



IGC 2022 Plenary Meeting

Agenda Item 7.4.2

Annual Report EGU

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As in previous years, the past year has also required a significant volume of activity from our volunteers: the Executive Board, Technical Officers and experts.

The 28th Congress Meeting took place on the 27th of February 2021 and due to the Covid pandemic in a virtual way.

The usual items were on the agenda: update on the EU rule-making, reports from technical officers. The financial report over 2020 and the budget for 2021 were approved. It was agreed to lower the membership fees for 2021 due to the changes circumstances. Italy re-joined as member. Attention was given to the possible impact of the Brexit.

Patrick Naegeli was re-elected as president but announced that he would give way for a new candidate before the end of his new term. Also four board members, Ole Gellert Andersen (DEN), Bernard Hautesserres (FRA) Andreas Peus (GER) and Meike Müller (GER), were re-elected.

A few minor changes to the statutes were also approved (e.g. digital communication, virtual meetings).

Here is a brief overview of the subjects that have required attention during recent months.

Part SFCL – Sailplane Flight Crew Licensing.

Part SFCL became active as from 8 April 2020. By April 2021 the transition period ended and all non-EU licences should have been converted into a Part SFCL-licence. Members provided a contact person to exchange experienced and to pick up difficulties with the implementation.

Maintenance & Airworthiness

According Reg. 2018/1142 for the Part 66-Light for maintenance licences, all certifying staff must hold a Part 66 certificate as from 1st of October. It was experienced that this was not always an easy conversion. The training and examination of future engineers is still an important topic, and it was in meantime detected that it became nearly impossible to comply with the recency requirement. These items were discussed during several EASA meetings and it looks that a solution is in sight.

The transition period for the implementation of Part M-Light (Reg. 2019/1383) will come to an end in the coming months. Important was the conversion of the existing Subpart F – Maintenance Organizations and Subpart G/I CAMO+-. Also the system of a self-declared maintenance program, and an extended pilot owner maintenance required guidance. Members were also for this domain asked to provide a contact person to exchange experiences. By the end of the year a new NPA (2021-15) was published related to electric propulsion.

The EGU has an important coordinating role to defend the gliding sport.

As mentioned before, all related regulations for gliding - Part SFCL, MED, OPS Sailplanes, DTO, M-Light, 66-Light, CS 22, CS STAN - are combined in one 'Easy Access' EASA Sailplane Rule Book. An updated version was published in October 2020.

Airspace

The access to airspace is an extremely important topic. Attention was given to U-Space and the related rulemaking work.

Communications

The website (www.glidingunion.eu) provides a lot of information.

Robert Danewid edited two newsletters to keep the members informed about the topics of the moment.

Relations

EGU continues to work closely with Europe Air Sports, which is the only platform representing the whole air sport community (large numbers count!) and thus able to establish good relations at the political level, such as the EU-Commission, EU-DG Move and with EASA.

Close contact and exchange of information are maintained with the IGC, the OSTIV Safety & Training Panel, and the Association of Glider Manufacturers. The EGU is very grateful once more again, and as always, for the back office support by the FFVP since 1992!

Conclusion

As said before, our gliding world has become very complex and all key persons from the club level to the top need support to cope with the administrative and organisational tasks. In less than fifteen years, the whole regulatory side will have changed completely!

Next congress meeting 2022

This meeting is planned to take place on February 26 next in Oslo. An update can be presented during the upcoming meeting.

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The EGU is the association of European Gliding Federations or Gliding Sections of National Aero Clubs. Its aim is to represent the interests of all glider pilots in Europe with respect to regulatory affairs.

EGU monitors the developments in European aviation regulation and when necessary, takes action to prevent unfavorable or even dangerous rules affecting our sport from being set up.

The EGU currently counts 20 full members and represents more than 80,000 glider pilots.

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