



EUROPEAN GLIDING UNION

EGU Newsletter 2/2025

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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 Europe,

It is late autumn, the gliding season in our regions is in many places coming to an end and we can look back on a season with mixed weather for gliding.

Autumn time is also time for the EGU to gather its Executive Board in a physical meeting for a deeper dive into our key focus areas. This time we convened our Technical Experts to ensure comprehensive coverage of their designated areas in support of the Executive Board. Again, we gathered in the Landessportbund Hessen Sportschule in Frankfurt, which is convenient for travel and meetings, and offers reasonable accommodation. The main purpose of the meeting was to review our priorities and the way forward:

- Review the future role of EGU and its media profile
- Address key issues or questions for each Workstream and possible new issues / topics for EGU
- Agree on priorities
- EGU Activity Plan and Budget for 2026 and the next Congress

EGU role and scope of work

The Current EGU Objective as defined by its statutes, is to be the independent representative of the interests of all glider pilots in Europe with respect to regulatory affairs. In reality the scope has already been extended to include safety and sustainability. But in order to reflect changes in strategies from EASA, changes in the gliding community and the societal development in more general terms, the purpose and scope of EGU should be changed accordingly. The Executive Board will further develop this and propose adjustments at the next Congress.

EGU Communication and Public Profile

EGU have in the past communicated to its members through the website and regular newsletters, in addition to the annual General Conference, offering face to face contact between members and the Executive Board.

The website serves the purpose of introducing the EGU to public visitors. The website provides an overview of our objectives, structure, areas of focus, and membership. As a result, it appears less dynamic for non-EGU members.

The Newsletter conveys news to EGU's members on the work going on in the various workstreams.

This means the EGU communication has low reach and a format designed to serve our members in accordance with the purpose of EGU as defined by the statutes. As the scope of EGU has extended beyond purely "regulatory matters" over the last years, the EGU Executive Board has addressed the question of revising its public profile. We believe there is a need to show why EGU's work is relevant for every pilot in the community, and to reach younger pilots in order to help building a stronger European gliding community. This means that we need to be visible on other platforms. We have therefore launched a project to extend our public appearance.

EGU Executive Board Workstreams

From the current workstream activities, I would just like to briefly mention two of the main priorities here:

Part 66 L

Recency for existing P66L licence holders

Last year, EASA agreed that we would work out a task-based recency for Part 66L balloon and sailplane technicians as an alternative to the time-based recency (which is not achieved in reality by any except the most active technicians). Now, after another year of work, analysis and negotiation, EASA has agreed with EBF and EGU a task-based route to maintain recency, which will be based on a realistic number of annual inspections and the associated maintenance work.

The agreed text will be published within a few weeks as part of a rule-making task RMT.0735. When the RMT is open for public consultation, it's essential for EGU member federations, technicians, pilots, and other stakeholders to submit supportive comments to the EASA process. Our technical experts will submit a notification and provide more details when the consultation opens.

Review of the main Part 66 L

Part 66 needs to be revised for the needs of balloon and sailplane (and small aeroplane) technicians, i.e. all the L-licences. We have already launched a collaboration with EBF and EAS to work on a joint proposal. This should get considered next year as EASA is expecting a review / revision of Part 66 as part of the Regulation Simplification Project (see separate information below). I ask for your inputs into how we should change the arrangements for Part 66 L technicians – especially on how they get trained. We realise that in some countries, no one has been trained nor qualified since Part 66 came into force for us, and this is a huge problem for the future. By working together with EBF and EAS, EGU will contribute to the revision process and strive to establish more reasonable regulations for Part 66 (L), with practical standards that voluntary members of the gliding community can meet.

Medical

The EAS proposal for Pilot Medical Declaration (PMD) is currently being processed in EASA and experiencing significant resistance from aviation medical experts. On the positive side is the fact that the EASA General Aviation team has stated an intent for PMD to be the first initiative in its Declared by Default programme. The Rulemaking Simplification Project launched recently provides a good opportunity for this.

