FAI Secretary General/ Managing Director

Permanent position – full time (100%) - Based in Lausanne (VD), Switzerland

Start date: As soon as possible

Are you an experienced, strategic, and diplomatically skilled leader ready to fly high in the world of international sports governance?

The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the world governing body for air sports and aeronautical world records, is seeking a new Secretary General (Managing Director).

Based in the Olympic Capital of Lausanne, Switzerland, you will head our international secretariat and drive the operational, financial, and strategic development of a federation representing over 90 member nations and a vast array of air sport disciplines.

THE ROLE

As the Secretary General, you will function as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the FAI. Reporting directly to the FAI President and the Executive Board, you will bridge the gap between global sport politics and daily operational excellence. You will lead a dedicated team at the FAI Head Office and ensure the smooth coordination of our global Air Sport Commissions and national Members.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Strategic & Operational Leadership:** Manage the daily operations of the FAI Secretariat in Lausanne, ensuring an efficient, modern and effective organization with engaged and empowered staff.
- **Financial Management:** Hold accountability (in conjunction with the Executive Director for Finance) for the federation's budgets and financial planning, with sole responsibility for human resource allocation, reporting to the Executive Board.
- **Governance & Compliance**: Maintain and support adherence with FAI Statutes, By-Laws, and Sporting Codes, ensuring compliance with WADA regulations and international sports ethics.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** Act as the primary administrative liaison for FAI Members and Air Sport Commissions while fostering unity and collaboration.
- **International Diplomacy:** Represent FAI and strengthen relationships with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and ARISF/SportAccord/IWGA/WADA,
- **Commercial Strategy:** Working with the President, oversee and negotiate global sponsorship agreements; oversee and negotiate media rights, and event commercialization to ensure the long-term financial viability of the federation.

YOUR PROFILE

- **Education**: A Master's degree or equivalent in Sports Administration (MSA/MSM), Business Administration (MBA), International Law, or Political Science.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 5 years of proven C-level leadership experience (CEO, COO, or Secretary General), ideally within an International Sports Federation or a complex global non-profit structure.
- **Skills:** Outstanding diplomatic and negotiation skills, with a track record of successfully managing multicultural stakeholders and executing change management.
- **Competencies:** A strong communicator both in writing and in public speaking. A natural relationship builder with a track record of successful negotiations with a variety of parties. An individual who inspires trust, is values-driven with high integrity, and combines high work capacity with the ability to set priorities and make tough decisions, sometimes within short time frames.

- **Languages:** Professional proficiency in written and spoken English is mandatory. Working knowledge of French is highly desirable given the location in Lausanne; additional languages are an asset.
- **Passion:** A strong affinity for, or deep understanding of, aviation, aeronautics, or air sports is highly desirable.

WHAT WE OFFER

- A prestigious top-tier executive role at the heart of the international sports world in Lausanne.
- A competitive executive salary and benefits package matching the responsibilities of the role.
- The unique opportunity to shape the future of air sports, from traditional disciplines to the rapid expansion of drone sports and sustainable aviation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This role requires permanent residency in or near the Lausanne area, Switzerland. Due to the nature of international sports, significant international travel and flexible working hours (including evenings and weekends during major events) are expected

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a motivation letter outlining how they meet the profile requirements and what makes them the most suitable candidate for the position. Please send your application by November 27, 2026, via email to president@fai.org. In December and January, chosen candidates will be invited to participate in the next stages of the selection process, at which time we will require references from at least one person you have reported to, one colleague and one person who has reported to you.

For further insight into the federation's history and structure, please visit the World Air Sports Federation (FAI) Official Website. Questions on this position or this process may be sent to president@fai.org

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