



EGU Newsletter 1/2013

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A note from the Editor

The Editor wishes you all a good gliding season 2013, even if winter still seems to have a firm grip of many parts of Europe.

In this issue of the EGU Newsletter you will find articles on the 2013 Congress, the Workshop on Club Development and the history of EGU so far

A report on the EGU Congress 2013 by the President

The delightful and historic surrounds of Strasbourg provided the ideal backdrop for the EGU's 2013 Annual Congress. It did so in exactly the same way that, some two decades ago, it provided the location where the EGU first came into existence.

As a consequence, this year's Congress was an ideal opportunity for us to look back at the last twenty years, reflect briefly on what progress European gliding has made over that time, and think about where we should be focusing our time and energy in the years ahead.

Roland Stuck, working closely with our hosts the French FFVV, took the lead in organizing the 2013 Congress and put on an event that was special in so many ways:

- the Strasbourg Mayor's held a splendid evening reception for all EGU attendees in the impressive setting of the City Hall
- Francois van Haaff, the EGU's first President, and Patrick Pauwels, my immediate predecessor, shared their perspectives on some of the most important aspects of the EGU's history
- our special guests, Eric Mozer, FAI IGC President, David Roberts, EAS President, and Gerhard Waibel, one of the greats of modern sailplane development – inspired us with their very different, but very equally interesting, perspectives on our sport
- Francois Van Haaff and Peter Erkisen (Francois's successor as EGU President) as Honorary Presidents of the EGU



The delegates

Whilst a lot of fun, we also conducted a lot of business as well.

The EGU development initiative was instigated at the 2012 Congress in Amsterdam. Since then, a small team has been investigating the issue of declining participation and membership levels in gliding. It has also been looking at possible ways in which concerted, pan-national effort might be used to reverse the down trends that most countries are experiencing. Strasbourg provided an opportunity for the group to share their further thoughts and perspectives with EGU members, and to outline potential ways in which the initiative might now progress from background research to specific development initiatives.

Once again, a packed room was treated to a number of detailed and thought provoking presentations that considered the most critical issues affecting levels of participation in gliding; and, several case studies examining how some countries had begun to make progress in resolving elements of the problem.

It is clear that this is complex, multi-dimensional problem. It is not going to be fixed overnight. At the same time, unless we begin to address it in a systematic way, it will never be addressed at all. Following the very positive reaction from EGU delegates, the team behind the initiative will now be developing a phase 2 programme plan. This will establish priorities for work over the next 12 months. In all likelihood, next year's Congress will be preceded by another, full-day workshop and I, for one, will be looking forward to that with keen interest.



Gerhard Waibel of ASW fame gave an interesting presentation on material used in glider designs since Icarus to Concordia

The way in which the EGU works meant that no Board elections were needed this year. As a consequence, all current Board members will continue to serve until at least 2014. I never fully appreciated how much effort was out into furthering the cause of gliding by our EGU volunteers until I joined the Board last year. I know that I will echo the views of many when I thank them wholeheartedly for their continued support of, and commitment to, the EGU.

Since returning from Strasbourg, I and my colleagues have re-immersed ourselves in the seemingly unending flow of EASA-related issues. It is clear that 2013 will be no different for the EGU than any of the last twenty years - we will do our best to make sure that it is as successful.

In closing, and as winter gradually gives way to gliding "seasons" across the Continent, I'd like to wish you ever success in your endeavours for the year ahead.

Have fun, stay safe.

The presentations from the Congress can be found on the EGU website <http://www.egu-info.org/> in the internal section. If you do not know the password, please mail the editor

EGU 20th anniversary

EGU President of Honour Patrick Pauwels writes the story of EGU's first 20 years.

More than 20 years ago, the European gliding movement began to realize that more and more regulations affecting our sport were made at the European level (European Commission, Joint aviation Authorities) without any consultation of the gliding movement.

Mid December 1992 a "Press Release" was distributed to announce the start of the "European Gliding Union".



Patrick Pauwels, EGU Honorary President

"On initiative of the FFVV, ten national gliding federations (FR, DE, BE, NL, DK, SE, ESP, IT, UK and MON) came together in Paris and founded their proper union on the 14th of November 1992 to create a platform for the promotion of the interests of glider pilots on a European level. The goals include an active contribution to the making of rules and regulations affecting gliding. Full membership is open to all gliding federations of the European Community and JAA-countries. Others can join as associated member. EGU will act independently, but in good relationship with FAI, IGC, OSTIV, EAS and will seek cooperation on regulatory matters affecting gliding and will establish contact with the EU-authorities in Brussels and the JAA in Hoofddorp."

