



Drones in 2014

An Android game based on the recent chaotic Serbia versus Albania football match is dividing opinion in the two countries, it's reported.

A drone carrying an Albanian nationalist flag, showing claims on neighbouring territories, is flown above the stands and pitch at the Partizan Stadium. Serbia defender Stefan Mitrovic pulls down the flag, which several Albania players then attempt to take. A melee involving numerous players ensues, prompting English referee Martin Atkinson to lead the teams off the field after some fans got on to the pitch

Following a delay of about 30 minutes, the match is abandoned

The game, called Autochthonous, is by inspired the teams' Euro 2016 qualifying match on 14 October. In the game, a player has to keep a banner-carrying drone in the air as it flies over a football stadium, while a footballer on the ground tries to grab it. A point is awarded if the footballer jumps but can't reach the banner.

Autochthonous - meaning indigenous - takes its name from the phrase emblazoned on the real-life banner. It's proved popular with Albanian users, but has upset some Serbs who say it's offensive and shouldn't have been released by the Google Play store, the website reports. The game's developer is Macedonian, and doesn't think it's offensive. "It's a harsh metaphor for what happened in Belgrade, which includes all sides, the Albanian national team, the Serbs and UEFA," Yusuf Aliya tells the website. "If the game continues to be interpreted politically and worst, if it sows ethnic hatred, it will be removed," he says. "Football is a game, which should be played and not fought. Just like my game."

An unidentified drone came close to hitting a plane as it landed at Heathrow, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has confirmed.

An Airbus A320 pilot reported seeing a helicopter-style drone as the jet was 700 feet off the ground on its approach to the runway at 1416 GMT on 22 July 2014. The CAA has not identified the airline or how close the drone came to the plane, which can carry 180 people.

It gave the incident an "A" rating, meaning a "serious risk of collision".

This is the highest incident rating the CAA can give.

Investigators were unable to identify the drone, which did not appear on air traffic control radar and disappeared after the encounter.

Crash warning

In May this year the pilot of an ATR 72 turbo-prop plane reported seeing a helicopter drone only 80 feet away as he approached Southend airport at a height of 1,500 feet.

The incidents have prompted a warning from the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) that the rapid increase in the number of drones operated by amateur enthusiasts now poses "a real risk" to commercial aircraft.

Compiled by Chris Waller, ACT from a variety of media sources 2014