

EHPU Annual General Meeting 2026
Held on 31 January 2026, Prague, Czech Republic



Minutes.

Attendees in person:

Ewald Kaltenhofer (EK)	ÖAeC	Austria
Jean-Yves Squifflet (JY)	FBVL	Belgium
Miroslav Fejt (MF)	LAA	Czech Republic
Sanne Røhe (SR)	DHPU	Denmark
Thomas Senac (TS)	FFVL	France
Bernd Boeing (BB)	DHV	Germany
Bjorn Klaassen (BK)	DHV	Germany
Helmut Bach (HB)	DHV	Germany
Karl Slezak (KS)	DHV	Germany
László Szöllösi (LS)	HFFA	Hungary
Rodolfo Sacconi (RS)	FIVL	Italy
Mark de Lange (ML)	KNVvL	Netherlands
Trond Nielsen (TN)	NLF	Norway
Antonio Fernandes (AF)	FPVL	Portugal
Bojan Žižmond (BZ)	SFFA	Slovenia
Håkan Schwartz (HS)	SSFF	Sweden
Urs Frei (UF)	SHV	Switzerland
Christian Boppart (CB)	SHV	Switzerland
Marc Asquith (MA)	BHPA	UK
Angus Pinkerton (AP)	BHPA	UK

Mark Shaw (MS) EHPU General Secretary

Guests in person:

Pablo Rohrssen	AVLE	Spain
Maria Fejtova		Czech Republic

Joined remotely:

Sanne Both (NL)	KNVvL	Netherlands
Jesper Eybye (JE)	DHPU	Denmark

Guests online:

Andrea Anesini (AA)	EAS President	
Jose Alvarez Castillejo	RFAE	Spain
Ignio Rudin	RFAE	Spain
Antonio Lope Morales	RFAE	Spain

Documents referred to in these minutes will be uploaded to the AGM folder on the EHPU Internal site, once these minutes are approved by the Management Committee.

These minutes are for the public-facing section of the EHPU website and have been approved by the EHPU Management Committee.

For further details of presentations, EHPU Delegates may refer to the Internal storage part of the EHPU drive.

Item	Points	Action
1.0	Opening of the meeting	
1.1	The President, Miroslav Fejt, opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and guests. In accordance with Paragraph 11 of the Statutes, the Chairman of the Management Committee, Marc Asquith, then assumed responsibility for chairing the meeting.	
2.0	Application for EHPU membership - AVLE / RFAE – Spain.	
2.1	Marc Asquith provided a background to this item and confirmed that a simple majority vote from attending delegates was required to elect an entity to represent Spain within EHPU.	
2.2	Presentations were heard from RFAE (online) and AVLE (in person).	
2.3	Seven votes were received in support of AVLE. Five votes were received in support of RFAE. Three abstentions were noted (Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland).	
2.4	Following the results of the vote, the Chairman confirmed AVLE as the body to represent Spain to EHPU. The Chairman thanked both associations for their presentations.	
3.0	Confirmation of acceptance of Presidency – Denmark.	
3.1	Sanne Røhe confirmed the acceptance of the EHPU Presidency for the forthcoming year on behalf of Denmark.	
4.0	Treasurer’s Report (Antonio Fernandes).	
4.1	Antonio delivered his Treasurer’s Report, which had been circulated prior to the AGM. He noted that €12,000 in contributions had been paid late. France had now paid its 2025 membership fee.	
4.2	Treasurer’s Report Proposal 1: Use membership figures up to 31 December 2024 to calculate the 2026 fees, maintaining the same fee categories as in 2025. This proposal (issuing invoices at the beginning of the year) was unanimously approved for this year and for future years.	
4.3	Treasurer’s Report Proposal 2: Waive the lowest membership fee category (€70) to support smaller associations, with larger associations covering the shortfall. This proposal was approved with 12 votes in favour and one abstention.	
4.4	Estonia’s intention to leave EHPU was discussed. Delegates expressed hope that the decision under item 4.3 would encourage the Estonian Federation to remain. Mark Shaw to contact them to communicate EHPU’s decision.	
4.5	Antonio noted that EHPU expenses are gradually increasing each year. A possible inflation-based fee adjustment may be considered next year. No proposal was made to increase membership fees for the current year.	
4.6	The budget was approved by the delegates.	

