



# EGU Newsletter 1/2025

April 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,

A new gliding season is on. For the northern Europe the weather has been unusually warm with less snow and more dry weather than normal, and thus the gliding season could start early.

For the work in the EGU the pre-season has started with our own annual congress and participation in other organisations annual meetings and the AERO 2025.

The **EGU Congress 2025** was successfully hosted by Segelflyget in Sweden on 1<sup>st</sup> March as described by Mika in his section of the Newsletter.

A new initiative this year, is a closer connection with the **European Hang and Paraglider Union (EHPU)** to establish cooperation on common challenges and interest, such as drones and u-space, iConspicuity, and general airspace matters including restrictions from nature reserves.

We were also invited to participate on the **British Gliding Association (BGA) sporting conference, exhibition and awards dinner 22 Feb 2025**, meeting people from one of the largest gliding nations in our community.

The **Europe Air Sports (EAS) General Meeting** was held in Oslo 14<sup>th</sup> March this year with technical topics of interest to the gliding community, such as the airspace issues and electronic conspicuity, medical issues, aviation fuel Issues, EASA Rulemaking activities as well as Part 66L.

The **AERO 2025**, a trade fair for general aviation, air sports and business aviation, was arranged 9-12<sup>th</sup> April in Friedrichshafen. EGU was represented there as part of the Europe Air Sports stand, and the occasion was used to meet with people from EASA to discuss some of our priority topics such as Part 66L and Gliding Safety.



Arild Solbakken, Frank Schellenberg and Henrik Svensson meet with EASA officials at Aero

Within the EGU Executive Board the work will continue focusing on our work streams. Two of the most important topics involving interaction with EASA, are pursued in close cooperation with EAS in the lead:

- **Part66L** - The requirements are challenging to meet in a club environment. Many licence holders are unable to maintain their privileges beyond 2025. The regulations seem disproportionate and not suited to sports and recreational aviation. They do not reflect industry practices and relevant

safety issues, and are becoming an existential threat to light GA (gliding, ballooning and light aircraft)

- **Medical** - The current medical examination and certification process is based on an overestimate of the real underlying risk in relation to the acceptable level of risk in non-commercial aviation, and an overestimate of the efficacy of the medical examination and certification process in mitigating the risk.

For the past 5 years, Basic Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 has provided more flexibility than before. EASA allows flexibility in requirements like Part-21 Light, which lets aircraft type design be declared instead of certified. In 2023, EASA adopted the Flightpath 2030+ strategy for General Aviation, focusing on wider participation and accessibility. As part of this, EASA intends to develop the concept of “Declared by Default” and expect within short time to publish a “philosophy for implementation” clarifying how each and every one shall be responsible for his own actions within the legislation.

The idea is that this shall form the basis for the work in all sectors of the legislation, such as airworthiness and maintenance, medical, training and examination, safety etc. We therefore believe this is a good time for considering a similar approach for both airworthiness & maintenance, and pilot medical fitness.

Another important topic involving collaboration with EASA is Gliding Safety, where the EGU has been invited to assist in improving the sailplane annex of EASA’s Annual Safety Report. More information can be found in the safety section of the newsletter.

Finally, the work stream Sustainability has launched a new initiative on Inclusivity, aiming to increase the number of women in gliding. The project is named **WINGS ( Women In Gliding Support)**. Unfortunately, it is a fact that only around 5% of the pilots in the gliding community are female. The numbers vary between our member states, but they seem to be rather stable. The project aims to discuss how to attract and retain more women in gliding through identifying key challenges and proposing actionable solutions

An important factor in succeeding with women in gliding, is the club environment where a more welcoming atmosphere, promoting inclusivity and respectful behaviour, could eventually influence club development in general, if we succeed.

See more information in the workstream sustainability section of the newsletter.

As part of the actions to promote WINGS, a Facebook Page has been launched together with publishing new information on the EGU web site.

The **EGU web Site** has also been updated recently by adding separate sections for Safety and Sustainability. New information can be accessed via dedicated individual tabs on the web page for the two work streams. The EGU Executive Board intends to develop

the EGU website further and will consider establishing new information channels using Social Media.

In order to strengthen our capacity to handle the priority tasks in EGU, the executive board has decided to appoint three Technical Experts:

- Part 66L – Frank Schellenberg
- Inclusivity – Lilla Szamosujvári
- Electrical Gliding – Jens Trabolt

All three technical experts are warmly welcomed to join us in the work for the European gliding community. They will be integrated in our work and take part in our meetings as regular members of the board.

Many of you have already started your gliding season whilst many others have yet to make the first start. In any case we urge all of you to carefully consider how you can be ready for both the flying season in general and also for every single flight that you take. The better prepared you are, the more you will be able just get on and enjoy your flying. When you are ready and prepared, every flight is safer and more enjoyable. I wish you a great gliding season!

