. With the help of everybody, we need to increase the work capital of the organisation.

Thanks to their many volunteers, the Commissions are working with efficiency and it is something that the FAI should be proud of. We trust the Commissions to find the best possible way to run their competitions in yet another difficult year. FAI is going through unusual times, but he believes that we will succeed and that better days are ahead.

Stephane Malbos points out that David Monk, the last two years, was in the Airsport Commission Presidents Basecamp project that exchanged profusely on all issues, so he knows well what the expectations of the Commissions are.

‘Now that your position takes you on the other side of the fence, how do you see the cooperation between the Executive Board and the Commissions?’

David Monk: ‘The commissions have been working well together for the last two years, so there is little to change in this regard. In Luxor, I was part of a meeting between the commissions and the Executive Board. It achieved nothing. Individual voices were heard, but as a group the Executive Board had its own objectives. The new Executive Board wants to work with the commissions. My belief is that the commissions are the operational part of the FAI, they look after the sport, it is their domain in the constitution. As an Executive Board, we should be facilitators and provide as best as we can an environment in which they can flourish. This is why the synergy, the communication between the commissions and the Board are so important. I believe we are already on this road.’

See also FAI President’s speech before his election at the 2020 FAI General Conference: Annexe 6b.

## **2 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest (Annexe 2)**

Involved in PG or HG companies:

Michael Sigel, Yoshiki Oka, Cristiano Pereira, Brett Janaway.

## **3 Additions to the Agenda**

- Point 11 – Discussion on 2021 Championships and Covid-19
- Formula and Software Working Group Proposals. Section 7F modifications. Annexe 30.
- Proposal from Poland. Tracklog Archives. Annexe 33 d.
- Annexe 33 — Amended Portugal proposal on records.
- Point 38: Elections

Vote: All agreed unanimously

The CIVL President requests that the deadline for Bureau and Committees Chair nomination is moved from just before the election (Sunday 7, as per our Internal Regulation) to the Saturday 6 session.

- February 4 – Nomination forms are circulated.
- February 6 – Nominations are closed. The nominated accept or refuse the nominations. If they accept, they present themselves.
- February 7 – Elections

Vote: Agreed unanimously

## **4 Approval of the minutes of the 2019 Plenary meeting (Annexe 4)**

Vote: Agreed unanimously

## **5 Report of the FAI Secretary General (Annexes 5a and 5b)**

Markus Haggeneby thanks the Executive Board and the ASCs for helping the secretariat focusing on activities and a more stable FAI. He sums up his reports on the FAI in 2020 and on the FAI 2021 budget.

He points out a few specific slides...

The key performance indicators; the stability of the ASCs' reserves; the good states of the CIVL finances (the 'richest' commission); the news accounts that differs commissions activities and FAI central sport-related activities; the sharp trimming of FAI Full Time Employes (from 10+ in 2019 to 5.4 in 2021, and even 3.6 during the pandemic as some of them are on partial unemployment).

The reorganisation of the finances; the continuous downtrend of the membership revenue; the late payment of membership fees that creates a cashflow issue; the reduction of the overhead, most of it from the office; an achievable 2021 balanced budget; the pandemic and its hard-to-evaluate financial consequences; the need to be more transparent by reporting regularly to the ASCs and giving them easy access to their accounts.

What are you expecting from the ASCs in general and the CIVL in particular?

What we are looking for is operational efficiency. ASCs can help us simplify the workflow between ASCs and secretariat and our overall organisation. For instance, we have currently 23 different accounts, some in euros, some in Swiss Francs.

Andy Cowley, as CIVL Financial Secretary, acknowledges the progress made this year on efficiency and transparency.

## **6 Report of the CIVL President (Annexe 6a)**

Stephane Malbos sums up the key points of his report and point out to the additional reports from Committee chairs and other officers.

He underlines that our reserves are still large and that the CIVL can keep functioning as before and invest when and where necessary in training, software, equipment... But soon enough we will have to address our chronic deficit.

For two years now, the Commission Presidents have worked together and spoken with one voice. They have been heard. The last year has seen significant changes at the FAI with administrative downsizing, financial reorganisation and a new President and Executive Board elected.

We now have to work some more to consolidate the changes and help the FAI to simplify and save money.

