CIVL supports new competition class paraglider initiative

Jiaosi Town, Chinese Taipei, February 2012: CIVL believes that for the present (2012 season), FAI Category 1 competitions must remain restricted to EN-926 certified gliders. This decision is in line with the recommendations made by other major bodies in the sport (PMA, EHPU, PWCA and Testing Houses).

CIVL recognises that the EN-D certification has come under pressure due to the unintended consequence of the temporary suspension of competition class gliders last year. Clearly, we need to find a solution to satisfy both competition and recreational pilots. CIVL welcomes the PMA initiative to set up a competition class paraglider working group and we offer whatever support is within our means.

We look forward to communicating and cooperating with the group as this important work progresses. We are sure the PMA has taken note of the recommendations of the CIVL Paragliding Competitions Safety Task Force.

By the next Plenary in 2013, CIVL expects to be in a position to consider approving a new 'competition class' glider for use in FAI Category 1 Championships from 2014. Meanwhile, for Cat 2 sanctioned events, the decision on which glider classes are allowed remains at all times with the NAC.

The CIVL Paragliding and Safety Subcommittees have both agreed that it is important to encourage competition pilots to improve their skills and experience. In line with the CIVL Task Force recommendations, CIVL is working towards developing a number of initiatives designed to improve overall safety in paragliding competitions, including pilot qualification requirements, type and setting of tasks, reserve systems and competition structure.