Pierre Taquet, an engineer at Sonaca and co-author of the book «Sonaca, 80 years of passion for the aviation industry2 », explained: «The formation flight of the Sonaca 200 and the Tipsy which we attended on May 9 is obviously a historically significant event. 60 years separate the first flights of these two machines which were both developed and produced by Sonaca and its predecessor, Fairey. As a young engineer, I know many colleagues who worked during the Tipsy3 era and directly participated in the studies and production of the Nipper.

I found their signature on the plans for the two-seater version which Fairey had considered at the time: The Bipper. And now it has been materialized through the Sonaca 200 with the same care in the design and realization which is the reason why the Nipper is still flying and remains in very high demand on the market. It is a pleasure to see the young Sonaca Aircraft team, which has now taken over, at work with the same enthusiasm and desire for perfection».

Edouard Martin, the Tipsy pilot, said, « 5 years ago in Great Britain, I had the opportunity to buy the last Belgian aircraft, the «Tipsy Nipper 4». As a Belgian pilot, I was particularly proud to be able to fly the aircraft back to its native country. More than half a century after the Nipper, Belgium is back on the aviation market with the « Sonaca 200 Trainer ».

On May 9, the Nipper and its younger sibling, the Sonaca 200, accomplished a very beautiful formation flight on a sunny afternoon. It is needless to say that this was a very emotional flight! It is a pleasure to fly on these two aircraft, which demonstrate the expertise of Belgian aviation. I would like to thank Pierre Van Wetter for having organized this historic flight and allowing me to participate! ».

3 Tips: Ernest Oscar Tips, Belgian engineer, founder of Fairey Aircraft S.A. in Gosselies.