



EUROPEAN GLIDING UNION

# EGU Newsletter 3/2024

December 2024

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## Editors note

On the EGU website <http://www.glidingunion.eu> you find a lot of useful information. If you have forgotten the password to the internal section, please contact EGU.

## A report by the President

Arild Solbakken



Dear gliding friends in EGU

The year 2024 is coming to an end and it is time to reflect on the situation for our sport and our members. The year has offered both joys and sorrows for our members. Changing climate conditions resulting in extreme weather variations is something which has affected many of us the last year. But more serious is the fact that there is still war in Europe, causing uncertainty, fear, sorrow and despair. Some of our member nations are seriously affected, either directly or indirectly, influencing their ability to exercise and enjoy their sports activities. With such background it is not easy to keep focus, maintain optimism and create inspiration for voluntary recreational activities. In times like this it is important to also have positive activities to focus our minds on. We would like to reassure our members that EGU is here working for the entire gliding community in Europe, and available for support if required.

EGU is continuing its work for gliding in Europe with the main focus on regulatory affairs, but there is also

reason to reflect on the role we are playing, and whether we should cover a wider scope. We have chosen to apply a slightly wider interpretation of the EGU objective, reflecting the visions of EASA which in accordance with their "GA Flightpath 2030+" includes Safety, Sustainability, Digitalization, and Inclusiveness. A discussion on this for guidance at the coming congress would be appreciated.

The EGU Executive Board has continued the practise with online meetings, supplemented by a physical meeting during the autumn session. The regular online meetings are valuable, but there is a necessity to meet face to face one or two times a year, to enable deeper discussions on the heavier subjects. This year, the Executive Board met the first weekend of November in Landessportbund Hessen, Sportschule und Bildungsstätte, in Frankfurt am Main. This is a convenient venue since it is close to the Frankfurt Airport, and much cheaper than staying in a hotel. The main objectives of the meeting were as usual to review status and any news in all the work streams and discuss priority issues.

The number one short term issue is the **Part 66L development**. As reported in the June Newsletter, EGU decided together with the European Ballooning Federation (EBF), to join forces with Europe Air Sports (EAS) to get assistance to lift the topic in the EASA system.

The Challenges & Potential Consequences are:

- The requirements for renewal of existing licences and maintaining privileges as well as training and examination of new Part 66L License Holders, are difficult, if not impossible, to comply with in club environment.

- The requirements are perceived as disproportionate and poorly adapted to the sports and recreational aviation needs and capacities.
- They do not reflect past and current industry practice and relevant safety records.
- The rules are implemented differently throughout the nations, some have solutions in place, others have not, many are struggling with both renewal of existing licenses and training / examination for new licenses.
- This may have dramatic consequences for both gliding, ballooning, and light aircraft.
- Existing Part 66L staff are growing older – Capacity in the industry decreases.
- There is an imminent risk of lack of certifying staff with current privileges.
- Very limited number of new AML Licenses have been produced since the new regulations were implemented.

We are receiving concerns from member states. Many existing licence holders are already unable to maintain legal recency (right to perform maintenance), and we may lose valuable maintenance resources already next year. After joining forces with EAS the flag has been raised to signalise that Part-66L Licensing is in the process **of becoming an existential threat to GA**.

Julian Scarfe, Vice President of EAS, presented the issue in GA COMM / TeB in November, and managed to escalate the urgency of the issue. It is realised we have:

- A short-term crisis that needs an immediate solution to save gliding and ballooning in Europe - Part-66 L licence recency requirements
  - A long-term problem that needs fixing – Part 66 licence requirements for GA
- Actions for a way forward have been identified, and we will maintain the pressure

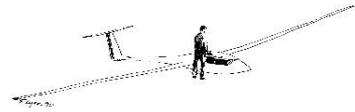
### Pilot Medical Declaration Proposal

The EAS Position paper on the proposal for a Pilot Medical Declaration was presented to joint EASA GA COM/TeB meeting in April 2024 (at AERO) and later to EASA MEG (Medical Expert Group), ESAM (European Society of Aerospace Medicine)

- The paper was well received by the GA COM, which voted unanimously to ask EASA to include the development in its Work Programme
- EASA MEG reluctant to accept the principles of the proposed PMD, and requested to set up a working group on the issue
- ESAM more positive, willing to discuss, working group initiated.