So off went the new ship, or better, a new sailplane was launched for free a distance record flight!

It is important to respect the history of an organisation.

In fact it was Raymond Gros, president of the FFVV seconded by François Ragot steering the meeting brilliantly, who made an appeal to the gliding world in March 1992 (aside an CIVV/IGC meeting) to wake up everybody and to create a union of European glider pilots in the light of the upcoming political and regulatory developments on the EU-level. Thank you Raymond and François for your long term vision and initiative!

François Van Haaff was elected as the first president, Tom Zeally as vice-president, Raymond Gros as secretary general. The FFVV offered the administrative support in the person of Ginette Lesouëf.

During the first year working procedures and statutes were drafted and more collaborators / board members were recruited. During the first congress meeting on the 1st of October 1993, inside the EU

Council premises in Strasbourg (!), the statutes were approved and Bruno Gantenbrink and Patrick Pauwels were elected as 2nd vice-president and treasurer. The registered address was at the FFVV office in Paris.

The founding of EGU created some tension inside the long time existing organisation, e.g. FAI, IGC, OSTIV, some NAC's, even IAOPA, and thanks to a number of diplomatic meetings the goal of EGU was precisely explained and the CB's past away.

Although a MoU with IGC was drafted, it was never official signed. Does good neighbours need a contract ?

Along the way, relations were improving and Fransois became for some time the 'airspace' specialist of the IGC.

The EGU was also representing gliding inside Europe Air Sports and became the most active working party. Finally the unions would become full member of EAS.

Fransois was pioneering and establishing the system of so called 'technical officers'. The late Jan-Eric Olson and Bill Scull were in charge of airworthiness and licensing. Also airspace, radios & transponders, operations (and the monster of 'aerial work'), even environment got attention.

In 1994 Roland Stuck came officially on board as secretary-general, for another "parcours du combattant". In fact he was already in the loop as organiser of the 1st congress, writing the first minutes, designing the logo ...)



The first five presidents of EGU (from l to r) Patrick Naegeli, Patrick Pauwels, Roland Stuck, Peter Eriksen and Fransois van Haaff

Important were the contacts with the JAA about medical and licensing.

Remember FCL Part 3 and 5 which came not in force for gliding! Mutual recognition remained valid. JAR Part M was delayed.

Jan-Eric Olsson became our representative in the JAR-22 study group while Fransois kept a close eye on the implementation of the mode S transponders and radios and started an annual 'airspace meeting' with the members specialists.

It was in 1999 that Jan-Eric informed us about the EU initiatives to harmonise aviation and the set up of an EU Agency.

Membership was increasing, relations with IGC and EAS were improving.

In 2000 Peter Eriksen, took over the presidency. The statutes were adapted in order to involve more closely the TO's into the executive board of the EGU. David Roberts, Wolfgang Scholze and Jürgen Sagemühl joined. Peter also found somebody to establish a website.

So in 2002, when EASA was started up, the EGU was ready to represent the gliding movement efficiently. The so called 'Basic Regulation' and the implementing rules Part 21 (derived from JAR 21) for initial airworthiness (certification) and Part M (derived from JAR M for continuous airworthiness (maintenance) were published.

Peter also managed to reduce the ICAO class 2 medical requirements by expanding the interval between the examinations.

Wolfgang Scholze, TO Environment, proposed a code of conduct to show that EGU and his members are committed to protect the natural environment and to encourage our members to take care of the environment. (may be the opposite was more necessary: protecting gliding against the excessive demands of the greenies...)

In 2004 Peter left the EGU Presidency due to professional engagements at Eurocontrol.

Roland took over and was faced with EASA becoming really operational.

A widening of the 'Basic Regulation' was announced to include the essential requirements for licensing and operations.



Delegates at the Congress in Nottingham in 2004

Roland wrote, with support of David and Patrick, a policy paper on licensing by proposing two types: an

ICAO compliant license and a recreational license with "lighter medical requirements" . This paper was well received by EASA. (Mr. Prost, rulemaking director, said that he did not expect such a high quality paper from us!) It is still on the EGU website and if you compare it with the final FCL regulation you will realize that we got nearly exact what we asked for.