2021 is an election year. Mitch Shipley (Secretary) and Riikka Vilkuna (PG Accuracy Chair) are stepping back. The others are happy to serve another two years. Bill Hughes (USA) was contacted to join the Bureau as Financial Secretary, and Martin Jovanoski (MKD) to chair the Accuracy Committee. They agreed, but, of course, the game is open and anybody can be nominated and elected to all positions.

## **7 Report of Bureau decisions that need the Plenary approval (Annexe 7 v3)**

The latest version, published on February 3, included the Bureau's approval of the World HG XC local regulations. The published local regulations are now suspended while the team size issue is being reviewed.

Vote: Agreed unanimously

## **8 Report of the CIVL Treasurer (Annexe 8a and 8b)**

Andy Cowley presented his report, narrative and PowerPoint.

## 9 Approval of the 2020 accounts

Vote: Agreed unanimously

## 10 Discharge of Bureau responsibility for decisions since last Plenary

The CIVL shall accept responsibility for all acts carried out by the President, the Bureau and the Committee Chairs of CIVL under the terms of the FAI Constitution and CIVL Internal Regulations and in good faith.

Vote: Agreed unanimously

## 11 Review of the Championships and Test Events

### 2020 Championships

- PG XC PanAmerican – Brazil – March 7 to 14. Annexe 11.
- HG XC Class Sport World – Groveland, USA – April 19 to May 1.  
Cancelled.
- HG XC Class 2, 5, Women 1 World – Groveland, USA – April 19 to May 1.  
Cancelled.
- PG Accuracy Asia – Kazakhstan – May 30 to June 7.  
Postponed to 2022.
- HG XC European 1 – Monte Cucco, Italy – July 4 to 18.  
Postponed to 2022.
- PG XC European – Nis, Serbia – July 18 to August 1.  
Postponed to 2022.
- HG XC Class 1 Pan-American – Texas, USA – August 2 to 14.  
Cancelled.
- PG Aerobic World – Trasaghis, Italy – August 5 to 14.  
Postponed to July 6 to 17, 2021.
- PG Accuracy European – Romania – August 28 to September 5.  
Postponed to 2022.
- PG XC Asian Oceanic – Australia – Bright – December 5 to 19.  
Cancelled.

### 2020 Test events

- HG XC World Class 1 – Krushevo, N. Macedonia.  
Cancelled.
- PG XC World – Chamoux-sur-Gelon, France.  
Cancelled.
- PG Accuracy World – Prilep, N. Macedonia.  
Cancelled.

### 2020 Live tracker Coordinator report

No activity in 2020.

### 2021 Championships

- PG XC World – Chamoux-sur-Gelon, France.
- PG Aerobic World – Trasaghis, Italy.
- HG XC World Class 1 – Krushevo, N. Macedonia.
- PG Accuracy World – Prilep, N. Macedonia.

Because test events were not run, the 2021 championships will programme extra training days before the championships to allow pilots, team leaders, accompanying persons, organisers and officials to get ready.

### **2021 Cat 1s and Covid-19**

The issue was addressed in the various meetings.

It was explained what the CIVL Bureau philosophy in 2020 has been: trust the organisers to take the best decision possible.

Doing the same in 2021 is an option.

The other option is that the CIVL defines the conditions in which a championship is considered as fair, safe and satisfying, in regard to the number of nations and pilots given the possibility to attend without too many restrictions.

The discussion underlines two opposite approaches.

- The show must go on. A somehow diminished championship is better than no championship. The organisers are doing all they can so the championship can be held, pilots should be ready to do the same.
- The uncertainty of the championship makes it difficult for pilots to get ready (take time off, get in shape, upgrade their equipment, organise transportation). Travel restrictions concerns not only open or closed borders but quarantine before and after the event. Too many countries not participating would make a championship meaningless.

The FAI Secretary General points to the Sporting Code rules (a championship is valid with 4 nations and 8 pilots) and to the Organiser Agreement (that does not include limits on the number of nations and pilots).

The CIVL President underlines that an Organiser Agreement is signed by four entities: organisers and NAC, FAI central and CIVL. A consensus must be found among all parties to maintain, cancel or postpone.

All approaches have their own logic and supporters.

The PG XC Worlds in France is the first Cat 1 on the 2021 calendar. It starts on May 19 with training days. The deadline for the PG XC World to go 'on' or 'off' has been set by the organisers at the latest on March 15, a bit more than 2 months before the event. If it takes part, the organisers will be ready to deliver as expected, with the French government support, including all Covid-related requirements.

