



**FAI Astronautics Records Commission (ICARE)
Report to the 105th General Conference
Belgrade, 14-15 October 2011**



1.- General Activities of ICARE Committee 2010/2011

The ICARE Committee held its annual meeting on May 6, 2011, at the FAI new Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Representatives of seven nations were present. We were especially happy to have the presence, as Russia representative, of Mr. Vladimir Ivanov, FAS of Russia President. As we all are quite aware, Russia has always been, along with the United States of America, one of the main contributors to space exploration and development, but unfortunately, its delegate was unable to attend the meeting of our Commission lately. Thus it was certainly a welcome change.

The meeting took place at the new FAI Headquarters at Lausanne, and precisely the same date of the official opening of the new premises. The FAI president was kind enough to invite the members of our Commission present at the place that date to the official opening of the new facilities, which took place the same afternoon of the meeting, a gesture very much appreciated by all of us. I take the opportunity to thank the President on the name of all members of our Commission, and of course in my own name.

We were favourably impressed by the new Headquarters, especially on the facilities for meetings, far larger and better equipped than the former. We know the move took a lot of work from past and present Presidents and Secretaries General, but in the opinion of the members of our Commission, it was a good work and with good results.

2.- Main activities and proposals

The meeting, besides the usual internal business of the Commission, devoted certain time to three matters which I think may be of interest for this Assembly.

- A) This year we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first Cosmonaut flight (Yuri Gagarin, from the former Soviet Union) orbiting the Earth. We were happy to learn through the reports of our delegates that the anniversary of such fundamental step in human kind history was not missed in the major parts of the world. There were many celebrations and, more important, there was good coverage in TV and most media in many countries of all continents. And although the present world economic conditions have put some brake on the space exploration at present (we all know this is an expensive business), the interest of the media, with reflects and, at the same time, promotes the interest of the people, make us optimist about the future in general of space exploration
- B) This year is as well the 30th Anniversary of the first Shuttle Flight, a US major mark in Astronautics. The anniversary, we were informed, was duly celebrated in the USA, and to a certain degree as well in other countries.

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Unfortunately, the Shuttle program is finished now, and we learned that the Shuttle's will not be Flying any more, nor there exist plans to replace them. The International Space Station (ISS) will keep at work, thanks to Russian space ships which will keep supplying its needs. There are some plans for the European Space Agency to have in the future some space vehicle capable to serve in some form the ISS, but certainly the final of the Space Shuttle puts some worry in the way we are going to proceed.

- C) Our Commission spent some time in the matter of our relation to FAI executive in what concerns the possible modifications needed in the general section of the code and in the by-laws to adapt them to changes in our part of the code. To be more precise, section 8 of the code is under our control, and we have no problem there. But there are certain matters, in the general section and in the by-laws, which affect our work, and we do not have completely clear the way for us trying to modify them when we think they affect solely our matter (space), or conversely, knowing if they affect as well other Commissions and we should get in contact with them to compare opinions. We certainly will keep working on the matter.

Dr. S. Sanz Fernández de Córdoba
ICARE President