4.7	Sanne Røhe asked about long-term asset strategy. Marc Asquith stated that current reserves are appropriate and there is no need to accumulate excessive funds. Mark de Lange noted that assets are approximately €30,000. Delegates expressed their thanks to Antonio for his report.	
5.0	Elections	
5.1	Treasurer: Antonio Fernandes was elected.	
5.2	General Secretary: Mark Shaw was elected.	
5.3	Management Committee members (four posts): Six candidates stood for election. Jean-Yves Squifflet, Rodolfo Saccani, Pablo Rohrssen and Marc Asquith were elected.	
5.4	Sanne Both confirmed that she is content to remain as ESTC Chairwoman.	
5.5	The Management Committee consequently consists of Sanne Røhe, Sanne Both, Antonio Fernandes, Jean-Yves Squifflet, Rodolfo Saccani, Pablo Rohrssen and Marc Asquith.	
6.0	General Secretary's report (Mark Shaw)	
6.1	Mark Shaw read his General Secretary's report to the AGM.	
6.2	He advised that the Management Committee had agreed to postpone publication of the MC Newsletter so that significant announcements (FIDA switch on and WG6 progress on the harness standard) could be included.	
7.0	EAS President's report (Andrea Anesini, EAS, online)	
7.1	Andrea reported on increasing challenges in EAS' liaison with EASA. He noted the following specific points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EASA leadership supports wider adoption of conspicuity devices. • Recommendation from EAS to EHPU: address issues on a country-by-country basis. • Emphasis within EAS will be on ensuring hang gliding and paragliding needs are recognised. • This will be Andrea's final term of office as President of EAS. 	
8.0	EAS Board Member's report (Rodolfo Saccani).	
8.1	Rodolfo gave a slideshow presentation to the meeting, covering the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe is a competitive player in the drone industry. • Concern: lack of visibility of HG and PG may lead to increased restrictions. • Free flight national bodies should consider mandatory conspicuity (ADS-L) in exchange for relaxed airspace restrictions. Rodolfo suggested that respective national positions be reported on at the next AGM. This was agreed as an action. <p>ACTION: All delegates to consider the implications of mandatory conspicuity and report these aspects to Rodolfo.</p>	All
8.2	Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Senac raised concerns about nature restrictions and identified the need for a framework to limit their scope. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that bird protection rules are often mandatory and difficult to challenge legally. A Danish national proposal that, from January 2027, all aircraft will be equipped with ADS-B or ADS-L was discussed. <p>The delegates expressed their thanks to Rodolfo.</p>	
9.0	EAS Delegate's report (Marc Asquith).	
9.1	Marc noted Andrea's and Rodolfo's reports covered all the important issues. He emphasised the importance of EHPU's continued representation within EAS, and maintaining a consistent long-term relationship which ensured the EAS Board's focus and attention to hang gliding and paragliding.	
10.0	Airspace Officer's report (Helmut Bach).	
10.1	Helmut delivered a slideshow presentation to the meeting, which was well received. Delegates thanked Helmut for his continued valuable input.	
11.0	Airworthiness Officer's report (Angus Pinkerton).	
11.1	Angus provided a report on the work of Working Group 6 (WG6) over the past year. He discussed progress on the EN 1651 harness standard and the EN 926-2 paraglider flight safety characteristics standard.	
11.2	Christian Boppart requested that pilot skills descriptors are re-inserted into the revision of the EN 926-2 flight safety characteristics standard.	
11.3	Angus reminded the delegates that the provision in the EHPU budget is for funding the WG6 secretariat (AFNOR) in 2026. He thanked delegates for their continued support.	
12.0	ESTC Chairwoman's report (Sanne Both).	
12.1	<p>Sanne reported that the EHPU EPI Tandem (non-commercial) card is now operational and noted that the recognition logo is now available for national associations to use on their membership cards.</p> <p>Thomas Senac noted that FFVL will not use the EPI logo and will continue using IPPI 6. There was discussion on the physical space available on national association membership cards for additional logos.</p>	
12.2	The next ESTC meeting will be in Austria and there will be an intermediate online meeting before that.	
13.0	EHPU E-membership card proposal (Lázsló Szöllösi)	
13.1	Lázsló did not present the proposal.	
14.0	EHPU Accident database (FIDA) report (Karl Slezak).	
14.1	Karl Slezak provided an update on FIDA which went live on 23 January 2026. EHPU data is now integrated into FIDA. The API allows selective data sharing with member association websites. The manufacturer's agreement for use has legal ramifications and is being reviewed.	
14.2	Björn Klaassen spoke about the costs for FIDA to date (approximately €60,000) with contributions from federations. This is divided into three use sectors (by aircraft type). Sailplanes and other activities are able to use FIDA, and will therefore contribute towards the cost.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHV will request additional funding (estimated a few thousand euros, which should be shared among users, particularly larger federations). • DHV will circulate a cost paper. • He confirmed that the one-time Associate member fee for non-European organisations joining FIDA is set at €400. 	
15.0	Associate Membership update – Mark Shaw	
15.1	Mark Shaw noted that with the recent switch-on of FIDA and the Associate Member joining fee for FIDA confirmed by DHV, formal invitations for Associate Membership of EHPU could now be sent out to national bodies outside Europe.	
16.0	Charitable foundation - Urs Frei	
16.1	<p>Urs raised the issue of pilots wishing to leave a donation or legacy to the HG and PG scene. Legal research in Switzerland indicates that the lack of ‘public interest’ status prevents tax-deductible donations. It was noted that UK and USA have existing models.</p> <p>Interested delegates are invited to contact Urs to discuss further.</p>	
17.0	Parakites: training and use, manufacturer responsibility and cross-border co-operation.	
17.1	The topics were combined, reflecting on the nature of the discussion, with parakites being the initiating theme.	
17.2	<p>Jesper Eybye introduced issues observed in Denmark, where visiting pilots (particularly those flying parakites) were causing difficulties for local clubs and placing sites at risk.</p> <p>The meeting noted that SHV has established a working group to address parakite and speed flying issues. It was proposed that ESTC coordinate this work.</p> <p>Speed flying was recognised as a distinct category requiring clearer definition and regulatory consideration across member countries.</p> <p>National updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norway: Parakites are integrated into the national safety system. Paraglider wings with a surface area of less than 16 m² are classified as speed gliders. • Denmark: Coastal parakite flying activity was reported on. No formal education or training system currently exists. A growing issue was identified concerning kitesurfers who are not members of national associations and may not be trained or adequately informed of safety or regulatory requirements. • UK: it is recognised that parakites follow ridge soaring patterns, share the same airspace as HG and traditional PG, and need to know ridge flying rules to share the air safely. They are an emerging activity which is popular with entrants to the sport from other (possibly complementary) activities. There should be a training route leading to a rating, so that participants can be brought on board to contribute to the growth of our airsports. <p>It was agreed that the topic of parakites be remitted to ESTC to consider safety and training implications, and to identify a common minimum training standard across EHPU nations, in the manner of the EPI tandem card.</p>	