## A report from the General Secretary

Mika Mutru



The 32nd annual General Meeting of EGU met in Quality Hotel View in Malmö Hyllie, Sweden on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Thanks to the hosting member association, the Swedish Soaring Federation, and their chairman Robert Danewid, all arrangements were both excellent and practical. 16 EGU Full Member associations out of 23 were represented by their delegates and alternate delegates - total number of participants was 29.

Arild Solbakken was unanimously re-elected by the General Meeting as EGU President for a new 3-years term-of-office. This is now his second term starting since he replaced Patrick Naegeli in 2022. No other elections than this took place now but next year, in EGU Congress 2026 in Germany, there will be elections for Executive Board members.

Another decision by the General Meeting, to be mentioned, was the acceptance of the proposed membership fees for this ongoing year. Thanks to both a good financial situation and effective way of working

of EGU, it was possible to reduce annual fees as a onetime measure for Full Members by 30%. Our support to Ukraine continues also in this year with no fee for their membership.



Delegates at the EGU Congress in Malmö

On the day before, Friday 28th February, a technical Questions & Answers session was arranged at the meeting hotel for those meeting delegates who were interested to meet EGU Workstream leaders for more deep discussions. WS Airworthiness and Maintenance by Henrik Svensson and WS Part-SFCL Licensing and Training by Ole G. Andersen and Mika Mutru formed those two groups that discussed intensively on various topics. Experience and feedback after the Q&A session was so positive that we will arrange similar possibility next time too.

EGU Congress 2026 will be held in Germany, most propably in Munich, hosted by the German Aeroclub, DAeC

## Flight Safety

TO Safety Ted Richards



Recent engagements with EASA have been highly productive, with valuable side meetings at our Congress in Malmö and AERO 25 in Friedrichshafen. A key outcome is EGU’s commitment to improving the sailplane annex of EASA’s Annual Safety Report, making it more relevant and accessible to glider pilots. We are awaiting EASA’s working draft and expect a swift comment period where the Safety Working Group will be key contributors. Additionally, we are

European Gliding Union

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

exploring with EASA the creation of a Sailplane Safety Activity Group, which would sit within EASA’s governance framework, and which would allow EGU to inject important subject matter expertise and collaborate with related organizations.

To enhance our outreach, we are strengthening EGU’s online presence through our website and more dynamic social media engagement. This includes exploring the adaptation of EASA’s publicity tools, such as Sunny Swift, for gliding. Finally, we encourage all pilots to complete online or practical refresher training to ensure a safe and successful gliding season

## Inclusivity

TO Sustainability Robert Danewid and TE Lilla Szamosujvári



EGU WINGS (Women In Gliding Support) is now well under way under the guidance of Lilla.

We have established a Facebook group <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/>

We plan to expand it further.

Lilla is also working on a scholarship programme and we have 4-5 sponsors so far. But we need more. If you are interested to support WINGS, please contact Lilla.



### Why Support WINGS?

Inspire the next generation – Help talented women access the training and opportunities they need to succeed.

Boost diversity in aviation – A stronger, more inclusive gliding community benefits the entire sport.

Show your commitment – Partnering with WINGS highlights your dedication to innovation and equal opportunities in aviation.

Support future champions – Your sponsorship could make the difference in launching the career of a future world champion.



During the Womens Worlds Gliding Championships in the Czech Republic later this summer we will organize



a meeting/work shop to further engage women and expand WINGS.

We are working on several more projects. If you want to support or engage in WINGS, please contact us! (Contact details on the website)

## 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

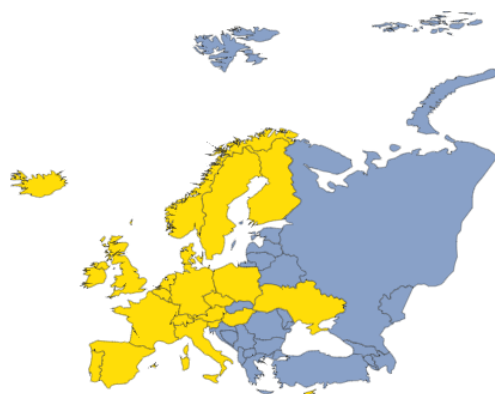
*The EGU is the association of European Gliding Federations or Gliding Sections of National Aero Clubs.*

*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*

### Full members of the EGU are the gliding organisations of:



- ★ 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

### Associate Members are:

- ★ the Soaring Society of America
- ★ Gliding New Zealand
- ★ the South African Gliding Federation
- ★ the Vintage Glider Club
- ★ Soaring Association of Canada
- ★ The Gliding Federation of Australia