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Sir John Allison KCB CBE
President
Europe Air Sports
Dinkellaan 8
2105 VL Heemstede
The Netherlands

Dear Sir John

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN MICROLIGHT FEDERATION

By now our General Secretary will have informed Europe Air Sports of the outcome of the elections held at our recent General Conference in Prague, so I am sure you will be aware that I was elected President.

This result reflects the predominant view within the EMF, that our primary task is to defend our current position, whatever that may be, in each of the 24 members organisations of the EMF in the 21 member states of the EU in which the 40,000 microlight pilots we represent are to be found. However, I would not wish you to think that we are only looking backwards. After long and passionate debate the following two resolutions were agreed unanimously:

That the European Microlight Federation is committed to defending the regulatory status quo for microlights outside EASA of all its members, with the aim of preventing the erosion of any and all their existing rights and privileges.

and

That the European Microlight Federation forms a Project Group, to include members from a wide range of views, to prepare a proposal for EASA relating to the aviation activities of its members that might be better suited to a new category.

It is our wish that those microlights falling within the definition in paragraph (e) of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1592/ 2002 should retain whatever rights and privileges they enjoy under the control of their member state rather than that of EASA. Nevertheless, we recognise that there is a need for a new category, which it is likely that EASA will take into its care.

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Some will see this new category as falling outside our ambit but, as most of the aircraft in which EASA is taking a particular interest are flown as microlights, we have unparalleled expertise and experience in this area coupled with the need to serve the interests of our members who fly these aircraft.

Given the advanced state EASA's plans to form their "task force to discuss better means to oversee the safety of light aviation" we know we must move quickly. Our Project Group of four able people committed to advancing their sport, has already started work with the aim of producing an early proposal.

It is our belief that this proposal must be submitted through EAS. This, in part, reflects our acknowledgement of the influence of EAS with EASA, but it is also a result of our desire to work constructively with those EAS members who wish to pursue a development, which, if successful, will ease the regulatory burden on this sector of sports and recreational aviation.

There is one matter, however, which needs to be taken up with EASA as a matter of urgency. This is the decision on precisely which sports and recreational activity its proposed "task force" should include in its deliberations. It is the EMF's contention that, particularly at a time when EASA is so far behind its targets, it ought not to trouble itself with those that are happy under the control of member states and, realistically, are likely to so remain. It is our view that microlighting, as defined by paragraph (e) of Annex II, falls into this category.

Before the EASA SSCC meeting on 1 December we would like to question EASA on the scope of work of the "task force" with the aim of ensuring that sports such as microlighting are not included. This will provide confirmation that we need fear no change to our traditional microlighting activities, but will not prevent the "task force" from proposing a new category with the more relaxed regulatory regime that we all want. The work of our Project Group will undoubtedly help the "task force" in its task.

We would like EAS to take up this matter on our behalf and that of others who share our view. We would welcome an early meeting to discuss this.

Yours sincerely

Dominique Méreuze
President

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