

A letter from Kragujevac

On Friday the 13th of August 2021, an open NC meeting took place at EASA Reality in Kragujevac, attended by the present NCs, as well as other interested EASians. The topic of the following INCM Essentials was brought forth to the community. In light of the current pandemic and the uncertain future of the upcoming summer assemblies, the community was worried about the timing and format of the upcoming INCM, set to take place only two weeks after the end of EASA Reality. According to the current bidding and selection processes, this INCM is expected to make a decision on the themes and locations of three upcoming assemblies: EASA 2022, EASA 2023 as well as INCM 2022. Considering no team bid for EASA 2022 at last year's INCM, the community is worried a similar situation might arise again. Unfortunately, many NCs attending this EASA find themselves unable to attend the upcoming INCM. Also, considering the large share of first-time attendees of this year's summer assembly, the community fears not many people will dare to think about bidding in the short amount of time following EASA – although, being here in Kragujevac, and finally experiencing EASA and each other, a feeling of warmth and community has grown within all generations. After this experience – as well as the experiences of other EASA events taking place around Europe – we believe new proposals will eventually arise smoothly and fluidly. To foster this, the bidding process should be rethought; this issue, which arose many times during the previous INCM discussions, has yet to be resolved. The community believes that this crisis is giving us the opportunity to do exactly that.

The lack of transparency, competitiveness and the pressure to outbid each other over the past years have been noted. The community therefore implores the teams considering bidding to be open and transparent from the start. Bidding shouldn't be a competition; it should be a collective process in which the entire community creates the best possible course for future events, lending its support to the team taking the organizing duty upon themselves. The level of preparedness which has come to be expected of the teams bidding was also pointed out; the community believes a more casual approach could result in developing great proposals and themes for the upcoming events. Future biddings can and must be more casual if EASA is to survive and advance in these times. Many previous organizers confirmed that major logistical challenges previously expected to be solved before the bidding itself (such as the precise location or predetermined sponsorships) can be overcome after the proposal is selected, especially with the help of the extended EASA community and experienced teams. Teams considering bidding were reminded to count on their support in every way.

The community in no way wishes to impose changes to the Belgian team's INCM concept, nor does it wish to propose any extensions or cancellation of the event itself (e.g. the deadline extensions in 2020 were unable to attract any proposals).

What we do recommend is enabling a fully transparent digital presence for NCs unable to attend the event, as well as a series of follow-up videoconferences for NCs and community members wishing to participate in the discussions. Their outcome should be a contingency plan determining if it is possible to change the traditional INCM process. These discussions may prove to be among the most important ones in the history of EASA; rethinking our usual processes and methods could reshape EASA and change it for the better for years and generations to come. The meeting ended with an invitation to the evening's drag show. Greetings from Kragujevac,

EASA Reality