

EHPU European Safety and Training Committee 2013 in Oslo – Norway.

Here is a summary of the minutes. EHPU members can read annual minutes from ESCT meeting 2003 - 2013 on <http://www.ehpu.org/internal/internal.htm>.

Several Chairman and Safety Officers from European Federations participated in the ESTC Congress held on June 1st and 2nd 2013 in Oslo.



Safety

Karl Slezak from Germany gave a presentation showing that the European Online Accident Database is now complete. Each Federation can now utilise it.

Different needs for new or change in EN standards for helmets, Paragliding harnesses and Hang gliding suspension system were discussed for recommendations to WG6.

Speed gliders are becoming widely used for soaring in strong winds. All pilots soaring in strong winds should be trained as paragliders to ensure that all pilots are aware of Rules of the Air.

Training

A presentation of the FAI/CIVL IPPI system and updates for SafePro was given by CIVL Safety Officer Raymond Caux. Recognition of International pilot information card by National Federations and National Aviation Agencies are important for many sports pilots and pleasure pilots to be able to fly in competition, training or on vacation outside their own countries.

EHPU and most European Federation will only recognise foreign pilots qualifications, which are issued by Government Ministries, The FAI, National Aero Clubs or National Associations.

APPI are not recognised as an international standard for paragliding pilot qualifications in most European countries and should not be compared with FAI or IPPI.

Competition flying

Unfortunately a website has been set up to promote international XC-competitions for uncertified gliders outside FAI and national governing body. These intentions are considered misguided, and we must hope they do not prove to be disastrous.

The CIVL annex 19F was discussed and several issues were raised, for example about insurance claims and when section A and B is not longer only advisory.

Part of the CIVL-EN Competition Class proposal appear to be in conflict with EN test methods for the CECC speed limit of 65 km/h, so tests may be carried out at trim speed. This is not logical when most competition gliders spend most of their time at full speed and not a trim speed. It will be very hard to get EN standard ready for 2015 with the CECC.

Next ESTC congress will be held in Nice on 14th/15th June 2014. Thanks to all the volunteers and employees for the effort you give to this important safety work. Especially thanks to all the ESTC workgroups, ESTC Chairman John Lovell from BHPA and Arne Hillestad from NLF for organising and hosting the meeting.

Please contact ehpu@ehpu.org, if you like to join the cooperation of European Hang gliding and Paragliding federations in EHPU ESTC.

1. Juli 2013 - EHPU general secretary.