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## 50th Congress & General Meeting

### Antwerp, Belgium

June 11th 2022

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**Attending :** Jean-Daniel Ayache, Peter Beer, Stefan Bruylants, Umberto Cavallaro, Jürgen Esders, Bedřich Helm, Frank Hindenburg, Stephen Lachein, Jean-Pierre Leclercq, Yves Monier, Dominique Petit, Wolfgang Porges, Flavio Ricciatelli, H.H.C. Tschroots-Boer, Filip Van der Haegen, Wim van der Helm, Bart Van Oppens, Michael Vierig

**Excused :** Charles Bromser, Chris Hargreaves, Walter Hopferwieser, Ernst Leu, Fiorenzo Longhi, Geörgy Lövei,

At 10h10 President Wolfgang Porges opened the 50<sup>th</sup> Congress & General Meeting of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aéro- et Astrophilatéliques. Due to the Covid pandemic and the absence of aerophilately in the Hungarian exhibition, F.I.S.A. accepted the offer of the Secretary-General to have the 50<sup>th</sup> Congress in Antwerp during the National exhibition with international participation and a Salon of Aerophilately. He thanked the attending board and delegates to be here for an important meeting about the future of F.I.S.A.

1. **Acceptance of the Agenda**  
Add point 7a : Changes in the Board
2. **Election of Tellers**  
Mr. Frank Hindenburg and Mr. Jean-Daniël Ayache were asked for Tellers
3. **Report and Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly**  
No remarks received; the report of Berlin 2019 was accepted unanimously.
4. **Report and Acceptance of Annual Financial Report 2019, 2020 & 2021**  
F.I.S.A. Treasurer Peter Beer explained the Financial Report for these years:  
2019 was more expensive due to the costs of the Bi-annual Congress  
2020 was an abnormal year due to Corona pandemic, no meetings, or exhibitions  
2021 was generally also a Corona pandemic year, so F.I.S.A. will not charge a member fee for 2021
5. **Report and Acceptance of internal audited Treasurer's Reports 2019, 2020 & 2021**  
Johannes Palmer – auditor for F.I.S.A. – wrote the report and confirmed the good evaluation of the treasurer's report.
6. **Discharge of Directorium and Auditors**  
The Congress discharged the Directorium and the Auditors unanimously.
7. **Dissolution of F.I.S.A.**  
President W. Porges read his report on the last three years: see attachment.

**Conclusion :**

President Wolfgang Porges and Treasurer Peter Beer wanted to stop their career within F.I.S.A., both for personal reasons.

This would mean the end of F.I.S.A. and the dissolution of F.I.S.A.

On the other hand, a majority of our member societies wanted to continue with F.I.S.A. and mentioned that F.I.S.A. has a dedicated target in supporting aerophilately and astrophilately.

In this catch 22, a solution was found with the candidacy of Bedřich Helm as President and Eckhard Förster as Treasurer for the next two years.

**VOTING:** 15 YES / 3 NO : the majority voted to NOT dissolve F.I.S.A. and to continue with a new Directorium.

7.a. **Changes in the Directorium of F.I.S.A.**

Following an unanimous vote, the new Directorium was elected:

President	Bedřich Helm /CZ
Vice-President	Dominique Petit /F
Treasurer	Eckhard Förster /CH
Secretary-General	Stefan Bruylants /B

It then was proposed by Vice-President Dominique Petit to give the title of Honorary President to Wolfgang Porges.

The new directorate thanked Wolfgang Porges for 16 years of loyal service in F.I.S.A.

Board member	2007-2009
Secr. General	2009-2015
President	2015-2022

and Peter Beer for the 9 years of loyal service in F.I.S.A.

Board Member	2013-2015
Treasurer	2015-2022

The changed Board was accepted unanimously by the General Meeting.

After the passing away from Reiner Stimm, the Congress accepted Stephen Lachein /D to be the new auditor aside Johannes Palmer.

8. **Admission and/or Exclusion of Members**

F.I.S.A. is proud to announce the admission of two new societies, both astrophilately:

- **Association Astrophilatélique de France (2AF)** is the French astrophilatelic society, represented by Yves Monnier.
  - **Astrophil** is the French astrophilatelic society represented by Luc Delmon.
- More information on both societies on our website.

