

EUROPEAN GLIDING UNION

Representative Organisation of European Glider Pilots



Brief report to the IGC-Meeting 2018

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

The annual Congress Meeting took place on 18th of February 2017 in Heathrow and was hosted by the British Gliding Union. The usual items were on the agenda: update on the EU rule-making, financial report and budget.

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

EASA - GA Roadmap - Future changes

As mentioned before, the GA Safety Conference in Rome on the 15th-16th of October 2014 was the trigger for setting up the so-called "GA Roadmap", by which EASA decided to make a fundamental change in the approach to GA. The necessary reviews and changes should make the rulemaking appropriate for general aviation and, in particular, for sporting aviation.

The review of Reg. 216/2008, the so-called 'Basic Regulation,' is the major step and EASA delivered their 'Opinion 01/2015' in March 2015, but, at the end of 2017, this still only in the reconciliation phase.

The following 'Rulemaking Tasks' were the topics in 2017:

- RMT 0657 '*Possibility for training outside an ATO*'.
On December 18th 2015, the NPA 2015-20 was published with the requirements for a 'Basic Training Organization'. Due to some legal requirements, the final outcome was the option for a "Declared Training Organization". EASA's 'Opinion Nr. 11/2016' (the final proposal) was published in September 2016. The structure/organizational environment will be less stringent and an easy 'Declaration' will replace the extended 'Approval' process.
The political process to a while but the final vote took place on 25th October 2017.
As from 08 April 2018 a 'Declared Training Organization' can organize training. Existing approved ATO's have the option to continue or to change into a DTO. In addition, an extra opt-out till 2020 is offered to guarantee a smooth transfer, as also the new Part FCL-Gliding should come into force in 2020.
- RMT 0698 '*Part OPS Gliding*'.
As mentioned before, a 'fast track' process is used and EASA's Opinion Nr. 07/2017 was published on 23rd August 2017. The final draft of the Implementing Rule brings us a lot of simplifications and counts only 13 pages! The political process is now running and the adoption by the Commission is planned for the 3rd quarter of 2018. Around this time also the 'Acceptable Means of Compliance' and 'Guidance Material' will be available. These new OPS rule will then come into force in April 2019.
- RMT 0701 '*Part FCL Gliding*' - review of Part FCL – Flight Crew Licensing.
The task force is coming close to finalize the final proposals. A public consultation is already planned by EASA by the end of June 2018. By the end of 2018 we might expect the Opinion. The goal is to have the Implementing Rules ready in the first quarter of 2019 so that the Part FCL-Gliding can become valid in 2020.

Continuing Airworthiness

Howard Torode, the TO for maintenance and airworthiness, kept a close eye on the technical aspects. Nothing moved in 2017 ... and we are still waiting the final vote for the 'Light Part M' and the Part 66 'L-Licence' (mechanics/Certifying Staff). It is still the goal to have these in operation in 2019.



Airspace

Twelve members attended the annual workshop, organised by Gunter Bertram, in Paris on the 25th of November. Delegates gave an overview of the actual situation in their country. Other items were the implementation of 8.33 kHz radio's, typical 'glider phraseology in France, surveillance and the use of transponders, the fast growing use of drones and the flight plan obligation.

Membership

The membership is stable but last year a few members left and 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's and regular meetings 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 FFVV 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 2018

This annual gathering will take place on February 24th, 2018 in Paris, hosted by the Fédération Française de Vol à Voile.

A further update can be presented during the upcoming meeting.

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