At the July (inaugural) meeting of the GA CSTG, the CSTG agreed to include a Work Programme Item (WPI) on PMD. EASA needs a little more time to develop a Declare as Default for medical. More time is required to mature the opinions in EASA and MEG. The positive response in ESAM gives reason for optimism vs further

treatment in MEG, as many of the members in MEG are also members in ESAM.



### Part-SFCL Licensing and Training

The Part-SFCL Licensing and Training has now been implemented and tested over some time, and we should see opportunities for improvements. We would like to remind our members that feed-back on experience with Part-SFCL and AMC/GM for future revision purposes is welcome.

### EAS Technical Meeting

The EAS technical meeting took place in Speyer, Germany, 15-16/11-2024. In addition to the Part 66L issue and Pilot Medical Declaration proposal, the following takeaways relevant for gliding should be noted:

#### U-space:

- U-Space legislation from EASA is finished.
- Implementation is close in many member states.
- Member stated appear to have widely different interpretation of the rules.
- We must be vigilant to make sure national CAAs are following the rules and intent of the rules from EASA.

WARNING! Watch out for possible cost implications and restrictions on GA when the rules are implemented on national level.

#### iConspicuity:

- No change from previously reported development.
- iConspicuity can be achieved with either ADS-B, Flarm / similar devices and mobile phones, provided that the latter is ADS-L compatible.
- Mobile phones are sufficient as the simplest solution (when flying low altitude), but still not qualified for use in controlled airspace due to insufficiently documented network coverage.

#### Phasing out of Avgas 100L:

- EAS expects that the deadline for the import of TEL (2025) will slide to 2032. No bans on importing leaded avgas are on the horizon, but if TEL import exemptions are not granted, all fuel will have to be imported from outside the internal market (e.g., UK or US).
- US-made unleaded alternatives will be available in Europe very soon.

### Changes in the Executive Board and work streams

It should be noted that Bernad Hautesserres chose to resign from the Executive board some time ago for personal reasons. We thank Bernard for his contributions to the work and the good spirit in the board.

Further, I am happy to welcome a new technical officer Lilla Szamosujvári from Hungary to the EGU. As announce by Robert Danewid further below, she will join the Sustainability work stream, to concentrate on matters related to diversity in Gliding.

Further we wish to welcome all our members to the congress 2024 in Malmö, Sweden 1. March. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there, and to have fruitful discussions on both technical and administrative matters.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the Christmas holidays and the New Year!

## A report from the General Secretary

Mika Mutru



## Forthcoming EGU Congress 2025 will be in Malmö, Sweden on Sat 1st March 2025

Our next General Meeting, the EGU Congress 2025, will be held in Malmö, Hyllie, Sweden on Saturday 1st March 2025. Official invitation with registration and hotel booking information will be sent to all EGU Full and Associate Member associations and their Nominated Delegates and Alternates by email in late December. For late Friday afternoon 28th February 2025 at 1600-1800, we are planning an optional workshop where EGU Workstream leaders are available for more detailed technical "Q/A" discussions face-to-face. The EGU Congress 2025 on Saturday will then be divided, as in past years, into two sessions: the Technical Session and then the Administrative Session for an official General Meeting. Stay tuned !



European Gliding Union

c/o FFVP – Aérodrôme de Château-Arnoux Saint-Auban – F-04600 CHATEAU-ARNOUX – France

## Part-66L recency issues

TO AW&M Henrik Svensson



It has been very little progress the last year regarding 66L recency issue, but lately there is several activities supporting new way forward. Prior to the combined meeting in November with EASA, EGU initiated contact with EAS that we need to find a solution on this topic and alongside with EAS continued work with EBU (European Ballooning Federation) was carried out. Take-aways from the combined meeting is that this is an issue that need to be fixed.