It is impossible to anticipate what the situation will be in early March, hence it is difficult for the CIVL to set theoretical rules that could satisfy everyone. The organisers and the CIVL Bureau will have to be trusted to agree on the best decision when the time comes, very much like how they did in 2020.

The HG World will start in mid-July. We have more time to assess the situation. The HG open meeting participants state that they need more time than in PG to get ready because of the equipment issue, harder to travel with. They hope for a May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for a decision to be taken. It was agreed that the situation should be reassessed in April.

In both these championships, committees, delegates and team leaders will be involved in the decision process.

The PG Aerobatic World will start on July 6 and was not discussed.

The PG Accuracy World will start in mid-October and was not discussed.

If test events can't be run in normal conditions in 2021, the organisers and CIVL will find solutions in line with what was done in 2020.

The CIVL President asked if there was any opposition to this way forward. There was none.

### **Bids for 2023 Championships**

In point 7 of the agenda, the plenary agreed unanimously on the following: Bids are open in all disciplines. If any 2021 World Championship is cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the organiser will be offered to organise the 2023 championship. The organiser will have to commit at the same time as the 2021 cancellation will be decided. Such postponed championships will have the priority over the bids approved by 2021 plenary. In other words, bidders for 2023 World championships should be aware that if the 2021 championships are postponed to 2023, their successful bids will be cancelled.

### **12 Review of the World Air Games and special events (Annexe 12)**

Do World Air Games or similar multisport event projects have a future?

Stephane Malbos explains the need for a detailed analysis of past events, sport-wise and finances-wise.

David Monk underlines the two sides of the analysis: what happened in the past and what we want for the future (was it worth it).

Markus Haggene believes such events can have value if run properly and is looking forward to work on the matter

Esa Alaraudanjoki (FIN) suggests that the respect of human rights should be taken in consideration when choosing a venue.

### **13 Report from the Hang Gliding XC Committee (Annexe 13)**

Jamie Shelden reported. All Cat 1 events in 2020 were either cancelled or postponed. The Open meeting objected to Bureau decision to allow 10 additional pilots over max number allowed in Section 7 at HG worlds in Krushevo and also requested that the organisers make a go/no-go decision by May 1, 2021. Also, for Krushevo Worlds, the organisers should go forward with registration and allocation, but not payment until May 1. Bid for 2023 worlds from Spain was discussed and informally approved by the Open meeting.

### **14 Report from the Paragliding XC Committee (Annexe 14)**

We managed to run 50% of the scheduled Cat 2 events in 2020. On the national level, competition activity was running as usual in certain countries while in others it was completely stopped. That indicates that some events will run in 2021 as well, and we should give them full support: software-, rules- and assistance-wise.

Cat 1s in 2020 were all cancelled, but there are still chances to run at least some of them in 2021, including the XC Worlds in France.

The state of affairs in the XC Committee is stable. The system is fine-tuned constantly without excessively troublesome issues.

Overall, my opinion is that despite challenging times, XC paragliding is going strong, and we will manage to find a way to operate despite the very complicated environment surrounding us at the moment.

### **15 Report from the Paragliding Accuracy Committee (Annexe 15)**

Riikka Viikuna reported. Cat 1s and most Cat 2s competitions were stopped. The Asian and European Championships were moved to 2022.

There is a growing interest in the discipline and an Asian League is being planned to start.

Focus areas for the PGA committee 2021 should include among other issues the AMD development and requirements, and judging development.

Twenty+ people representing 18 countries are participating in paragliding accuracy discussions on Basecamp: the committee has discussed a few changes to Section 7C during autumn and a proposal is put forward to the Plenary 2021.



## **16 Report from the Paragliding Aerobatic Committee (Annexe 16)**

Not a single sanctioned aerobatic competition took place during the year. The World Paragliding Aerobatic Championships in Italy, originally scheduled in August 2020, was postponed to July 2021.

There is no change to S7B to be discussed, with the exception of a set of new synchro manoeuvres, whose execution and judgment criteria still need to be refined and validated. This process will be completed soon.

The project for the judge training seminar in Latin America is making its way, we are waiting to see the evolution of the Covid situation to decide whether to confirm December 2021.

