

Speech of Dipl. Eng. Piotr Lewinski

Minister of Communications

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome and greet all the representatives of science and technology who have arrived for the XIth Congress of the Organisation Scientifique et Technique Internationale du Vol à Voile, OSTIV. I want to express my words of real satisfaction that after ten years this Congress is again being held in our country, in our capital of gliding, Leszno.

The significance of gliding is fully appreciated by Polish society and by Polish authorities. Such popularity of gliding in Poland not only helps in the progress of the universal physical skills, but also is a real element of education of our youth. It helps create such significant aspects of character, as: bravery, independent decisions, skillfulness, responsibility, discipline and real companionship. There is no need to underline how these aspects of the character are valuable and useful in the life of every man, in every profession and in every position. The sport's achievements gained by Polish gliding pilots and the long, beautiful traditions in this field are the subject of our pride and joy. The development of the contemporary glider gives higher requirements for glider utilization and has had significant influence on the progress of many branches of science and technology, such as: aerodynamics, chemistry and meteorology. The search for the proper construction materials for gliders and the constant attempt to achieve their best quality accelerates the progress in the other technical branches.

I especially underline the great merits of the OSTIV and what it has done for the development of modern gliding technology. This organisation unites all the efforts of scientists and engineers of many countries and makes possible the consolidation of experiences and achievements which help to coordinate scientific research for new solutions. Due to the activity of OSTIV, those countries having a smaller technical base and not possessing scientific institutions, have the possibility of using the scientific achievements of other countries. In this activity, a big role is played by the OSTIV Congresses, organized at the same time of the World Gliding Championships. The newest scientific/technical achievements are presented during these international Congresses and later the lectures are published in the official organ and in the OSTIV Publications. A big achievement of OSTIV was the establishment of the popular Standard Class gliders. As an extra stimulus for the engineers designing gliders with simple construction and with high technical values, OSTIV created an award for the construction of the glider most similar to the idea of the Standard Classe. The laureate of this award is chosen by competition during the World Gliding Championships. By the way, it is worth underlining the development of gliding technology accomplished by Polish scientists and engineers. Polish pilots flying our gliders during successive World Championships have gained top places. Just

to prove the popularity of the Polish gliders is that during the XIth World Championships 27 gliders of Polish construction are starting. The merit of our specialists for the development of gliding was highly appreciated by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, FAI, who awarded the first Paul Tissandier diploma to the Polish producer of gliders — The Gliding Experimental Institution in Bielsko Biala. Ladies and Gentlemen, I express my deep conviction that during the XIth Congress of OSTIV the exchange of scientific and technical ideas and the vivid discussions of new problems will improve the progress in glider technology and gliding meteorology. This meeting of representatives from 26 countries, people united by mutual interest and mutual fondness, will make the friendship closer and will strengthen the feeling of belonging to the mutual flying family. These kind of meetings facilitate the broad possibilities of the different contacts of international cooperation independent from political differences. These meetings serve for peace, security and friendship among the people all over the world. It is our mutual aim to search, cultivate and develop all these things that unite us and make us closer in every sphere of our life and also in this sphere of gliding. Closing my speech, I express my warm greetings to all the participants, wishing you interesting discussions, talks and meetings. Moreover, I wish you a happy and useful time in our country.