While awaiting progress from EASA, we are monitoring current medical practices for gliding across Europe. Unfortunately, there have been several instances of bureaucratic actions and unnecessarily strict interpretations of regulations.

The EGU Executive Board decided to create an EGU Position Paper addressing the problems now seen in practice and their consequences to our sport.



Recruitment of new resources to EGU and EAS - Elections 2026

Candidate(s) to EAS work

Patrick Pauwels, former president of the EGU, has been the only member of the EAS board with extensive gliding expertise until now. His term is ending at the next EAS General Assembly in March 2026. We need candidates with gliding expertise for replacement of Patrick.

Additionally, given the significant relevance of issues such as Part66L, Pilot Medical Declarations, Drones, and Airspace to the gliding community, we will aim to further strengthen gliding expertise within the EAS work where feasible.

You are therefore kindly requested to nominate candidates with gliding competence and experience, in addition to general air sports knowledge. Working language is English

Candidates to EGU work

A total of 5 EGU Executive Board members are ending their term at the next Congress, 28. February 2026. A few have announced that they would not seek re-election, so we need new candidates.

We are looking for resources/expertise which could strengthen our work – increase insight, and capacity, to ensure increased impact on the future results.

We need persons with gliding competence and experience. Working language is English. The EGU Executive Board normally arrange two physical meetings per year, in addition to monthly online meetings.



EAS Technical Meeting 2025 – Main takeaways

The Europe Air Sports (EAS) Technical meeting 2025 took place as an online meeting 08. November 2025, with Henrik Svensson and Arild Solbakken representing

EGU. The president of EAS, Andrea Anesini confirmed the four main priorities in the last period:

- Development within the drone industry and interaction with air sports
- Avgas – to support and protect the European fleet
- Part 66L – ease maintenance requirements for leisure aviation
- Pilot Medical Declaration

The main takeaways from the meeting can be summarized by the following:

- **Electronic conspicuity (EC) and drones:** EAS was present at the first Drone Community Steering Group (D.CSTG) in EASA. The drone industry is:
 - Searching for more flexibility and lower costs
 - Looking for ways to SEE all other traffic in uncontrolled airspace
 - They ask EASA to accelerate the adoption of ADS-L among VLL users

Low-cost equipment and software for Electronic Conspicuity (EC) are available, but U-space is not “taking off” because of the regulation being perceived as complex by the drone industry.

- **Avgas/100LL:** 100LL will be available until 2032. Suitable replacement is on the market. The problem is regarded as solved for the time being.
- **Pilot Medical Declaration:** The proposal for a pilot self-declaration of medical fitness for flying has been submitted to EASA by EAS. So far, the proposal has received massive resistance from the medical society in the EASA Medical Expert Group and the European Society of Aviation Medicine stakeholders. No progress has been made since last meeting.
- **Part 66L:**
 - Recency: EASA has agreed with EBF and EGU a task-based route to maintain recency, which will be based on a realistic number of annual inspections and the associated maintenance work. Theoretical training for 66L-Licences - Find funding for translation.
 - Enlarge Pilot Owner Maintenance (POM) scope of work - Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) for «aero-clubs» based on a modular system depending on : aircraft type, engines, kind of work (inspection or repair) – Outline of the concept will be published end of 2025
 - Theoretical training for 66L-Licences: Training Courses online. Existing platform in Germany needs adaptation and translation

As the season and the year draws to a close, it is a good opportunity to reflect on and evaluate last season's experiences and begin preparations for the future, considering personal, operational, and technical aspects. I wish you a great winter season!

A report from the General Secretary

Mika Mutru



EASA Rule simplification Program

EASA has launched a Rule Simplification Programme as part of the EU's Better Regulation policy. Some regulations are currently extensive, complex, and not always suitable for air sports activities. This is a great opportunity to tackle these issues and share your feedback with EASA.