## **17 Report on Safety (Annexe 17)**

Stephane Malbos explained the lack of a CIVL proper incident database; the one ran by the federations deal with much bigger numbers and are more reliable.

Thomas Milko (BRA) asked for the help of CIVL to have access to such database. Robin Freiss (GER), in charge of the DHV database also used by many other European countries, offered his help.

## **18 Report from the Software Officers (Annexe 18)**

Igor Erzen reported. AirScore project is going on in full scale. It is estimated, that we could fully run it within two months. Depending on time available by the developers of course. We also expect test environment on FAI servers to be setup and let a selected number of testers to try it and get feedback.

Elena Filonova updated the plenary on the CIVL Event Management System. The project is five-year old, part of the Software CIVL 'vision' presented to the FAI in 2016. The FAI failed to deliver what we requested, the Noosphere eNavigator being useless for us. We decided to do it ourselves. A tender was done. We chose Noosphere. The project is ongoing and phase 1 is to be finished soon. We will then start using it, collect feedback, make adjustments, fix bugs.

Elena demonstrated parts that are ready: WPRS pages, calendars, competition pages, seminar pages, integration with the Application Management System.

## **19 Report from the Records & Badges Officer (Annexe 19)**

Igor Erzen reported. This year, as expected, was a quite year. Although there were a few new continental and world records broken this year, not much can be said on regulation.

There was only one proposal to change S7d, from Portugal, to split some types of record based on the difference in the launch type (hill launch vs. winch).

Another idea came out of discussion to eliminate the need to contact you NAC prior to the record attempt, but only for some type of records. No proposal came out to change that rule.

## **20 Report from the Competition Coordinator (Annexe 20)**

Elena Filonova reported. In 2020 we received 278 applications for Cat 2 events. It is about 10–15% less than in 2019, but 10% more than in 2018. So it can be said that this figure is in the average limits.

The number of events that actually took place was significantly lower: 50% less in PG XC and HG XC, 70% less in PGA. Not a single PG Aerobatics event took place.

To support the organisers CIVL announced full refund of sanction fees in case of COVID-related cancellation. About 2/3 of cancelled events did not claim the refund and asked to transfer the sanction fee paid to next year's events. Still, the confirmed income for 2020, compared to 2019, was reduced to 2.5 times.

The majority of PG and HG XC events had 2 to 4 tasks, and in PG Accuracy 6 to 8 rounds. Other figures can be found in Annexe 20.

## **21 Report from the Jury & Steward Coordinator (Annexe 21)**

Jamie Sheldon reported. All jury and steward assignments have been made for the 2021 competition season. However, all officials will wait to make travel arrangements until the events are closer, in case of cancellation.

## **22 Report from the Communication Officer (Annexe 22)**

Elena Filonova reported. We had a lot of depressing news: postponement and cancellations. Some good points – the Pan American in Brazil and a few records – made us look optimistic into the future. To improve our communications and continue support of Category 1 and 2 events, we will offer registration announcement via social media FB and Instagram in 2021.

A think tank on our global communication is suggested (objectives and means). Brett Janaway explains the recent upgrading of Air Tribune and is complimented for his good work.

## **23 Proposals from the CIVL Bureau**

None received.

## **24 Proposals from the Hang Gliding XC Committee**

None received.

## **25 Proposals from the Paragliding XC Committee**

None received.

## **26 Joint proposals from the Hang Gliding and Paragliding XC Committee**

None received.

## **27 Proposals from the Paragliding Accuracy Committee (Annexe 27)**

- Section 7C modifications: Annexe 27.  
The changes are in visible in red.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

## **28 Proposals from the Paragliding Aerobatic Committee**

None received.

## **29 Proposals from the Safety Officers**

None received.

## **30 Proposals from the Formula and Software Working Group**

- Section 7F modifications: Annexe 30.  
Fix error in time-point reduction formula in stopped tasks with multiple start gates.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

Start the Leading Coefficient graph used for leading points calculation at task start time.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

Clarification of the order in which penalties are applied.  
Did not require a vote. Just Section 7 cleaning up.

**31 Proposals from the Records & Badges Officer**

None received.

**32 Proposals from the Jury & Steward Coordinator**

None received.

