



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES AEROPHILATELIQUES
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AERO-PHILATELIC SOCIETIES
INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER AERO-PHILATELISTEN-VEREINE
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE SOCIEDADES AEROFILATELICAS

51st Congress & General Meeting

Versailles, France
May 29th, 2024

Attending: Jean-Daniel Ayache, Peter Beer, Stefan Bruylants, Marie-Christine Foenix, Eckhard Förster, Piyush Khaitan, Jean-Pierre Leclercq, Michel Nempon, Johannes E. Palmer, Dominique Petit, Jacques Renaud, Flavio Riccitelli, Jürgen-Dieter Schepers, Guy Vandenbulcke

Represented by Proxy: Jürgen P. Esders, Chris Hargreaves, Christian Schmied, Filip Van der Haegen

Excused: Charles Bromser, Frank Hindenburg, Walter Hopferwieser, Fiorenzo Longhi, Georgy Lövei, Yves Monier

Absent: David Lu, Eddie Spicer

The 51st FISA Congress & General Meeting opened at 9:30 a.m.
Dominique Petit, Vice-President of FISA, welcomed the audience and presented the new FISA President Johannes E. Palmer, elected by email voting on January 31st, 2024.

Welcome by FISA President Johannes E. Palmer

*First, I would like to thank you all for coming. Your appearance today shows your interest and your commitment to our association. That makes us all proud and confident.
You have elected me as President of FISA at the beginning of 2024. I would like to thank you for this and I am very happy about it.
But above all, it is a great honor, a mission and an obligation for me. I will be happy to put my full effort into aerophilately and astrophilately.*

Review of the past two years

*We count three new members: see point 9 of the Agenda.
Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to the DAPC due to the dissolution of the association.*

Financial status

First, I would like to mention that our financial situation is stable. It is certainly worth mentioning that all board members do all the work on a voluntary basis.

Future projects

We have a lot planned for the coming year. We are planning new projects and events to further the aims of our associations. The upcoming discussions with the FIP representatives are particularly important to further support the aerophilately and astrophilately exhibitors. We will also continue to support research and literature. I refer you to the new books and catalogs presented today.

Thanks to the supporters

A club is only as strong as its members and supporters. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us over the last year - be it through volunteer work, donations or simply by taking part in our activities.

Choices and Decisions:

Today there are also important decisions and elections. I ask you to actively participate in the discussions and cast your vote so that together we can set the course for the future of our association.

Finally, I would like to emphasize once again how important your support and commitment are to our association. Together we can achieve a lot and achieve our goals. Let us continue to work on our joint projects with energy and enthusiasm in the future.

Johannes E. Palmer, President of FISA

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
Paragraphs "10.1 Future of FISA" and "10.2 Feedback on Questionnaire" are interchanged in the Agenda.
2. Election of Tellers
Ms Foenix and Mr Beer volunteered to take on this role
3. Election of Auditor
The Congress unanimously accepted the candidatures of Peter Beer and Frank Richter as auditors for FISA for the period 2024-2025.
4. Report and Acceptance of the Minutes of the last Congress & General Meeting
Since FISA received no comments, the report of the 50th Congress & General Meeting held in Antwerp in June 2022, was approved by all present.
5. Report and Acceptance of the Annual Report for 2022 and 2023
Following the resignation of former President Dr. Med. Bedrich Helm early 2023 and the search for a new candidate, an annual report could not be made for the years 2022 and 2023.
6. Report and Acceptance of the Internal Audited Treasurer's Report for 2022 and 2023
Johannes Palmer was in charge of the auditor's report for 2022 and 2023, that is in the years prior to his election as President.
J. Palmer has drawn up this report and certifies that the accounts kept and presented by Treasurer Eckhard Förster are true and fair.
7. Discharge of the Directorium and Auditors
The Congress discharged the Board and the Auditors unanimously.
8. Determination of Annual Fees
Treasurer Eckhard Förster announces that the Annual Fee remains the same for 2024/25

Up to 50 members	50 €
51 to 100 members	70 €
More than 100 members	90 €
9. Admission and/or Exclusion of Members
FISA is proud to announce that three new Aerophilatelic societies applied to join FISA:
 - **Indian Air Mail Society** (India)
President and FISA-Delegate to FISA Piyush Khaitan
 - **Sociedad Argentina di Aerofilatelia** (Argentina)
President and FISA-delegate to FISA Diego Sadowski
 - **Zeppelinpost e.V.** (Germany)
President Hofmeister, FISA-Delegate to FISA Johannes PalmerFISA had to bid farewell to **DAPC (Deutsche Aero-Philatelisten Club)** in 2024 due to the dissolution of this association.

