



European Hang Gliding & Paragliding Union

Airspace Position Paper

The aim of the European Hang Gliding and Paragliding Union (EHPU) is to promote and protect hang gliding and paragliding in Europe. The EHPU seeks in particular to consult with all relevant regulatory authorities in Europe, representing the interests of European national hang gliding and paragliding federations, having 97.000 hang gliding and paragliding pilots organised, 85% of all European hang gliding and paragliding pilots.

Hang Gliding and paragliding is very hard to control because take off and landing is possible nearly everywhere. The hang gliding and paragliding federations play an important role ensuring that restrictions are respected by the pilots.

The developments in the airspace over Europe indicate a reduction of airspace that is available to airports, including hang gliding and paragliding, and an increase of the requirements for equipment like transponders and radio.

In Europe there are 115.000 hang glider and paraglider pilots with 115.000 aircraft. On a day with good thermal conditions a total of 200.000 cross-country km are flown by round about 20.000 hang glider and paraglider pilots. Normally airspace with ICAO classification G and E is used. On days with high cloud base the best documented hang glider and paraglider flights cover distances between 300 km and 400 km.

It is important that European Airspace Rules do not restrict hang gliding and paragliding in the future: cross-country flying is an essential part of our sport. Nearly all hang gliding and paragliding competitions consist of cross-country flights.

The established and well-proven principle of see and avoid in G and E airspace should be available over the whole of Europe, except where there is a demonstrable need for a restriction. New technologies should only be applied where appropriate, practicable and affordable.

Flight level Z, separating known and unknown traffic, shall be chosen as high as possible, at least not below FL 135 or 2.000 feet above the highest ground of mountain regions. Flight level Z being FL 95 is unacceptable. Flight conditions are often such that an upper limit of FL 95 is extremely restrictive.

The hang gliding and paragliding community is not prepared to pay for services that it does not use, it does not need and does not get any benefits from.

Changes of air space regulations must be subject to a full consultation with all affected parties. The consultation must include a full Safety, Environmental and Regulatory Impact Assessment.

In conclusion the EHPU supports sensible applications of procedures, which do not increase current restrictions for hang gliding and paragliding across Europe in the future.