After that we were recognized and consulted by EASA.

Roland and David, also on behalf of EAS, represented gliding in the famous MDM 032, a working group in charge of making proposals for improving regulations of light and sporting aviation. We traveled a lot to Cologne (about 30 times) and we did our best to get reasonable rules. (Roland and David in the party of the "light", while Patrick was involved in the SPL-party). Although the promise to start from of a white sheet of paper, we soon had to realize that our creativity was rather limited by the bureaucratic EASA machinery.

EASA also started to implement Part M. Our TO officer Jannes Neumann did such a good job by informing our members and defending our position, that he was recruited by EASA . The same happened some while earlier to Matthias Borgmeier, our TO operations. In fact a nice recognition of the competency of the EGU volunteers.

Howard Torode and Henrik Svensson took over these tasks.

Meike Müller and Gunter Bertram got involved with licensing and airspace related items.

EASA went on publishing a continuous flow of NPA's, RIA's, CRD's, Opinions, etc.

Thanks that the EGU was well established, the leading people of the gliding federations knew each other well, had learned to work together, made communication and input easier.

Some of the worrying parts are still the one concerning the approved training organisations (ATO), the undefined definition of "commercial" and the Ops-requirements for non complex activities which may endanger many clubs. (just think about trial lessons, introduction flights, training, towing, even competitions...)

A new website was launched with an easy access to a vast database of documents.

EGU's work was appreciated and the membership increased up to 24 and we got also other organisations joined like the Soaring Soc. of America/Soaring Safety Foundation, Gliding New Zealand, Soaring Soc. of South Africa, the Vintage Gliding Association.

In 2008 Roland announced his intention to step down. In 2009, as senior board member Patrick was asked to take over.

The most important items were again airworthiness & maintenance with e.g. the introduction of the 'European Light Aircraft' - ELA 1 and ELA 2 – categories.

An EGU survey coordinated by Howard about the implementation of Part M, the start up of Subpart F's and CAMO's was handed over to EASA and was the trigger for a large hearing session/workshop for the 'lower end' in November 2011. The first NPA with adaptations of Part M was closed last month. An input was also given to the NPA/CRD about the ops and equipment requirements for the non complex operations.



The delegates at the Congress in Madrid in 2011

A simple newsletter for our members was set up.

Thanks to the push for appropriate rulemaking by EGU and EAS, new initiatives were taken, e.g. further steps to adapt of Part M, the review of Part FCL is planned. EAS participated in a high level working party and the final outcome was endorsed by the EU-COM and the EASA Managements Board and Committee to have a profound review of the rules for the light aviation. Of course this will take some years and in the mean time we have to survive.

A number of special workshops were organised in Frankfurt, Hannover, EASA meetings were attended ... to define our position and to collect input to write our replies on NPA's/CRD's and proposals towards EASA.

As said before, the 'initial soldiers' got tired...

In 2012 Patrick Naegeli became president and is now assisted by Günter Bertram, Robert Danewid, Markus Gnägi, Andy Miller, Meike Müller, Mika Mutra, Henrik Svensson and Howard Torode.

In the past 20 years, the executive board met 4 to 5 times a year. A hard job, for sure when looking outside: a blue sky with brilliant cumuli.....

During these 20 years, a number of board members or TO's came on board or left.

It is very dangerous to mention names, with the risk to forget someone, but besides those mentioned before, a number of gliders pilots offered a lot of time and effort for our EGU: Jürgen Kreibig, Lemmy Tanner, Emile Blumer, and let us remember those have left us for ever: Tom Zeally, Bill Scull, Jan-Eric Olsson and Jurgen Sagemühl.

EGU also have to be grateful to a few ladies who have given or are still giving us support: Ginette Lesouëf (FFVV-office), Ann-Lis Olson and Angela Sheard.

Also a sincere thankyou to Jean Emile Rouaux, president of the FFVV, for the support given to the EGU in the past 20 years.

We have done our best, it is not perfect, neither the world is perfect, but it would have been much worse if the EGU had not existed.

It is worth to mention that all this has been done at a very low cost (less than a half euro per glider pilot and per year) by a handful of people working fully voluntarily.

