



CIVL 2017 PLENARY – ANNEX 11 REVIEW OF THE 2016 CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TEST EVENTS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

7th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 5, Krushevo, FYR Macedonia.

19th FAI European Hang Gliding Class 1, Krushevo, FYR Macedonia

Krushevo best ever hang gliding cross-country World or Continental Championship? It was the opinion of many after the award ceremony was through. But of course many of us were not there in the 1970's through the 1990's, so we'll keep it reasonable: it was a very, very good meet, with 9 tasks for the Class 5 and 8 for the Class 1, ranging from 85 to 192 km, with an average of more than 50% of the pilots at goal, with no protest and 96% of "Safe" in the Pilots's Safety Form reports. And the best pilots won!

In Class 1, the Italian supremacy was undeniable: champions since 2009! In Class 5, current World champion German Tim Grabovski had to wait for last task to secure his second consecutive title.

14th FAI European Paragliding, Krushevo, FYR Macedonia.

150 pilots from 30 countries, 9 tasks flown out of 10 possible, with conditions rating from weak to very good. The task committee and meet director always found ways to optimize the weather forecast and to take more than half of the field at goal. France swept the gold.

By voting a specific rule during its last Plenary, CIVL allowed to increase by a third the number of women that would have been usually accepted. These women fared good, making goal, entering the task top 10 and even winning a task (Klaudia, respect!)...

5th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy, Kaunas, Lithuania.

65 pilots from 17 countries participated in the competition. New countries made entry this year, such as Estonia and Moldova. Maximum number of rounds were completed in at times varying weather conditions. The organizer used two sets of winches with original tow retrieval systems. The FAI jury received two protests of which one was upheld. Serbia and Slovenia took the titles.

3rd FAI Asian Paragliding Accuracy, Taldykurgan, Kazakhstan.

50 competitors from 7 countries participated in the competition and 11 rounds were flown during 6 days out of 7 possible. The organization was very good and the pilots were provided with good competition flying. The competition was the first international paragliding event in the area and the support from local and regional authorities was very good. Gold went to Thailand, Japan and China.

2nd FAI World Paragliding Aerobatic, Annecy Lake, France.

34 pilots from 15 nations, including 8 women from 4 nations, 7 runs in both Solo and Synchro. A huge success from all angles. The event had a tremendous media exposure thanks to the outstanding job of the communication team. The titles were spread between France, Germany and Spain.

PRACTICE EVENTS

21th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 1 in Brazil.

Brasilia, a longtime favorite venue on the international hang gliding competition scene, demonstrated why this is so during the 2016 test event. Flying on five of the possible seven task days, the 97 competitors flew tasks that averaged over 100 km each day. The organizers

put on a great and safe meet, navigating the sometimes challenging launch conditions with an expert staff. The results of the meet set up for an interesting World Championships next year. A top Australian pilot who has been keen to capture the title of World Hang Gliding Champion for some time now won the meet. On the team side the Italians took the top spot, however the home team Brazilians were a very close second place with the Australians not far off in third. A highlight of the competition was the task that had the goal field right down town in the capital of Brazil with over forty of the competitors navigating their way to goal to the delight of the many spectators and officials. The biggest challenge for next year is for both the organization and the pilots to manage the airspace boundaries, as there were some 15 pilots that received 100% penalties for airspace violations during the meet.

12th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 2 in France.

The place has great XC potential. This will be an 'ultra-light' championship with a dozen pilots. Small staff, combined Meet and Safety Director (with Meet and Safety Assistant) worked well. Ceremonies and socials events will also be 'light'. The organizers were not sure that they would organize the championship. After the test event, they decided that they would.

15th FAI World Paragliding in Italy.

The most famous paragliding competition in Italy held on an annual basis since 1984 hosted the 2016 test event otherwise known as the XXXIII Guarieri International Trophy – Pre World 2016. It was well attended with 109 pilots competing from 35 countries. The organization is a well-oiled machine! They thought of everything, which made for a great competition. Great tasks were set each day providing challenging races. Pilots were well taken care of regarding safety, communication and comforts. HQ was conveniently set up at goal, which was used most of the days. The atmosphere was festive with music food and shelter provided for pilots and staff. Other than a few housekeeping things and securing a few potential alternative launches and goals the 2017 FAI World Paragliding Championships should prove to be a huge success and a competition not to miss!

9th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy in Albania.

The competition attracted 114 pilots from different European countries. The organization which consists of many nationalities worked hard to make the event safe and enjoyable for all participants. The competitions site of Vlora proved to be excellent for an Accuracy competition. The recommended maximum wind speed is 6 m/s due to a possibility to rotors at take-off and changing winds at landing. Two minor incidents occurred, otherwise the safety was very good. During the World championships, all the pilots will live in the one hotel which will make communication and logistics even easier. Challenge for the year of 2017 will be to establish a good connection between the scoring and results publishing for visitors on the screen and for a followers on the internet.

Big attention from VIP persons and media made this competition unforgettable for many pilots.