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**Air Show Rally around Schengen
Schengen 25th anniversary - White Nights 71°
Luxembourg – North Cape Rally**

Dear delegates and friends,

As you probably all know the 25th anniversary of the “Schengen Agreement” was celebrated this year. This celebration is of the utmost importance for General Aviation as the Schengen agreement allows pilots to fly without customs or other restrictions across the so-called “Schengen States” area.

You may also be aware that the Schengen agreement was signed originally by five signatory States (France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) on a ship (Marie-Astrid) on the Luxembourg/French/German border situated around the wine producing area of the Moselle river.

We had placed high hopes in a massive participation of European pilots in both rallies. We have sent invitations by email and snail mail to all NAC Presidents and Secretaries, to EPFU and Europe Air Sports constituents as well as directly to local Aero Clubs in France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

It was disappointing to see that, despite all efforts, the invitation did raise limited interest for the sports part in as much as only 4 participants registered for the Air Show Rally and 2 participants registered for the White Nights Rally while 26 participants registered for the Fly-in around Schengen and 7 for the fly-out from Luxembourg to the North Cape.

I trust you will understand that, considering the limited number of registrations, a rally could not be organized, resulting in the cancellation of the 2 sports events. However the fly-in during the Air Show was successful after all as 40 participants arrived directly at Bitburg airport. The North Cape fly out was likewise a success as 9 aircraft flew to the North Cape, covering 8000 km, passing through Germany, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

I am disappointed about the little enthusiasm for sports events shown by pilots despite publicity, intensive efforts deployed by the organizers to provide an eventful air show program unique in Germany along with attractive prices, sponsored sightseeing and social events, as well as a “good value for money” hotel (58€ per night), located directly on the Bitburg airport site.

I am looking forward to receiving your comments/suggestions so that we know which improvements we can take on board to make future events even more attractive!

Jean Birgen
Luxembourg delegate to GAC