F.I.S.A. is waiting for the **Sociedad Argentina de Aerofilatelia** to become a member, after they will have their recognition as an active Civil Society by Argentine Justice, and the society will be accepted as an "observer status" until the next Congress.

9. **Determination of Annual Fees**

There will be NO annual fee for 2021; CAF and BAMS already paid, but their fee will be used for 2022.

The Congress decided to make no changes in the Annual Fee to F.I.S.A.:

Up to 50 members	50 €
50 to 100 members	70 €
More dan 100 members	90 €

10. **Handling of Proposals and Appeals**

- Improving relations with each other, also in the years between the conferences,
- Placing interesting articles on the website, after contact and permission of the author/club,
- Planning ZOOM-meetings, open for everybody with an interest in aero- and astrophilately,
- Showing collections through the website, after permission of the owner.

11. **Granting of Awards**

- FISA Gold Medal to Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski for his book "*The History of Airmail in Poland and Its Contribution to Airmail Services of Europe (1914-1939)*".
- The title of Honorary President of F.I.S.A. to Wolfgang Porges for his Presidency in very difficult times for the aero- and astrophilatelic world.

12. **Granting of Patronage or Auspices to Exhibitions**

"Aerophilately 2022" from 4th to 6th November 2022 at Penn State University, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, USA. This APS World Series of Philately Show is open only to Aerophilately and Astrophilately or have an airmail or Astro theme.  
FISA grants its patronage, provided that "Astrophilately 2022" shows the F.I.S.A. emblem and a special postmark.

13. **Determination of Date and Place of the next General Assembly**

Dr. Bedřich Helm proposed the 51<sup>th</sup> F.I.S.A. Congress to take place in Prague, Czech Republic. A date is not yet available.

14. **Miscellaneous**

After the official part of the Congress, there were interventions by

**Jürgen Esders and Stephen Lachein:** *they pleaded to increase the pressure for an own astro-jury at national and international exhibitions: especially in Germany it is very difficult (read impossible) to get a sincere appreciation for an astrophilatelic exhibition.*

*One of the tasks for FISA is to have more jury members in aero- and astrophilately: although national judges can be found, only a few and always the same are FIP judges on international exhibitions, with only specific knowledge on American and/or Russian spaceflight.*

**Umberto Cavallaro:** *One important issue FISA should address is:*

*1/ How to ensure the survival of both Aerophilately and Astrophilately. Both are seen by FIP as a cost (Organizational cost, Commission cost, Juror cost, etc.) in a context (Far East) where there is little Aero and even less Astro (except in China) and where FIP managers don't understand, for example, the difference between Astrophilately and Thematic and repeatedly tried to cancel Astro and merge it with Thematic.*

*2/ The program of FISA should include on one hand initiatives to help Aero and Astro to grow (e.g by knowing what concretely happens – internationally and in the countries of its Members – in these classes, facilitating international competitions, acting as a mouthpiece of the existing national activities, etc.) on the other hand FISA should maintain strict relationships with the relevant FIP and FEPA entities.*

*The reply was that it's a problem of finance; my opinion it is first a question of understanding and personal involvement – If FISA doesn't change radically, it's one more useless entity.*

**Luc Delmon:** *I fully agree with Umberto's intervention: as a national juror myself, I am concerned about the sustainability of jurors and if an effort must be made, it is on this point. Moreover, the passage of Astrophilately into a Commission (and no longer a Section of Aerophilately) which will be voted in Jakarta, will allow I think a better autonomy on the subject.*

>> On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, FIP national delegates voted that the status be changed from a Section to a Commission for Astrophilately.

15. **Closing of the Congress**

At 12:10 the Congress was closed, and all Delegates and Board Members were invited to the F.I.S.A. lunch at Hotel Mercure Antwerp City South.

Mechelen, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

Revised August 14<sup>th</sup> 2022

Stefan Bruylants  
Secretary General  
Belgium

Bedřich Helm  
President  
Czech Republic

Wolfgang Porges  
Honorary-President  
Germany