EGU intends to compile and submit comments to all of the regulations where we see there is need for simplification. But to ensure priority for the needs of the gliding community, it is necessary to have lots of input into the simplification survey. We encourage national federations, clubs and individual glider pilots to share their views. Now YOU have the chance to help make the rules easier!

Please see the following links for more information on the program and survey:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/rulemaking-process-overview/easa-rule-simplification-programme>

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/SimplifyEASA>

We need you to share your views on simplifying the EASA regulations! Please submit your feedback via the survey to EASA as soon as possible. The survey is open until the end of the year, 31. December 2025.

EGU Congress 2026 in Germany

Next annual congress of the EGU will be held in Frankfurt am Main on Saturday 28th February 2026, hosted by the Deutsche Aero Club. On Friday afternoon there will be an optional technical workshop. Official invitation will be sent to member associations and their nominated delegates in December, before Christmas.



Flight Safety

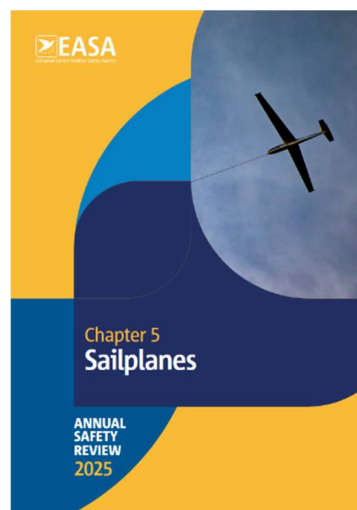
TO Safety Ted Richards



The recent publication of EASA's Annual Safety Report (link below) benefited greatly from several important revisions that were proposed by the EGU over the summer months. This productive and ongoing cooperation is now advancing into a more detailed phase, with a comprehensive review of accident reports currently in progress. The primary goal is to introduce clearer, more gliding-specific language into the official reporting mechanisms. By doing so, these updates should significantly improve the readability and accessibility of the reports for the wider gliding community, while also enabling a more precise and focused analysis of underlying accident trends, contributing factors, and root causes.

In parallel, the initial collection of safety-related links on the EGU website is being carefully reviewed and substantially expanded. This work forms an integral part of a broader, long-term plan to strengthen the EGU's social media presence, enhance online engagement, and ensure that critical safety resources are more readily available to members and the public. Link to the EASA Annual Safety

Report: <https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/general-publications/annual-safety-review-2025>



Inclusivity

TO Sustainability Robert Danewid and TE Lilla Szamosujvári



The European Gliding Union has recently established a new division called WINGS, led by Robert Danewid and Lilla Szamosujvári, focusing on attracting and retaining more women in gliding. As one of our first projects, we are planning to launch a scholarship program this winter to provide meaningful support for women at different stages of their gliding journey - from beginners, ordinary pilots to active competitors.

We are currently reaching out to potential sponsors who could offer practical or material support, such as equipment, services, or training opportunities. If you or your organization would be interested in supporting this initiative, or if you know someone who might be, we would appreciate your help in connecting us.

Our goal is to create more opportunities for women to grow, learn, and stay engaged in gliding.

For more information, please contact:

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robert.danewid@gmail.com

We have created a Facebook group, see:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2369482423437411>.

Use it! Share your thoughts and ideas here.

We will also create an Instagram account.

The EGU website has also been updated

<https://glidingunion.eu/sustainability/>

EGU website

Have you visited our website?

<https://glidingunion.eu/>

A lot of information.

EGU List of contacts

President: Arild Solbakken

1st Vice President: Ted Richards

2nd 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

EUROPEAN GLIDING UNION

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REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN GLIDER PILOTS

We care about the basic conditions for gliding under european law and circumstances!

Our Full Members:
Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine,

Our Associate Members:
Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, The Vintage Glider Club