



FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

**AMATEUR-BUILT & EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT COMMISSION
C.I.A.C.A.
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DES AMATEURS CONSTRUCTEURS D' AERONEFS**

Annual Report

**to the 98th FAI General Conference
Paris, 12-15th October 2005**

The Amateur-built Aircraft Air Sport is progressing well in the world, although in several countries it suffers the same growing restrictions which unfortunately are affecting the freedom of air sports in general: our skies are becoming less free day after day.

The annual plenary meeting held in April 2005 was the 30th CIACA meeting. The famous "Red Bull Hangar 7", in Salzburg, has been the unusual, extraordinary site for such a celebrative meeting. This anniversary has also been a good opportunity to assess the CIACA past and to consider trends for the future.

CIACA awards

Phoenix Diploma.

Stefano Rusconi (Italy) has been unanimously awarded the Phoenix Diploma for the re-construction of a Fokker DR 1 (I-JENY). The high quality and the fidelity of the construction, as well as the depth of the historical research have been the reasons for this award.

Henri Mignet Diploma

Steve Griffin (Australia) has been unanimously awarded the Henry Mignet Diploma for the development and construction of the "Mylar Magic" hot air balloon. The technology of such balloon was considered very interesting, as well as the original solution of several technical problems which allowed breaking the duration record in that balloon category. The CIACA delegates particularly appreciated the low cost and short building times, (only a total of 100 hours); such characteristics, in particular, have been considered much in line with the Mignet spirit of "Aviation for all".

Educational and social initiatives

The number of social initiatives based on home-built aircraft is growing years after year.

In addition to the initiatives already activated in the past in Sweden, Germany, France and Italy, a new original youth program has been launched in France, where aircraft are built or restored in schools, flying clubs, youth centres, museums, as well as at home. The incentive for the participants is that they not only build the aircraft but learn to fly on their own aircraft, achieving a national pilot's licence. The overall programme is run by the young for the young, with adults acting only as consultants. Roughly 500 students all over France are involved annually in such programmes.

In the UK a similar project is being developed, named Air Scouts. The project has been sponsored by the UK government and the first of the four aircraft being built is expected to fly soon. The promotional effectiveness for the Air Sports image of these initiatives, which demonstrate to be very attractive for the public opinion too, is self explaining and CIACA intend to further structure such efforts.

New initiatives

Based on the promising result of the official CIACA participation in the ILA 2004 Berlin Air-Exhibition, discussions are underway in view of a dedicated CIACA event in 2006. It is proposed that the fly-in be held at Schoenhagen Airfield (south of Berlin) in May 2006 in parallel with the ILA Exhibition. If the idea of FAI Air Games will develop as initially proposed, this event might become a good test bed. In fact, together with the amateur-built aircraft activities, other air-sports events might be hosted.

A new, amateur-built dedicated racer class, is now under development within CIACA to make aircraft homebuilding and air racing more popular among pilots and spectators. The main emphasis will be put on safety, price and economy and it is hoped to have a ready-to-race aeroplane for roughly €9,000. A dedicated CIACA working group will proceed in tight contact with the Formula One Association.

Solar powered aircraft

After several years of observation of the movement in the world, the CIACA sub-committee specialized on Solar-powered Aeroplanes (SpA) have produced a proposal for a new Section of the FAI Sporting code which has been submitted to CASI for proper considerations. It is hoped that the endorsement phase will take place expeditiously because soon attempts to establish significant performance will be carried out.

Recognition of records broken by Amateur-built Aircraft

It is not infrequent that FAI records be performed by means of Amateur-built aircraft. CIACA consider it worth to make people aware of the fact that a certain performance has been obtained with an homebuilt aircraft. The record itself deserves even more merit if the record-man/woman have personally built or have significantly contributed in building their own machine. For this reason a proposal has been put forward to all FAI Air-sports commissions and to CASI, requesting that in the record claim forms a dedicated box be included, specifying when the relevant aircraft is "amateur-built".



Pierluigi Duranti

President, CIACA

August 30th, 2005