

November 9, 2023

AN OPEN LETTER TO FAI BUREAU & CIVL DELEGATES

SPORT-class Paragliding CAT1 Championship Announcement

We, the undersigned, feel the announcement on the FAI News is premature and requires further consultation within the CIVL

On November 07, the board of the Commission Internationale de Vol Libre (CIVL) announced to its delegates the creation of a SPORT-class World Championship for 2025. The news was concurrently published on the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale website.

The article also suggested a major change to the WPRS system.

We, CIVL delegates and alternates, strongly feel the need to discuss in an open way such an important project. Most of us learned about this through the recently published news.

In addition to the fact that this announcement is totally premature, and out of the process of all the institutional international consultation methods, we are also very worried about the impact such a decision could have on the future of our sport.

Among the important points we would like to discuss are :

- The risk of deviating from the homologation requirements for SPORT-class gliders.
- Problems of fairness in racing with gliders whose homologation is not technically designed for racing.
- Safety risks for pilots participating whilst having less experience.
- The cost of such a first-class event for national flying clubs.
- The cost of such an event for the CIVL itself.
- The dissolution of the current world title.

- The plausibility that factory pilots, top ranked pilots, or former top ranked pilots will compete in the Sports Class, thereby either mixing very different level of pilots or duplicating the existing world championship

We hereby ask the CIVL board to respect international consultation procedures and to hold a vote on the organization of such a project at the next general assembly. We would also ask that the news announcement on the FAI website be withdrawn.

JANAWAY Brett - UK

SENAC Thomas - France

SANCHEZ GRANEL Eduardo - Argentina

BRANDLEHNER Thomas - Austria

DIMOV Daniel - Bulgaria: Please pause the execution of this decision until it has a green light from CIVL (the Plenary) !

MORALES GONZALES Antonio Lope - Spain

DECLERCQ Bram -Belgium

SONZOGNI Barbara - Italy

MILKO Thomas - Brazil - In favour of the new class. But we agree that this has to be discussed better. Many of the above mentioned issues must be accommodated. This is an opportunity to increase the base of competition pilots perhaps with a different public in mind. The next CIVL meeting could be dynamic, with an excellent opportunity to make delegates work point by point, in order to improve and approve this idea.

BUNTZ Harry - Germany

STAURSET Jon Erik - Norway

DELIGARIS Nick - Greece

SIGEL Michael - Switzerland