



**IGC 2023 Plenary Meeting**  
**Agenda Item 7.4.2**



Annual Report EGU

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January 2023



## Overview of the activities in 2022

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 29th Congress Meeting on the 27th of February 2021 - and due to the Covid pandemic again in a virtual way- was attended by 19 full and 2 associate members.

The usual items were on the agenda: update on the EU rule-making, reports from technical officers. The financial report over 2021 and the budget for 2022 were approved. After serving 10 years as president, Patrick Naegeli stepped down and was appointed honorary president. Arild Solbakken (NO) was elected as the new president.

The work in EGU has for many years principally been focused on airworthiness, licensing, and operational regulations. Now the focus has shifted and there will be more emphasis on future airspace and interoperability, safety, medical regulations, environment, diversity, and inclusion. There is a strongly believe, that in this period of implementation of new regulations and development of new areas, both the EGU and the member states would benefit from even closer cooperation. An appeal was made to all members to assist in finding 'Point of Contacts' with the relevant expertise for the respective work streams.

Here is a brief overview of the subjects that have required attention during recent months. These items were also extensively discussed during a technical conference meeting on 15th October.

In addition to the planned work, EGU received an invitation from EASA to participate in a series of events they were running under the heading of "Season Openers". During this seminar a very wide range of considerations, which all pilots should think about as the season gets underway, was introduced and commented. (e.g. preparing the glider and its ground equipment, preparing the pilot, and reflecting on the various phases of flight and associated safety implications.)

### Part SFCL – Sailplane Flight Crew Licensing.

Part SFCL is now in all members states up and running but it seems that a close eye is necessary as there are differences detected in the interpretation and application of the rules. An action is launched for collecting and comparing information on how theory examinations for SPL are arranged/available in practice. Best practices should be used by all states.

### 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 2021.

EGU is – in Co-operation with EAS – still in negotiation with EASA to find a way to comply with the recency requirements.

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. The highest priority remains the task of monitoring the development of U-Space rulemaking and minimising possible negative impacts on gliding. The airspace working group held again a virtual meeting.

## Environment

The future for gliding is for sure electrical! Electrical SSG/SLG, winches and tugs and towing cars. Many manufacturers are fast turning out electrical equipment. It is the intention of this working group to draft a strategy plan for 'A net-zero footprint gliding'.

## Sustainability

The work stream related to environment, diversity and inclusion has been updated in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and renamed Sustainability. There is a growing attention and concern about diversity and inclusion as well as environmental issues across society, and clear expectations for achieving net-zero goals and reduced reliance on non-sustainable energy sources for all kind of activities, including gliding. We need to demonstrate accountability, but in doing so, we should endeavour to identify opportunities for gliding to align with society's evolving values and priorities in ways that will also benefit our sport. We believe this could open a growth potential for gliding.

## Communications

The website ([www.glidingunion.eu](http://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 organizational tasks. In less than fifteen years, the whole regulatory side will have changed completely!

## Next congress meeting 2023

This meeting is planned to take place on 25th February 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.***

**[www.glidingunion.eu](http://www.glidingunion.eu)**

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