



## **CIVL 2014 PLENARY – ANNEX 7D**

### **CANCELLATION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> FAI EUROPEAN HANG GLIDING CLASS 1 CHAMPIONSHIP**

After talks between CIVL, FAI and the organisers of the 19th FAI European Hang gliding Class 1 Championship in Monte Arangoiti, Sierra Leire, Spain, CIVL Bureau decided to cancel the Championship.

The stewards in their report on the practice event underlined some difficulties and while preparing for the championship, the stewards reported that despite the knowledge and experience of the organisers, a safe, fair and satisfying event could not take place and recommended that the championship be cancelled.

The CIVL Bureau reviewed the situation and the stewards' recommendation. CIVL and FAI finally decided to cancel the event.

This was discussed with the organisers who agreed on the cancellation of the event. CIVL offers apologies to all involved: volunteers and pilots alike.

#### **A summary of the stewards letter to CIVL**

Two basic positive facts:

- Arangoiti is a very good area with interesting flying conditions
- The organizers can set up pretty good tasks

However...

- Communication with the steward during the preparation process was unacceptable.
- Changes in key officials were done without informing or consulting with steward and were unsuitable.
- The practice event was not able to demonstrate the organizers' ability or willingness to run a Cat.1 event. They did not present a well structured, smooth running organization.
- The organizers have their own ideas on how a competition should be run and several of those go against the CIVL standards. This will compromise the overall safety of the event.
- Things will not be different next year. When reading the answers from the organizers to the steward report, it is clear that they are not planning to follow some of the steward's recommendations.
- The organizers suggest that the Nationals a week before would be the practice event, but this is unacceptable: the practice event is supposed to happen a year in advance so adjustments can be made in time for the main event.
- Pilots who will invest their time and money to be there will not be offered the standards, including safety, of an European Championship.
- The Organizer Agreement has not been respected and the organizers were aware of doing this. In other words, the contract has been broken.
- It would be sad not to have an European championship, but it would be far worse to have a Cat. 1 comp that disregards the standards by which every other organizer abides, or where something unfortunate happens and the CIVL knows it could have been prevented.
- The stewards strongly recommend the Bureau to review the decision of having the Europeans in Arangoiti next year, setting a clear precedent that the CIVL is serious about standards and safety.