NATIONAL REPORT (Eero Vapaavuori, Finland)

General aviation, private pilots and light aircraft owners together with Aero Clubs, have suffered from two major changes since the beginning of this year.

First of all, the price of avgas was increased by almost 60 % to about 2,30 Euro/l. Secondly, all general aviation insurances were discontinued by Finnish insurance companies: fortunately, it was possible to negotiate new policies with other companies, but for higher prices. It is too early, however, to predict the effects of increased costs on recreational or sport aviation for the time beeing.

There is another problem in the near future for those, who use motor gasoline (most ultralights and also older aircraft) – etanol (up to 10%) added to mogas.

Nobody seems to know exactly, what should be done to protect the engines from the adverse effects of added etanol. For example, most engine companies, according to their STC´s, restrict the amount of etanol to less than 1%.

Since last fall, there has been little discussion on the proposed LAPL requirements in Finland. Everybody seems to be waiting fot the new proposals to be published. I have agreed to write an article on the subject for the Finnish Aero Club journal (ILMAILU) in July.