



**Presentation of Finesse +**  
**Association française d'Aéromodélisme**

**Fondation : The french « Drone law”**

2016 : Following 2015 attacks and potential nuclear plants flyover, French “drone law” project is issued to the parliament by prime minister cabinet.

Its main measure is the compulsory electronic reporting system, a kind of a low cost transponder, which also applies to model aircraft.

Despite reassurances from the historic French federation, there is a great deal of concern among clubs and aeromodellers. An interest group “Sauvons l’aéromodélisme” (Save Model Flying !) is created to put pressure on the parliament during the law debate.

A petition is launched and collected over 12,000 signatures. Despite these actions, the law is passed with the promise that aeromodellers would not be directly impacted. The parliament did however , opened the way to exemptions, which unfortunately not followed later by the administration.

French aviation authority DGAC requests from the collective, prior hearing its inputs, to be constituted in a legal structure. This is leading in November 2016 to the creation of Finesse + as a defence organisation for model flying. From the beginning, we made the choice to focus on leisure practice, and in particular slope soaring. This activity is directly impacted by this law. The goal is to give speech to the individuals or isolated modelers.

With members among the most experienced model flyers in France, a group of expertise is constituted to input the settlement of drone law. At this step, only the general principle of the law has been put into force. The details have yet to be defined by the administration. Finesse + integrates the “Conseil des Drones Civils”, (Council of Civil Drones), a commission created by French authorities led by DGAC. We take all the opportunities to prevent this regulation to be too restrictive for us.

Particularly, we establish a technical definition of what is a model aircraft against a drone. This definition has not been defaulted up to date.

In November 2019, the implementing decree for the electronic reporting system is published the day before our appointment with the authorities about this topic. To be exempt from electronic reporting device, a discriminatory condition based on membership of an association has been introduced.

Faced with the legal risk of seeing all French and foreign aeromodellers forced to bear this injustice, we have



decided not to contest the implementing decree. We take this fight to another level: Europe.

### **Finesse + and Europe :**

From the very beginning of Finesse +, we thought that model flyers would have more impact if they were united at a higher level than domestic one. European level appeared to be the most relevant for our territory. Thus, we followed EMFU constitution with interest.

In 2017, EASA introduced its first NPA on what would finally end as regulation 2019/947. Since the beginning of this process, Finesse + participated directly in its name to every step, contributing to every request from EASA, European parliament, and Commission as well from French Aviation Authority: DGAC.

We developed during this period strong ties with other European organisations, such as the SMV for Switzerland and DMFV for Germany. Our counterpart for alpine German speaking countries IG Hangflug emerged and immediately we developed friendship ties with them.

During the Covid period, we took this opportunity to develop our internet site to provide an accurate information on how complex it is to fly in France and for slope soarers, an active map of the spots with all the relevant information: description, ceiling, legal concerns, parking, walk duration and weather prediction. For lonely or isolated flyers, we can also provide insurance, as we benefit of the DMFV coverage. For foreign flyers, we have a specific program, called "euromembers". With a passive membership to a french club, it allows them to benefit on declared places of the same rights as French pilots. Complying exactly with French regulations, it allows foreign pilots to avoid the electronic reporting system on declared fields.

### **And today:**

Model flying, despite being a fantastic hobby has known better times. The golden age is truly over, and the way we have used to practice for years is now put on question. Among other threats, the access to airspace is now a major stake for our future. Finesse + is clearly engaged in the preservation of access to airspace for model flyers. The implementation of U-Space within the EU will be the major issue of the coming months.

Finesse + is trying to build bridges across European model flyers. As our activity is totally cross border, joining EMFU is now an evidence for us.