



**Proposal to make the use of FLARM mandatory in FAI gliding competitions**

**INTRODUCTION**

A few years after FLARM was introduced, the Italian Aero Club suggested to make the use of FLARM mandatory in their bid for the WWGC 2007 and the WGC unflapped 2008. IGC encourages the use of FLARM but can't make it mandatory : *".....as an organization mandate it's use as an in-flight collision avoidance system because it is not certificated"*, in case of (fatal) accidents legal problems can arise. This was the reason then IGC would not put FLARM as a mandatory instrument in the annex A.

Now, 4 years later, development and experiences with FLARM show the benefits of FLARM and are recognized and accepted widely. In many competitions FLARM is already obliged and in the French Alps for example, the use of FLARM is mandatory also.

IGC should reconsider it's former position regarding the mandatory use of FLARM. It is the responsibility of the IGC that FAI competitions are flown under the most safe conditions. Because of this reason, competitions should not be flown without using FLARM in every glider any more. IGC should 'lead by example' when safety is the subject.

**Therefore the Netherlands propose to make FLARM mandatory for FAI gliding competitions.**

Note: although the price of a FLARM unit shouldn't be an issue because it improves safety, this could bring up objections. A solution could be: IGC provides a certain amount of FLARM units for rent. This for the very few pilots who do not have FLARM in their own country, or for rented gliders without a FLARM unit.

**PROPOSAL**

To Annex A a new rule **4.1.1 c** will be added,

**4.1 SAILPLANES AND EQUIPMENT**

- 4.1.1 The competitors shall provide sailplanes, trailers, retrieve cars, and other equipment, including GNSS Flight Recorders, radios, oxygen systems, parachutes, and survival equipment of a performance and standard suitable for the event.
- a. The airworthiness, safety and safe operation of competing sailplanes and any associated equipment and vehicles, as appropriate, shall be the responsibility of the competitors at all times.
  - b. Each occupant of a competing sailplane shall use seat belt and shoulder harness and wear a serviceable parachute on each competition flight .
  - c. **Each competing glider must be equipped with a FLARM unit.**