



IGC 2020 Plenary Meeting

Agenda Item 10.4.2



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 annual Congress Meeting took place on 23rd of February 2019 in Budapest and was hosted by the Hungarian Gliding Association. The usual items were on the agenda: update on the EU rule-making, reports from technical officers. The financial report over 2018 and the budget for 2019 were approved. Cyprus and Spain joined as member.

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

EASA - GA Roadmap - Future changes

The announced 'Rulemaking Tasks' were finalised:

'Part OPS Sailplanes – Reg. 2018/1976

The Implementing Rule, published on 14-12-2018, and the relevant Acceptable Means of Compliance/Guidance Material (AMC/GM) became operational from 9 July 2019. The gliding sport has now its own set of rules for operations.

Part SFCL – Sailplane Flight Crew Licensing.

End of October the EASA Committee voted positively for the new implementing rules, for gliding (Part SFCL), ballooning (Part BFCL) and for the basis instrument flying rating (BIR). The official publication will follow soon as well as the related AMC/GM.

Part SFCL will become active as from 8 April 2020. A transition period until April 2021 is foreseen to convert the existing non-EU licences into a Part SFCL-licence.

Maintenance & Airworthiness

Reg. 2018/1142 for the Part 66-Light maintenance licences, was published on 14 August 2018, and applies from 5 March 2019. The conversion period of the existing national maintenance licences started from 1st of October last and as from 1 October 2020 all certifying staff shall hold a Part 66 certificate. The training and examination of future engineers is still an important topic. Here, the EGU can play a coordinating role, as the numbers are rather small.

Finally Part M-Light (Reg. 2019/1383) and related AMC/GM were published on 4th September and become active from 20 February 2020. Important is the new option to set up a 'CAO', a "Combined maintenance and Airworthiness Organisation", the system of a self-declared maintenance program, and extended pilot owner maintenance. The organisation of an EGU-workshop is under consideration, probably in early 2020, where representatives would be able to cross fertilise ideas and develop ways for sharing information.

This means that all related regulations for gliding are updated/adapted and that the EASA Gliding Rulebook is getting ready with Part SFCL, MED, OPS Sailplanes, DTO, M-Light, 66-Light, CS 22, CS STAN.

Airspace

The access to airspace is an extremely important topic. A dedicated workshop was organized for the airspace specialists on 30th March 2019 in Hamburg.

The EGU-Board decided at their meeting in October in Frankfurt, that airspace and interoperability shall have a very high priority in the EGU in the coming years, and they are working on a specific plan for the work to be done. This plan will be presented for the persons of contact on the coming EAG-meeting in Frankfurt on 18th January 2020 in the LSBH Sportsschule in Frankfurt

During the EASA Safety Conference in Vienna in November 2018 it became very clear to be aware of the development in the number of future airspace users in competition with the sport and recreational flying community. The launch of "U-Space", a dedicated airspace for operators of UAV's requires adapted rules and equipment, as the basic principle of "see & avoid" will no longer stand. This will be the topic for the coming months for all airspace users, as by the end of 2020 an operational system should become active.

Membership

The membership is quit stable but there are still some active gliding nations missing. So let us use every opportunity to explain the need for the EGU and promote membership. The work done by the EGU is done on behalf of the whole gliding movement in Europe!

Finances

The EGU's financial situation is healthy. Nevertheless, a slight increase in fees might be necessary due to greater involvement in task forces in the past and coming years.

Communications

Thanks to Roland's webmaster skills, EGU has a very useful website with easy access to all reports, documents, regulations, etc. Robert Danewid edited three 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 (Fédération Française de Vol en Planeur) 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 2020

This annual gathering will take place on February 22nd, 2020 in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Gliding Association.

A further update can be presented during the upcoming meeting.

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Acronyms

GA Road Map – Action plan set up by the EU-Commission and EASA for the review of existing regulations to take care of the need of simplified rules for the light aviation

EASA – European Aviation Safety Agency

Part OPS Sailplanes – dedicated rules for sailplanes operations

Part SFCL – dedicated rules for training and licensing for sailplanes

AMC – Acceptable Means of Compliance – Explanation on how to implement the rules

GM – Guidance Material – Extra information

Part 66 – rules for maintenance/certifying staff

Part 66 Light – dedicated rules for the light aviation

Part M-Light – dedicated rules for maintenance and airworthiness for the light aviation

CAO – Combined Airworthiness Organisation – Combination of maintenance and airworthiness for light aircraft

ATO – Approved Training Organisation

DTO – Declared Training Organisation – Simplified rules for non-commercial training

CS 22 - Certification Specifications for sailplanes and powered sailplanes for the manufacturers

CS STAN – Certification Specifications for ‘Standard Changes and Repairs’ – Simplified rules to install/replace parts/equipment and requirements how to make repairs

U-Space – dedicated airspace for operators of drones

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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REPORT TO IGC PLENARY 2019