

*Flying Club Ursel,
the Belgian Handflight Fund,
and Aéroclub Paul-Louis Weiller,
kindly invite you to the joint
inauguration of:*

With the support of
the Flemish authorities 

INVITATION



Kris Van Nuffel (links), founder Belgian Handflight Fund and Philippe Carette (President Aéroclub P.L.Weiller) at Ursel during a demo weekend.

the Belgian Handflight Fund

Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Philippe

and Project Ursel Handflight

A Private Pilot License for persons with a lower limb disability
Project supported by the Flemish authorities – Department of Sports

**In presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Sibilla of Luxemburg
and His Royal Highness Prince Guillaume of Luxemburg**

Belgian Handflight Fund

Fonds beheerd door de Koning Boudewijnstichting
Brederodestraat 21
B-1000 Brussel
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11 september 2009

Vliegclub Ursel vzw

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Invitation:

We like to kindly invite you on the inauguration of the Belgian Handflight Fund and the very first sports aircraft in Belgium that has been adapted with hand controls by Flying Club Ursel. This unique project will open up the recreative flight to Belgian disabled persons with a disability of the lower limbs. This inauguration is placed under High Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Philippe. Being a passionate pilots Himself as well, Prince Philippe showed his interest from in the beginning of our project. We also are very honored by the presence of the Royal Highnesses Prince 'Guillaume and Princess Sibilla of Luxemburg. The inauguration will be combined with a European Disabled Pilots Fly In at Ursel airfield. All of this is planned on September the 26th 2009 at Ursel airfield (EBUL) and in the clubhouses of Flying Club Ursel.

Informative:

On May the 8th 2009 the Belgian Handflight Fund was founded by Kris Van Nuffel (a disabled pilot) within the King Baudouin Foundation. The mayor objective of the Belgian Handflight Fund is to make the flying sports accessible for disabled people in Belgium as well. This goal will be accomplished by adapting aircrafts in the Flemish and the Wallonian part of Belgium and by making accessible the infrastructures of the airfields and flying clubs involved. One and other is done taking an example at countries as England and France, who have allowed disabled people to learn to fly since the early seventies.

The experiences over there have been proving that for a disabled person, earning his or her pilot license is an adventurous experience and even a huge victory over his or her disability, giving extra confidence to the disabled pilots throughout the formation and a lot of joy in flight thereafter. In the air, every disabled pilot becomes a pilot as all pilots are. We are talking about the same passion here, and about the same abilities. The family and relatives also get "enflamed" by the flying passion and the drives of the disabled pilot and throughout the formation even tend to "forget" the disability of their pilot and start to focus on his or her abilities, rather than on the restrictions.

The Ursel Handflight project was realized in close collaboration with the French Flying club Aéroclub Paul-Louis Weiller who designed the European certified hand controls that now are being using in Belgium too. They convinced and advised the instructors and Board of Flying Club Ursel during a demonstration weekend and thereafter also have made available their adapted Piper aircraft at several times for other demonstration and test flights. The Aéroclub Paul-Luis Weiller was founded in the year 1972 in Les Mureaux (near Paris) by the grandfather of Her Royal Highness Princess Sibilla and from the very beginning was focusing on disabled flight. HRH Princess Sibilla still has regular

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contacts with Aéroclub Paul-Louis Weiller. No wonder she was informed about our Belgian project from in the early days already. Since then She kept in touch and followed our progress with a lot of interest and enthusiasm. Months ago HRH Princess Sibilla also mentioned she was interested in the inauguration event and wanted to come to Belgium to have a closer look at the results of our hard work, and now ... we are very honored that HRH Princess Sibilla will be present at the inauguration indeed.

Flying Club Ursel is the very first Belgian flying club that has adapted one of its' Piper aircrafts to give the disabled a chance to learn to fly. With the French LPS hand controls system, persons with a lower limb disability easily can take over rudder controls (normally controlled with the feet) with both hands. Furthermore the system is consisting of two quick dismountable handles that in few seconds can be removed from the cockpit, thus restoring it to its original configuration. So, from now on, in Belgium disabled persons can fly with the very same aircraft, and within the very same flying club. Disabled pilots now can be fully integrated in the flying- and social activities of any flying club.

However, the Belgian Handflight Fund and this first project "Ursel Handflight" not only are oriented towards wheelchair users. Also persons with muscular diseases, Multiple Sclerosis, persons walking with crutches, or persons with a smaller disability as e.g. a drop foot can learn to fly with these hand controls as well. Another good example are persons with a single or double leg amputation under or above the knee, that in most cases still can walk very well with prosthesis, but that are not capable of controlling or dosing rudder pedals or toe brakes in a decent way in a standard aircraft.

