

Spence, Craig

From: FAI Secretary General <sec.gen@fai.org>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Spence, Craig
Subject: IAOPA World Assembly

Dear Secretary General, dear Craig,

Thank you very much for your invitation to the World Assembly of the International Council of AOPA on 22 July in Chicago. I am still very sorry that on a short notice it was not possible for me to come and present FAI's Strategy on Drones and the elements of our collaboration with you.

Let me say a few words on this topic: FAI is the world governing body for air sports. Our main activities are the organisation of international competitions in more than 40 disciplines, the recognition of Record achievements and the promotion of air sports. Aeromodelling comprises 50 percent of our activities, with around 350 events being registered annually in our FAI calendar. Drone Racing is the latest recreational and sporting activity in FAI. On the regulatory side, most of our more than 100 National Member organisations are in contact with the authorities related to Drones.

Key elements of the Common Strategy on Drones that FAI recently decided on are

- To promote FAI as the reliable partner to global and regional rulemaking authorities and to also empower the NACs to be reliable partners to their respective CAA
- To differentiate between the recreational and sporting activities that are governed by FAI-CIAM and its National Members, from the commercial activities that require a specific approval procedure from authorities in the respective countries
- To empower our community to
 - Deal with the authorities in order to protect the existing aeromodelling structures because Drones can be considered to be Model Aircrafts if they are in the light/open category.
 - To effectively protect existing aero modelling privileges because Drone regulations may create regulatory overlaps requiring common guidelines to be introduced.
 - Sensibly integrate Drones into Airspace use
 - Attract new Members that are novices, to FPV (First Person View) / Drone sports flying

Last but not least, it is in our interest to coordinate submissions on Drone regulations together with IAOPA and Europe Air Sports and thus have a stronger impact.

FAI and IAOPA complement each other very well to represent the strong interest of General Aviation and all Air Sports in a protection of our airspace and framework that we need for our flying.

We will be in touch soon again on Drone matters towards the regulatory authorities on international level. I am very much looking forward to continuing the refreshed collaboration.

Best regards and good proceedings at the World Assembly

Susanne

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Susanne SCHÖDEL | Secretary General

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