

REPORT OF ULTRALIGHT FLYING IN SWITZERLAND 2023

1 General Activity

During 2023, activities in the ultralight sector have caught up and returned back to normal as before the COVID-pandemic. However, Swiss legislation still bans or at least severely restricts flying with paramotors, trikes, and most other ultralight aircraft, and as one of the few European nations, still prohibits a MTOW of 600 kg for most categories. Therefore, the Swiss Microlight Federation is focusing on legal actions in favour of ultralight aeronautical activities being allowed in Switzerland. Thus, it is the intention and focus of the Swiss Microlight Federation to enable safe, ecological, and affordable flying – similar to what is normal in most (neighbouring) countries.

Facts: Approximately 200 pilots, 200 aircraft (ca. 30 eco-light certified), no competitions at all due to the legal situation. Paragliders and delta gliding are represented by the SHV; non-electric paramotors are still banned in Switzerland.

2 Accidents

Nothing to report.

3 Regulations

No changes in 2023.

Swiss Authorities restrict UL in Switzerland according to EASA Basic Regulation Annex 1, which means that gyrocopters can be registered up to 600 kg and UL-airplane up to 475 kg, with an additional restriction of 65 dB and a maximum of 120 HP due to emissions. Unfortunately, 475 kg airplanes are no longer being produced, so a decline is to be foreseen. Even an electric 600 kg airplane cannot be operated regularly in Switzerland. To fly in Switzerland with a foreign registered aircraft, an expensive Permit to Fly for a maximum of 60 days per year is required. Therefore, many Swiss UL-pilots are flying in France, Germany, and Italy...

Meanwhile, the SMF is working hard for improvements on both legal and political levels. As UL membership has exploded in Europe (+100,000 members) this simpler, more ecological discipline has become essential.

4 Sport activity

Little to report: Only some rather private get-together and unofficial flying. However, many Swiss-based pilots actively fly in the neighbouring countries.



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