As an alternative for a 66L holder to maintain its recency – number of days (which is very difficult or impossible for the majority) in 6-month work in the preceding 2 years - a second alternative is to use an option for on job practice – which is intended for the initial issue of the licence – but EASA now accept that this can also be used for recency. There will be a rulemaking activity changings so this would be an acceptable option for recency, which means that practical work performed is considered for recency. In detail the idea is to carry out a “representative cross section of maintenance tasks” the last 2 years and that a 66L holder need to document this work (logbook or other work record evidence). What still need to be defined is what the minimum number of tasks is and how to choose these tasks for using this a way of recency.

The work will continue, next step will be a working meeting in December with EASA on agreed examples of maintenance tasks can be used for recency. Other options for recency and also for initial training will also be on the agenda.

The EGU Bulletin about Recency requirements for Part 66(L) License Holders working on gliders has been sent to all EGU delegates and can also be found on the EGU website. **Please read it!**

I will invite all Point-of-Contacts (PoC) for EGU Workstream Airworthiness and Maintenance to a virtual meeting to inform about the work. Any questions regarding 66L can be directed to me, [henrik.svensson@segelflyget.se](mailto:henrik.svensson@segelflyget.se)



## Part SFCL

TO Ole Gellert Andersen



At the congress in Luxembourg we informed the delegates about the possibility to improve Part SFCL, and that we had encouraged the members of the workstream to think about issues, which eventually could be improved, when the window for changing Part SFCL would open. We closed our presentation by showing this slide from the Power Point:

**When you get back ...**

- *Please discuss if you have found issues, which could be improved in Part SFCL*
- *Give the information to your representative in the SFCL-workstream Licensing and Training*
- *If your country has no representative: Please find one ;-)*

The window is not open yet, but it hopefully will soon open. Please send your ideas for improving Part SFCL to your local Point-of-Contact in this workstream, and if your country still has no PoC: Please find one.

We newly sent a questionnaire to the PoC's regarding the SPL-theory exams, because there are huge differences in holding these exams across Europe. In this particular case we want to support an EGU-member association in their discussions with the local CAA to make it easier to take an SPL-theory exam in this particular country.

If your country has not sent your contribution – Please send it.

## Sustainability

TO Sustainability Robert Danewid



## Inclusivity

We are happy to announce that Lilla Szamosujvári from Hungary is our new TO for Inclusivity. Lilla will work with Women and Inclusivity in Gliding, which is a part of our WS Sustainability. Lilla has just started working and would like to get in touch with all who are interested in this area. We need more Point of Contacts! So if you are interested, please contact Lilla at szlillabeata@gmail.com.

Lilla is an instructor and competition pilot. She flies her own Glasflügel 304.

At the recent Swedish Gliding conference she gave a presentation. You can find it here:

<https://segelflyget.se/download/18.5919636e1930c5764478a232/1731421820725/Women%20in%20Gliding.pdf>



*Lilla with her 304*

At the same conference Pete Stratten, CEO of BGA in the UK, gave a presentation about their junior movement and the WINg Project. You find it here.

<https://segelflyget.se/download/18.5919636e1930c5764478a22e/1731421816265/BGA%20Junior%20Gliding%20and%20WinG.pdf>

## Environment

At the recent Swedish Gliding Conference Jens Tralolt, editor of the Nordic Gliding Magazine, gave an up to

date presentation on the electric gliding market. You can find his presentation (in English) here:

<https://segelflyget.se/download/18.5919636e1930c5764478a22f/1731421816481/Electric%20Aviation%20Jens%20Trabolt%202024%20Opdateret%2004112024%20Public.pdf>

## EGU website

Have you visited our website?

<https://glidingunion.eu/>

A lot of information.

## EGU List of contacts

President: Arild Solbakken

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Ted Richards

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Meike Müller

Secretary General: Mika Mutru

Treasurer: Robert Danewid

Contact details can be found on the website

*The EGU is the association of European Gliding Federations or Gliding Sections of National Aero Clubs.*

*Its aim is to represent the interests of all glider pilots in Europe with respect to regulatory affairs.*

*EGU monitors the developments in European aviation regulation and when necessary, takes action to prevent unfavourable or even dangerous rules affecting our sport from being set up.*

*The EGU currently counts 23 full members and represents more than 66,000 glider pilots*