**33 Proposals from National Airsport Control (NAC)****Bulgaria** (Annexe 33a and 33b V4)

- PG XC Leading Weight.  
The proposal was withdrawn.
- PG and HG XC – Lower Limits of Turnpoints.  
The proposal was amended. Amendments are underlined in yellow, orange and green in Annexe 33b V4. The intended changes in the rules will be subject to an additional proposal to the 2022 Plenary.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

**Portugal** (Annexe 33c)

- PG XC – Set a new record for foot-launched free distance and free distance to a declared goal.  
Vote – 2/3 qualified majority – Yes: 24 – No: 14  
The proposal failed.

**Poland** (Annexe 33 d)

- Tracklog Archives  
The proposal request that tracklogs used for results calculation (IGC files) are sent to the CIVL. The files are made available to the general public.  
Vote – Yes: 25 – No: 6  
The proposal is accepted.

**34 Bids for 2023 Championships****18th FAI World Paragliding Championships** (Annexe 34a)

- Andradas, Minas Gerais, Brazil.  
Bid presented by Thomas Milko. The PG XC Committee is supportive. All questions answered.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

**12th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy Championships** (Annexe 34b V2)

- Sopot, Bulgaria.  
Bid presented by Valery Tzvetanov. The PG Accuracy Committee is supportive. All questions answered.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

**24th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 1 Championships** (Annexes 34c)

- Àger, Spain.  
Bid presented by Jose Manuel Sanchez Garcia 'Juaki'. The PG XC Committee is supportive. All questions were answered.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

**35 Provisional budget** (Annexe 35a and 35b)

Andy Cowley presented its report, narrative and Excel sheet. All questions were answered.  
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

Andy was thanked by many: 'Great work! It is a hard job and you made it look easy.'

### 36 Nominations for Awards

#### **FAI Air Sport Medal**

- Frank Brown and Marcos Aurelio Pinheiro: Annexe 36  
Vote: Agreed unanimously

#### **CIVL Hang Gliding and Paragliding Diploma**

None received.

#### **CIVL Pepe Lopes Medal**

None received.

### 37 Venue of next Plenary meeting

For venue of the 2020 Plenary, the 2019 Plenary chose Belgrade, Serbia. Due to the pandemic, the physical Plenary was cancelled. The Bureau decided to postpone Belgrade venue to 2022. The organisers agreed. The 2021 Plenary approved the Bureau decision. So the 2022 plenary will take place in Belgrade from February 3 to 6.

### 38 Nomination and election of Bureau members and Committee Chairs

Where nominated and accepted the nomination

- President. Stephane Malbos
- Vice presidents: Goran Dimikovski, Igor Erzen, Jamie Shelden, Zeljko Ovuka
- Administrative Secretary: Andy Cowley
- Financial Secretary: William Hughes
- Hang Gliding Committee Chair: Jamie Shelden
- Paragliding XC Committee Chair: Goran Dimikovski
- Paragliding Accuracy Committee Chair: Martin Jovanovski
- Paragliding Aerobatic Committee Chair: Claudio Cattaneo

As none of the positions were contested, the nominated were elected by general consent.

### 39 Any other matter

At this time of the agenda (or at other times), the floor was given for an open discussion.

#### **Pros and cons of physical and online Plenary meetings**

We need the physical meetings to have the time to get to the bottom of things. Quality, strategy, team building. We cannot do without them.

We need the virtual meetings because we access people that we never see and they become part of the CIVL. Expansion, diversity, pedagogy. We have to learn to do with them. Why not mixed meetings, both physical and virtual? They may bring serious challenges to the plenary hosts, still they may be unavoidable and CIVL will have to help find solutions.

#### **Records**

CIVL has received suggestions to review all its record scheme, going through records that seems to be outdated and checking processes so we have a way of checking advance notice and airspace restrictions.

### **Asian Development, Paragliding Accuracy and the Airsports Federation of Asia**

The AFA was created in 2015, recognised by the FAI in 2016. It has xx members, including countries in Central Asia and Oceania. Last October, the AFA Board contacted the CIVL Bureau so we would help them on a PG Accuracy Asian Cup project. The Bureau thought that the project was worthwhile and in line with CIVL policy to help the development of our sports in Asia, especially in regards to organisers and judges in Accuracy. We worked with the FAI to build what is now called the AFA PG Accuracy League. The League is run a few Cat 2 events in various countries and have a final with pilots selected through the league nations ranking. Aldy Pantaroy (IND) is the League Technical Delegate and Arif Ibrahim (MAS) its Head of Judges. The CIVL will help organise a CIVL Judges Seminar at the appropriate time.

