



## EUROPEAN BALLOONING FEDERATION: CLEARED TO TAKE OFF!

Paris, August 26<sup>th</sup> 2014

The European Ballooning Federation – EBF – was founded on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2014, with the first organization's General Meeting, held at the Aero-Club de France in Paris. The founding countries were: Austria, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK.

The object of the Federation is to support all ballooning activities in Europe; in particular it aims to achieve a suitable regulatory environment in consultation with national and European regulatory Authorities for the well-being and promotion of ballooning in Europe.

EBF will be a member of Europe Air Sports and organize the voices of balloonists throughout Europe, focusing mainly on vital issues such as F CL 65, ATO's, safety and security. Since the first meeting, Germany, Italy, Spain and Hungary have expressed their willingness to sign in.

After many open and creative e-mail exchanges between all future members, the draft of statutes was approved, and the first Executive Committee had a virtual meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>. It is composed of:

- President: Patricia Lamy, France
- Vice-president: Karel Abbenes, The Netherlands
- Secretary General: Phil Dunnington, UK
- Treasurer: Thomas Herndl, Austria

EBF's executives will make sure that all European balloonists understand the issues at stake: for most pilots and even for national balloonists organizations, where most people are volunteers, it is quite impossible to keep up with EASA's continuous feed of information, questionnaires, never ending memos, requests for opinions, meetings, etc.. All in administrative English with quite a number of acronyms. EBF is now here to explain, to gather opinions from all member countries, and to express the concerns.

It is quite clear for many balloonists that, if EBF does not make itself heard quite soon, problems will be solved quickly as within 5 years, there will probably be no more balloon flights in Europe.

September and October 2014 are important months, as several meetings will take place in Europe, and decisions will be taken. EBF will be now be taking part!

To reach EBF's Executive Committee, ask for more detail, sign in, please contact one of us:

Patricia Lamy: [lamypatricia@orange.fr](mailto:lamypatricia@orange.fr)

Karel Abbenes: [karel@pbnballon.nl](mailto:karel@pbnballon.nl)

Phil Dunnington: [phil@gonewiththewind.uk.com](mailto:phil@gonewiththewind.uk.com)

Thomas Herndl: [ballon@mbt.at](mailto:ballon@mbt.at)