

To: Richard Meredith-Hardy r.mh@flymicro.com
Cc: CIMA Bureau cima-bureau@fai.org
Cc: Board of Estonian NAC juhatus@lennusport.org

February 4th, 2013

Dear Richard

All members of Estonian NAC have carefully read your recent correspondence, regarding the FAI European Paramotor Championships of 2013, cancelled by now.

It was under long discussion yesterday, during our Annual Conference. Almost half active members totally disapproved the ways the matter has been handled from Estonian side. Nevertheless, this did not make up the majority for making up any decisions or significant change in the field.

Therefore, I am writing a personal letter to you, on behalf of the abovementioned minority.

We DO apologize for the ways our delegates to CIMA as well as the organizers of the prospective competitions Mr. Kõlar and Mr. Maaten have behaved. This is not what all Estonian pilots approve, this is not our normal way of being involved in sports.

I've been in air sports since 1971, firstly in aero modelling and then mostly in parachuting, having had long professional sports career. Since 1991 I introduced ballooning to Estonia and from 1996 I have been mainly coaching in the fields of paragliding and paramotoring. (Also, both Mr. Kõlar and Mr. Maaten have been my students, years ago. Yet, their behaviour is not from our school!) Nowadays I participate mainly in paragliding accuracy competitions but, still keep active hold on other before mentioned areas, too.

Your letter from January 30th is totally clear for me as well as for all our concerned members, there are counted real and consequent failures. Any responsible person would resign himself, after that.

Nevertheless, these persons have, also domestically, even failed in admitting ANY disgrace or blame. Still, even the President of our NAC keeps justifying their arguments and our pilots are divided and in continuing controversy. For instance, Mr. Kolar has written, explaining the reasons of withdrawal of the FAI sanction, as follows: "*As it has turned out, people are living in the Stone Age over there (in CIMA), worse than expected by us...*"

We feel really sorry over having such representative(s) of us.

One more thing, Estonian Paragliding & Paramotoring Association, in spite of its auspicious name, is just one member of our NAC, not any kind of national umbrella organisation. Therefore, all national or open competitions, held here until now under their auspices, have brought together usually 5-8, maximum of 15 pilots last year. Having only these in their portfolio, it is definitely too high-flown even to strive towards holding Cat 1 event or, moreover, demanding for amending the existing Sporting Code and other regulations. We keep working towards more integral approaches in our air sports but there are not many people in our tiny community who would like to be responsible for any matter and, who could also act as men of integrity.

Once more, our apologies for the excessive trouble occurred to you and to CIMA Bureau as well as the Plenary and, please do not judge all Estonian air sports on these grounds.

Yours Sincerely

Sergei Usanov
Aero Sport Association, Estonia

P.S. This is a private letter for public usage that may be forwarded to anyone concerned. We are aware of teams who were collecting their specific sponsorships for participating in the event that is void now. S.U.