

Abstract

The invention relates to a sail propulsion element, comprising a mast (3), an inflatable sail (1) consisting essentially of two substantially fluidtight adjacent surfaces (5) joined together along their periphery, thus forming at least one closed cavity between them, said sail comprising an upper part (6), a lower part (7), a leading edge (8) and a trailing edge (9), the sail comprising various cambers forming bulges along its entire length, at least one air conduit positioned between the inside and the outside of the cavity of the sail, at least one means for injecting air into said cavity, the sail once inflated having a profile that remains permanently symmetrical, irrespective of the movement of said propulsion element, or of the direction or strength of the wind, a headboard (10) positioned on the upper part (6) of the sail, and a sail receptacle (11) positioned between the leading edge (8) and the trailing edge (9) on the lower part of the sail. The element according to the invention is characterized in that it comprises at least one guide line (12) positioned in the closed cavity of said sail, for the manoeuvres of hoisting and dropping the sail, said guide line extending from the leading edge (8) to the trailing edge (9) of said sail, passing through the headboard (10) and the sail receptacle (11).

20 Figure for the abstract: Figure 2