17.3	<p>ACTION: ESTC to review parakite safety and training implications and propose a minimum training standard across EHPU nations.</p> <p>Manufacturer Responsibility</p> <p>Jesper presented a proposal from Denmark that manufacturers should sign a “responsibility accord”, committing to sell flying equipment only to trained pilots. It was agreed that this idea should be discussed at ESTC.</p> <p>The Assembly discussed the need for improved cooperation with manufacturers, particularly in relation to safety, standards, and user education.</p>	
17.4	<p>Cross-Border Cooperation</p> <p>It was confirmed that cross-border flying (visiting pilots) is generally permitted. An example discussed at this meeting was that a German pilot may fly in the UK.</p> <p>The meeting noted differences in national legal requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Spain, the Netherlands, and the UK, there is no legal requirement for third-party insurance for non-commercial flying. • In Switzerland, a potential future requirement may require foreign pilots to display identification numbers on their gliders. <p>The meeting noted that the EN 926-2 standard is required in Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Austria, and Germany. Italian law requires a “glider suitable for education” for use in training establishments.</p> <p>The need for greater harmonisation of standards and regulations across Europe was emphasised. Continued work is required at ESTC level to improve harmonisation. Delegates are encouraged to share national regulatory developments and challenges.</p> <p>ACTION: Delegates are to review the foreign pilot guidance on their home websites which is linked to via the EHPU website.</p>	
18.0	<p>Any Other Business.</p>	
18.1	<p>Urs Frei announced his upcoming retirement from SHV Board. It was noted he may attend the next AGM alongside the incoming Swiss President. The concept of an EHPU alumni group was suggested.</p>	
	<p>The Presidency was handed from Czech Republic to Denmark with Sanne Røhe accepting the Presidency from Miroslav Fejt. It was acknowledged that Jesper Eybye would be taking over the DK Presidency when fully in post.</p>	
	<p>The AGM closed at 16:30</p>	

ACTIONS opened and continuing:

Management Committee	AGM_2024_10.8	Management Committee to look at ways to monitor nature restrictions of HG and PG sites in member countries.	Continuing
Bojan Žižmond	AGM_2024_22.3	Bojan Žižmond to submit to MC a check of foreign pilots coming to Slovenia.	Continuing

Helmut Bach	AGM_2025_11.4	Helmut to translate the German document to provide to Arild Solbakken on guidelines for planning airspace.	Closed
All delegates	AGM_2026_8.1	All delegates to consider the implications of mandatory conspicuity and report these aspects to Rodolfo Saccani.	Opened
Sanne Both ESTC	AGM_2026_17.2	ESTC to review parakite safety and training implications and propose a minimum training standard across EHPU nations.	Opened
All delegates	AGM_2026_17.43	Delegates are to review the foreign pilot guidance on their home websites which is linked to via the EHPU website.	Opened