### **Asian Development, Paragliding XC and the PWC Asian Tour**

The Paragliding World Cup Association (PWCA) and the CIVL developed a XC Asian tour in 2019. The CIVL supported the project. 2020 was supposed to be the real start of it, then the pandemic... Goran Dimiskovski explained: the aim is to educate the people crucially needed in top competitions. First Event and Meet Directors, then scorers, live-tracking managers, etc. It started with the support of Gin and his contacts in China and South Korea and soon other countries were interested. In 2021, we had a competition in Nepal that showed that the concept was good, with an event not only well organised but well attended with, as hoped, the priority given to Asian pilots with just a few top-level 'outsiders' to give credibility and true international flavour.

### **Continental Development and the CIVL**

Both above projects were initiated by local people, a prerequisite for any successful involvement of the CIVL in continental development. Both projects show that, on the political and associative levels, the credibility of the CIVL is a reality. We have to take this opportunity to help develop the sport as much as we can. It may take some human and financial investment, but it is worth it.

### **Out-of-touch ... or not?**

The Bureau members and Committee Chairs have again been elected without contest (one nominated per position). It has been like this since 2013. Obviously, successive teams in charge have built trust, but there is always the risk of the 'leaders' losing touch with reality. Reality includes non-European nations, especially in Asia and Central/South America, which have been under-represented. Excess of trust can lead to mistakes and we must not forget to doubt.

Should the CIVL make a rule that limits the number of times once can be elected? There are pros and cons. When you find good people, why to get rid of them? But we need fresh blood! But fresh blood is not enough, we need educated blood! Food for thoughts.

Involvement in the CIVL cannot be decreed from the top. Anyone from any nation can get involved in the running of the CIVL at any level. The best place to start getting involved is the Basecamp Projects, all wide open to contributions. The Bureau that we call 'Extended' is also open to contributors, currently Committee Chairs and Continental Officers.

## **40 Closing Remarks of the FAI Representative and CIVL President**

**Markus Hagganey**, FAI Secretary General, had to leave the meeting early and wrote in the Zoom Chat box: Friends, I am leaving. Great meeting. Very interesting discussions. Happy to continue supporting as much as we can. Greetings from the office in Lausanne!

**Agust Gudmundson**, CIVL President of honour and Executive Board member since 2014, has been listening how CIVL is progressing and is happy about it. In these difficult times, we have to stay positive. Pandemic-wise, let's try to make things happen. Finances-wise, we need to work together.

**Stephane Malbos**, President for a new 2-year term, looked back at six years of Plenary reports, six years of achievements, and tried to analyse...

CIVL have kept working efficiently on rules, software and competitions: the chore of what the CIVL has done and done well for 45 years now. So many volunteers must be thanked!

We led some exceptional projects successfully: the CIVL Competition Class (CCC) paragliders, the Application and Event Management Systems (AMS and EMS), the move from FS to AirScore.

We invested in equipment: live-trackers, accuracy target.

We implemented a new system of distribution of the IPP1 Card, where all pilots are systematically rated on their national licences: 21 nations have adopted it.

And last but not least, we hired an administrator whose role has been central in the recent development and running of the CIVL, as she overlooks with talent our events, software and communication.

The CIVL involvement in the 'higher' level of the FAI has too often been a struggle, mainly related to special events projects on which we had little control. We got involved, sometimes with enthusiasm, but the end result was globally disappointing. Nevertheless, such involvement must be kept strong, because the FAI is our family and our family is what we make it. Be active, tell the truth, be open to any new project, deliver when asked to. Because that's what we do, we are respected.

All this was possible because we don't rely on luck, but on the hard work of so many, but on our 300+ yearly competitions. The money that these events bring is deemed to be returned in a way or another to the ones that gave it: the pilots and the organisers. This is why, every day, we try to be more of service, more professional.

These past six years, we have learned

- To work within the system at all level: General Conference, Executive Board, Secretariat, CASI, Commission Presidents Group, CIVL Committees and Working Groups.
- To be transparent, to be cautious, to discuss everything. Basecamp here plays a crucial role with 70+ people involved, hundreds of discussions, thousands of exchanges.
- To be open to anything, but...
- To rely on our own forces

So I will conclude this plenary like I concluded many others: we fail when we don't work enough. So back to work!