

CIVA President's Report 2026

Foreword

I would like to begin by noting that this President's Report differs somewhat from the practice followed in previous years. Rather than listing events that have already been the subject of numerous reports and on which the Plenary will vote separately, notably the reports of Championship Officials, I would prefer to address the experience and position of the Bureau. This will also serve as an introduction to the mission and strategy presented under the following agenda item.

A New Beginning

For me, the 2026 season has been a year of learning and discovery. At its Extended Bureau Meeting in Budapest at the end of January 2026, the new Bureau sought to identify the fundamental elements of CIVA's future strategy. The most important of these was clear:

"Pilots are the stars of CIVA. Let us put them back at the centre."

I consider communication with competitors and aerobatic pilots to be of the utmost importance, and we have sought to gather as much information as possible directly from them. Members of the Bureau, including myself, attended a number of national championships with the aim of asking questions, listening to the needs of participants and observing the results of technical innovations in practice. We were present in Spain, Brazil, Great Britain and Germany, and we intend to continue this approach in the future.

The current situation

CIVA and competitive aerobatics are facing serious difficulties and are at a low point.

We must decide whether we genuinely wish to change this situation, or whether everything should remain as it is and we should continue to lament the declining number of competitors, the difficulty of finding countries willing to organise championships, the lack of sponsors, the fact that our champions remain unknown to the wider public, and the absence of a meaningful fan base.

If, however, we choose change, we must begin immediately and accept responsibility for steps that may at first appear radical.

I often hear, and have heard repeatedly in recent years, that our problems are attributable to external factors: war, COVID, or that CIVA itself is perfect and everyone else is at fault. Another frequent view is that change may indeed be necessary, but that we should wait for the time being and decide on the essential issues later.

Taking full responsibility for this statement, I believe that this is far from reality. CIVA, together with traditional competitive aerobatics, is standing at the edge of a precipice. Over recent decades, it has steadily lost its relevance and its historic position among air sports. We can allow it to fall and, within a few years, be forgotten entirely; or we can act — not tomorrow, but today.

My assessment of the current situation:

- **CIVA has lost the trust of its pilots:**
 - an opaque scoring system and judging decisions that are frequently disputed;
 - a lack of transparency;
 - the absence of a clear strategy;
 - slow decision-making, with no meaningful change taking place;
 - financial constraints and lack of sponsorship;
 - pilots are not involved in CIVA's work or decision-making;
 - a competition system that is outdated, with lengthy events that too often offer limited value to participants and audiences;
 - the absence of a meaningful fan base.

- Outdated organisational structure and processes
- Leadership shortcomings
- An overly complex scoring system that is difficult to understand
- A complete failure to adopt modern technology
- **Lack of a marketable value proposition**

What is CIVA's current value?

- Its history
- The basic competition rulebook
- The recording and preservation of results and records
 - The body exclusively authorised to organise World and Continental Aerobatic Championships

Naturally, I am fully aware that attempting to change everything at once would be a serious mistake. This is precisely why CIVA must define its mission, its vision for the future and the strategy needed to achieve it.

The fundamental purpose of the strategy is to define tasks, set priorities and deadlines, delegate responsibilities, and monitor implementation.

The basis for change is clear:

- CIVA remains part of the FAI
- CIVA remains a sporting organisation
- The essential framework of the rules remains unchanged

Closing Remarks

I apologise if this report may appear overly provocative. However, I firmly believe that the first step towards progress is the honest identification of our shortcomings, rather than sweeping them under the carpet.

The objective is not to assign blame, but to identify, for the implementation of the strategy, the key people who are ready to work and assume responsibility for achieving our goals.

For my part, I am convinced that we can succeed, and I am ready for the task.

GO OR NO-GO?

THIS IS YOUR CHOICE!

Alsónémedi, 1 October 2026
Tamás Ábrányi

A blue ink signature, likely of Tamás Ábrányi, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

President of CIVA