2nd Workshop on Club Development

A report by Alison Randle

The second workshop on Club Development was held the day before the Congress, Friday Feb 22nd. This year the workshop was organized by the EGU Working Group Club Development, which was established after last years workshop.

14 countries were represented and it is clear that there are some truly excellent schemes underway both at National and club level across the world. We are extremely grateful to the people who contributed their time to share their work with delegates. There was a lot of information to take in and we are also very grateful to the delegates who gave up an extra day to come and listen, question and contribute to the discussions. As ever, the challenging areas for the future health of gliding are: understanding the root of the question 'why don't more people glide?'; and sharing the good ideas already in use.

Following last year's first ever EGU workshop, the EGU Club Development Working Group (CDWG) was formed. The CDWG currently consists of three of us and we've been looking at existing work, potential areas of work and developing some practical project plans that will enable a wide variety of mini and sub-projects to be co-ordinated and shared with minimum fuss.



EGU president Patrick Naegeli opens the Workshop

Membership recruitment and retention – these are the key issues, and the challenges faced are remarkably similar across countries, regardless of the levels of state funding that individual Federations and clubs may or may not be fortunate enough to receive.

So what next? To be really effective, we will need to develop an international development network between countries – and that network will need to reach into the clubs, so that we can get information from individual clubs in one country to clubs in other countries. Working internationally takes a surprisingly long time, but the countries present at the workshop are keen to make progress, so although it will take a period of time to get every country involved, we are confident that we can get something practical and useful established reasonably quickly.

Initial project work has been funded by the EGU, but the EGU has many priorities, so additional funding will need to be sought. Thankfully Skype, internet and email enable all sorts of international communication for free, so we will be making whatever progress we can, whilst simultaneously securing sources of longer term funding the project.

The presentations should be available to download (as pdf versions) from the EGU site, and a Proceedings Paper will be published in the coming weeks.

We are keen to hear from you! If you know of useful work that is going on in your country, or have an idea for a project, or know someone (you?) who could act as your country's link to the network, please do email us!



The EGU Working Group Club Development in action: Alexander Georgas, Alison Randle and Arne Wangsholm – The AAA team

The proceedings from the first workshop in Amsterdam in February 2012 can still be downloaded at the EGU website, internal section. While waiting for the proceedings from the 2013 workshop, read it!

Accident Statistics

We still miss reports from several countries regarding fatal accident data for 2010 and 2011. We would also like to collect if possible, number of accidents, number of members and gliders, launches and hours/year, XC km/year. It would be nice if you can send your statistic to Henrik Svensson, TO Flight safety. henrik.svensson@segelflyget.se. Or you can use the accidents pages in our database. The database can be found under the internal section of the EGU homepage.

ATO – Approved Training Organisations

EGU member associations are now starting negotiations with their National Authorities over the details of Approved Training Organisation (ATO) status.

There are different approaches. In some areas, groups of gliding clubs are looking to operate as a single ATO, elsewhere individual clubs will each need to gain their own approval.

The Brits, in particular, are looking to establish the British Gliding Association as one – large! – ATO. The same goes for Denmark and Sweden. By contrast, in Belgium different areas are doing different things – no surprise, perhaps.

Two aspects are common throughout European gliding:

- The regulations faced by gliding clubs and associations are the same for everyone – just as designed.
- National authorities taking the opportunity to exploit their monopoly powers.

This is an area ripe for learning from each other.

The European Gliding Union's Handbook for Approved Training Organisations was distributed at the Congress and is available for download.

Here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mxt021xxz1xm316/2013b%20Feb%20ATO%20-%20EGU%20Summary.pdf>

This handbook is a useful compilation of the Implementing Regulations, Approved Methods of Compliance & Guidance Material. It now needs to be populated with lessons learned.

The EGU TO Training – Andy Miller – is actively looking for news from Associations and clubs.

Airspace and Radios

SERA was introduced in December 2012, but most countries have chosen to opt out until Decemebr 2014. We recommend our members to start discussing with your airspace authorities. EGU is keen to know how the implementation is done in your country. Please report!

8.33 KHz radios will be mandatory from 2018 in most of our countries. This will mean a huge investment for the gliding community in acquiring 8.33 T/R. Do not wait until the last minute! Make an investment plan and start converting already now.



Winter flying in Norway