More info on our website www.fisa-web.com

10. Handling of Proposals and Appeals

10.1 Feedback on the Questionnaire

In March 2024, FISA organised a survey on the activities of our member societies:

- **87 % of the clubs responded**
- FISA represents 2.027 collectors, 1.670 aerophilatelists (83%)
357 astrophilatelists (17%)
- 80 % of the clubs have a website, 40 % has a part 'members only'
- 85 % have a printed magazine, 50 % has also a digital (pdf) edition
- 40 % organises auctions for their members
- 20 % have videoconferences a few times a year

10.2 An Idea on the Future of FISA

- Representing the interests of aero- and astrophilatelists at FIP exhibitions,
- Acquisition and promotion of jury members or apprentices,
- Encouraging collectors to take part in exhibitions,
- Promotion of research and literature in aero- and astrophilately and networking of catalogue editors and authors,
- Assisting FISA member clubs in their search for new members,
- Digitalisation of documents and use of modern media for communication.

10.3 Communication between FIP and FISA

FISA notes and regrets the lack of contact between FIP and FISA since 2016. Despite the existence of a FIP-Aero commission and a FIP-Astro commission, there are no established channels of communication between FIP and FISA, even though FISA, as the survey shows, represents the vast majority of aerophilatelists and astrophilatelists worldwide. It would therefore be legitimate for FISA to be involved in the discussions of FIP's aero- and astro-commissions, and to have the opportunity to put forward proposals

In concrete terms, FISA will be approaching FIP with a proposal to modify these "Guidelines", so as to allow exhibitors to present in competition philatelic documents issued on the occasion of air meetings prior to 1914 (a particularly important period in the history of aviation), including philatelic documents that were not transported by air. FISA will also ask to be represented on FIP's aero- and astro-commissions.

10.4 Astrophilately Now and in the Future

- Astrophilately has a lot of problems worldwide and the main problem is to keep experienced collectors and exhibitors stay with us,
- China has a large group of space philatelists and the ACPF (Chinese Federation) attaches great importance to astrophilately,
- The problem with the jury : too few jurors, too much not-astro jurors
- FIP exhibitions seldom offer an astro-class

FISA proposals:

- Make as much as possible exhibits available virtually (digital exhibition),
- Jury members (including remote jury members) gather by Zoom,
- Provide a worldwide list of astro jury members as a resource for evaluating exhibited collections,
- These acts will provide benefits for all : Organising Committee, Jury, Exhibitors and globally for astrophilately.

10.5 International Digital Membership

FISA aims to facilitate the development of international links between FISA-affiliated aero- and astrophilatelic societies..

FISA supports the International Digital Membership project (IDM) qui donnera aux membres d'une association A la possibilité d'adhérer facilement et pour un prix modique à l'association B et avoir ainsi accès aux services numériques offerts l'association B.

The benefits are the development of communication between philatelists and the simplicity of a membership with simple/single payment.

Every member society of FISA will be asked in a separate mail to participate to this idea, as do now AAMS and CAF.

The Board will further elaborate and report on the modalities and implementation of the IDM..

11. Granting of Awards

The FISA Literature Award

Four titles were shortlisted for a literature prize:

- ***Berlin 1936 Olympialuftpost LZ.129 "Hindenburg"***
Dr. Volkmar Mehlitz, 2024
- ***UNO-Flugpost Katalog*** (3 Bände)
Jörg Kühmel, 2023
- ***Handbuch und Katalog Cartatieve Ballonpost 1946-2022*** : Band 3 Schweiz
Johannes E. Palmer, 2023
- ***Les Légendes de l'Air & de l'Espace par l'Image et l'Autographe***
Yves Saint-Yves & Michaël Lopez Saint-Yves

Congress attendees were given a voting sheet and allowed to cast one vote for one of the four proposed books. In the end, the book "***Les Légendes de l'Air & de l'Espace par l'Image et l'Autographe***" was awarded the FISA Literature Award.

Congratulations to the authors of this fine book!

12. Granting of Patronage

- The 3rd Aerophilately Symposium will take place on October 24th, 2024, at the occasion of the stamp fair in Ulm /D. There will be two lectures:
Balloon Mail (by Ewald Fischer) and SCADTA (by Bernd Wöhlbrandt)
- The Multilaterale BERNABA from 14-17 May 2025 in the BernExpo Halle in Bern /CH.
- AMSIPEX 25, an on-line Aerophilatelic and Astrophilatelic exhibition in February 2025, open to philatelists worldwide. It will be mandatory for each applicant to sign a paper of authenticity of his covers in his exhibit.

13. Next meeting

Proposal to have a Zoom-meeting for Board and Delegates, twice a year.
Vice-President D. Petit will take care of this and forward the link in time.

14. Determination of Date and Place of the next Congress & General Meeting

2026: FISA welcomes proposals from member associations to organize the 2026 Congress.
Please contact FISA Secretary General Stefan Bruylants.

15. Lecture by Piyush Khaitan :

The Birth of Airmail – The First Aerial Post at Allahabad 18 February 1911

16. Closing of the Congress

President J. Palmer closed the Congress at 12:15 pm and invited Board and Delegates for the FISA-Lunch at Restaurant "Les Trois Marches" in Versailles.

Mechelen, August 20th, 2024

Johannes E. Palmer
President of FISA

Stefan Bruylants
FISA Secretary-General