International Gliding Commission
Meeting on March 6 and 7, 2009
Lausanne, Switzerland

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ORGANISATION FOR GLIDING (OSTIV) for the period March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009
by Loek Boermans, President of OSTIV

In Memoriam

On August 27, 2008 our highly respected member of the Sailplane Development Panel, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Josef Mertens, died in a sailplane accident in the French Alps. Unbelievable and bitter, since Josef contributed for many years to the safety of gliding by his work in the SDP, for instance recently as member of the SDP Crashworthiness Subcommittee. OSTIV and the gliding community worldwide are very much indebted to this specialist on safety!

XXIX OSTIV Congress

The main event of the reporting period was the XXIX OSTIV Congress, held from 6 to 13 August 2008 in Lüsse, Germany, at the site of the 30th World Gliding Championships 2008.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Congress in the townhall of Belzig, the following Awards were presented:

- The OSTIV Plague with Klemperer Award was awarded to Prof. Dr. J. Gedeon for "his numerous noteworthy and path breaking contributions to the technology improvement of sailplanes and development of soaring over the past 50 years".
- The OSTIV Prize was awarded to P. Kousal for “his outstanding engagement, leading to improved crashworthiness requirements in the European Certification Specifications CS-22”.
- The OSTIV Special Prize was awarded to the late Dipl.-Ing. B. Stender and to Dr.-Ing. O. Heise for “their significant contributions to the early development of fiberglass-reinforced-plastic sailplanes, especially the innovative and since then universally-used tongue-fork-wing-connection”.

Delft, January 12, 2009
The OSTIV Diploma for the best technical paper was given to Dipl.-Ing. J. Schwochow for his paper presented at the Motorless Flight Symposium in Varese, Italy, October 2004, titled “Aeroelasticity in Sailplane Design”.

The OSTIV Diploma for the best meteorological paper was given to Dipl.-Ing. B.A. Sigrist for his paper presented at the XXVIII OSTIV Congress in Eskilstuna, Sweden, 2006, titled “Use of topographic radar scans to identify thermal hotspots in Alpine areas”.

The OSTIV Special Recognition was given to B. Smith, Prof. Dr. M. D. Maughmer and Prof. Dr. E. Hindman for “their great efforts to catch up the publication scheme of OSTIV’s International Journal of Technical Soaring”.

The OSTIV Special Recognition was given to Dipl.-Ing. Ph. Stabenau for “the development and management of the excellent OSTIV Website, the medium of publication vital for OSTIV”.

The keynote lecture titled: „Gliding research – An important incubator for the entire aviation” was presented by Prof. Dr.-Ing. J. Thorbeck, Institut für Luft- und Raumfahrt of the TU Berlin.

During the next 5 days of the Congress, nearly 50 papers of good quality were presented on aerodynamics, flight mechanics, design and development, materials, instruments, flutter, airworthiness requirements, crashworthiness of cockpits, rescue systems, convection, lee-waves and meteorological predictions. After review they will be published in the forthcoming quarterly issues of OSTIV’s International Journal of Technical Soaring.

At the General Conference, on the last day of the Congress, the Board was re-elected with the following mutations: Dr.-Ing. M. Rehmet resigned, and the new Chairman of the Sailplane Development Panel Dipl.-Ing. H. Fendt (Germany) and Dr. Ing. L. Popelka (Czech Republic) were elected as Board Members.

Dr.-Ing. M. Rehmet was unanimously appointed as Honorary Member of OSTIV in recognition of all the work he did as Chairman of the Sailplane Development Panel during a period of nine years.

The Board of OSTIV announced two new developments in view of the future:
- a gradual development toward “going on line” with the International Journal of Technical Soaring as an extra service to our members,
- installation of a small commission chaired by Prof. Dr. M. Maughmer, aimed to increase OSTIV’s membership.

At the Closing Dinner the President of OSTIV expressed sincere thanks to the Director of the World Gliding Championships mr. H. Martín and the President of the Gliding Commission of the German Aeroclub (Da Ec) mr. K. Klossok for the facilities offered, to OSTIV’s Local Representative Dr. C. Lindemann and his wife Helga for their preparations and arrangements, and to Britta Schlenker for her indispensable help, which resulted in a Congress running smoothly.
Panel meetings

The SDP Crashworthiness Sub-Committee, chaired by Petr Kousal, had a workshop meeting on February 27th/28th 2007 in Braunschweig for drafting the “Cockpit Crashworthiness NPA” according to the Terms of Reference ToR 22.004 set by EASA Rulemaking. After Issuance of EASA NPA 2007-12 on January 21th 2008 the Comments Period started. On February 20th/21th 2008 a small Working Group of OSTIV and EASA experts elaborated explanations to the comments. Finally CS-22 Amd.1 was officially issued on October 1th 2008. All in all, the tight timeframe of the whole procedure - the first cooperation of SDP and EASA - could be complied with, thanks to the great efforts and engagement of all experts involved.

The Sailplane Development Panel (SDP), chaired by Dipl.-Ing H. Fendt, had its annual meeting during the days before the OSTIV Congress, from 4 and 5 August 2008 in Lüsse, Germany. Several presentations were given, followed by discussions: i.e. about crashworthiness and human tolerances, implementation of Formula one racing car’s safety in sailplane cockpits, amendment on CS-22 landing gear requirements, status of Cockpit Damage Reports, fire protection in powered gliders, the “spine shell” to support pilot’s comfort, transponder and ADS-B developments, and status of CS-22 NPA 2007-12 (see above).

The Cockpit Damage Report with explanation is available on OSTIV’s website. The IGC President, in his letter of September 18th 2008 to the Delegates and Committee Chairmen, asked them to spread the word about this report amongst their members and emphasizes that the SDP and manufacturers urge the safety officers to send CDRs to OSTIV for all survivable crashes. These real data are needed to understand how the pilot can be better protected.

Next meeting of the Sailplane Development Panel will be on 15 and 16 October 2009 in Germany at the Wasserkuppe or in Braunschweig (to be decided yet).

The Training and Safety Panel (TSP) did not meet in 2008. The next meeting in combination with a Flying Training Seminar will be at Terlet, The Netherlands, in late summer 2009.

The Meteorological Panel (MP), chaired by Dr. Hermann Trimmel, decided to have no formal meeting in 2008 since many members participated in the OSTIV Congress where one day was devoted to meteorology. The review process of the new edition of the “Handbook of Meteorological Forecasting for Soaring Flight” is finished and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will print and publish it as a Technical Note titled “Weather forecasting for soaring flight”.

Next meeting of the Meteorological Panel is scheduled for 25 – 27 September 2009 in Vienna, Austria.