

NATIONAL REPORT (FINLAND / Eero Vapaavuori)

During the last few years, general aviation in Finland seemed to be developing favourably, as indicated by the number of new pilots and aircraft (mostly ultra lights). However, serious problems have emerged during this year: first of all

- All insurance companies in Finland have given notice to discontinue **all** light aircraft insurance policies as of the end of this year. The Finnish Aero Club together with AOPA Finland are feverishly trying to find other companies (elsewhere in Europe) to negotiate with. There seems to be a special problem in getting reasonable terms in covering seaplanes, because most of the accidents have occurred to ultra-lights on floats.
- The battle against raising the cost of AV gasoline by at least 50 cents per liter was lost and the higher prices will be effective as of the beginning of next year.
- The user charges, including registration fees, landing and parking fees etc. have been greatly increased by our CAA; even museum registered aircraft have lost their privileges.

Finally, in contrast to changes made in Class I aeromedical requirements, there does not seem to be any positive development in lowering the standards and requirements for recreational pilots.