

Presidents Newsletter January 2018

Dear EFLEVA Colleagues and Friends,



Our Federation now enters its second decade: in that time, we have seen much regulatory change. EASA, as well, is now going through a period of intense rulemaking. This is affecting all our operations either directly, or indirectly where in our sector we manage some airworthiness nationally.

Since the early days of EASA, attitude and rules more suited to large commercial aircraft have been replaced with more proportionality, and include a very clear General Aviation programme for “lighter, simpler rules” supported by a focused GA department. EFLEVA, working with Europe Air Sports to influence EASA, has played its part in that to the benefit of our members. We have also developed a good relationship with ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) and through that, with interventions at national level, have progressed free movement of aircraft across European borders.

We have not achieved everything we wanted - that is perhaps too much to expect - but we try! The Basic Regulation (BR) recast is now in its final stages of approval; regrettably our proposals to redefine Amateur Built Aircraft in the annex (the 51% rule) whilst fully supported by the Parliament and Commission, did not receive Council approval. This was because the national aviation authorities were not convinced of, or even aware of the arguments. EFLEVA had made convincing arguments at EU political and EASA level, but we failed to connect effectively at national level. We must learn from this, and mount a better campaign at the next BR change.

Our Technical and Business Conference in Dublin celebrated our 10th anniversary in style as the picture shows. Thanks to ILAS (Irish Light Aircraft Society) for hosting that event and making it so enjoyable.



We had the usual updates, I especially note the valued input from Europe Air Sports and the Commission, who are now regular attendees at our meeting. These covered not just current status, but looked at future opportunities for ensuring we retain a suitable regulatory environment in which our type of aviation and personal flying can flourish. The Commission in particular pointed us to aspects of the new BR where we should pursue opportunities including: CS23 declarative standards, potential flexibility in Licensing and Medicals, the expected 600Kg opt-out option as well as other opt-out/in provisions and potential changes to the scope of Qualified Entities. EAS focus is now turning to better clarity of vision/strategy and of course implementation for GA interests (that’s a big one).

Vitaly, we also reviewed how EFLEVA is organised and operates, the lessons learn in 10 years of operation and how we can ensure we properly serve our member organisations. Our prime purpose is to ensure we all have a suitable regulatory environment. Our general conclusion was that whilst EFLEVA must look after the specific areas of Light, Amateur Build and Vintage aircraft we could do that better by clarity of focus on you, our member organisations, ensuring excellent communications and a customer/marketing approach. We need to retain the clear advocacy focus, putting our viewpoints about regulation to EASA and working even

more closely with Europe Air Sports, to ensure best use of each other's limited resources. We have learnt how having a detailed knowledge of all our sectors (national regulatory/operational arrangements, detail of aircraft fleets, issues we need to address, etc.) helps us progress that: helping you negotiate nationally from a position of strength and establishing our credibility at EU level. So, we will improve our knowledge and data base, ensuring it is well recorded and available. Your Executive is now addressing those tasks. We are fortunate and thank those who have recently come forward to be involved in this work: welcomed especially by those who have served since the beginning of our Federation and now are looking to wind down a bit: new blood is vital in every voluntary organisation.

Last year we held our first EFLEVA fly-in, the **EFLEVA Days 2017**. It was a great event considered a success by all, despite being affected by very poor weather. We have resolved to continue that, this year again in Belgium with plans for France in 2019 and Switzerland in 2020. So, an important and regular item for our diary, not one to be missed. This year: -

June 29 & 30, 1 July 2018. Sanicole Airfield (EBLE) Belgium

For details look at <http://www.efleva-days.eu/>

The team are doing a great deal of work to put this event on and I hope to see many of you there. It's a great location and you can be sure of a really good time.

Your Executive has now reviewed the option for our next Technical and Business meeting. This will be in Sweden, where there is a fantastic venue and hospitality to match! Details are being worked out right now though I can confirm the dates.

**The 2018 Technical & Business Meeting - Sweden
Conference & AGM: 20 & 21st October 2018.**

As usual we will be seeking presence and input from Europe Air sports and the Commission, reporting on progress, and discussing matters of individual and mutual interest to ensure EFLEVA meets the community needs. And, of course, a visit of particular aviation interest - I know Kjell has a very interesting one in mind!

Formal invitations will be sent out in due course.

Enjoy your flying in 2018 and I look forward to seeing you at these events

Happy landings
My very best wishes



Roger Hopkinson
President