Public call:

The Belgian Handflight Fund hereby makes a public call to all interested flying clubs in Belgium that would like to launch a project to allow disabled pilots to fly with their aircrafts as well, whatever the flying discipline might be. One should know that the Belgian Handflight Fund is *not* focusing on adapting sports aircrafts only. Handflight also want to adapt gliders, ultralights and other aircraft types. Adapting aircrafts is not cheap. A lot of money is needed to reach our goals and to complete projects like this one. Therefore also all private persons, service clubs and companies willing to support the Handflight Fund in a financial way, are kindly invited to contact the fund. All needed information can be found on the Handflight web site: www.handflight.be

Flying Club Ursel *also* want to invites all interested persons with a disability at the lower limbs to come over to Ursel airport and to have a closer look at their adapted Piper aircraft. They will be happy to inform every disabled visitor and will give him or her a chance to give the hand controls a try on the ground ... and even in the air with an instructor. More information can be found on their web site www.ebul.be

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European Disabled Aviators s Fly In:

In Belgium this inauguration is the start of disabled flying. However, in France and England disabled pilots are flying from in the early seventies already. To show the international press and all interested people what disabled flight really is about, this event also will be combined with a European Disabled Pilots Fly In. When the weather conditions on the inauguration day allow, several French, English and German adapted aircrafts and their disabled pilots will attend Ursel airport. They will be ravished to tell you all about their passion and will be happy to answer all of your questions.

The Luxemburg disabled pilots flying club "I come Icare" will be present with their adapted aircraft and some disabled pilots as well. This association was founded with the support of HRH Prince Guillaume of Luxemburg (married with HRH Princess Sibilla of Luxemburg), who also will be attending the Ursel inauguration.

To all journalists, interested disabled persons, donors and visitors we thus want to offer an ideal opportunity to talk with the European Disabled Aviators and to have a look how things are done in practice, on the ground ... and even in the air.

With kind regards,

Flying Club Ursel
Belgian Handflight Fund
Aéroclub Paul-Louis Weiller

*In annex: - Program of the event
- Details of the lunch buffet*

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NOTE: *To be able to organize things in a good way, we would like to ask you to confirm your participation to this unique event. To do so, please contact Flying Club Ursel or Handflight and mention the number of people attending the event, and their names. In case you arrive by air, also let us know the type of aircraft and its registration. (EBUL is PPR)*

*Please send your confirmation mail to: info@handflight.be or vnk@skynet.be
You also can call Kris Van Nuffel on: +32 473 98 23 76 (cell phone)*

Or fax the confirmation note underneath to: +32 9 377 11 94

PARTICIPATION NOTE:

*Mr./Mrs.. will visit the inauguration event at Ursel
airport on September the 26th and will be accompanied by persons.*

*We will participate to the Buffet Lunch at Saturday noon with persons and will
make a wire transfer to the Ursel Vliegclub bank account nr. 290-0103415-34 of 25€ per
person participating to the lunch buffet*

When coming by air: Aircraft type: with registration:

We can be reached on (phone or cell phone) nr.:

or by E-mail on:

Our address:

.....

We expect to arrive on (URSEL = PPR! First Call +32 9 374 12 90)

And to leave on (Note: reserve your DEPT slot before leaving)

Date:

Signature:

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PROGRAM

- 09h30** **Arrival of the guests and the pilots at Ursel**
- 10h00** **Start press conference**
- Welcome by Flying Club Ursel
Presentation of Project Ursel Handflight
Presentation of the Belgian Handflight Fund
Speeches by eminences
Speeches by European Disabled Aviators representants
- 11h00** **Inauguration and baptizing of the first Belgian adapted Piper P28A aircraft (matriculated OO-VFR)**
- 11h30** **Maiden flight OO-VFR**
- 12h30** **Start lunch buffet**
- 14h30** **Start demonstration flights by European Disabled Pilots (with passengers and journalists on board)**
- 18h00** **End of the event.**

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LUNCH BUFFET

Booth 1 :

- *Fresh salmon “Belle –vue”*
- *Tomatoes with grey North sea shrimps*

Booth 2:

- *Scampi skewer with delicious sauce of white wine*

Booth 3 :

- *Smoothly broiled ham with Provencal sauce*
- *Griled entrecote with béarnaise sauce*

Booth 4 :

- *Gratin of tortellini with 4 kinds of cheese*
- *Tagliatelli with Provencal sauce*

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