

Abstract

The invention relates to a sail propulsion element, comprising a mast (3), an inflatable or non-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, an 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 of the sail, and a sail receptacle (11) positioned between the leading edge and the trailing edge on the lower part of the sail. The element according to the invention is characterized in that the mast is located forward of the centre of aerodynamic thrust of the sail, in that the mast is or is not free to rotate by 360°, and in that the sail comprises at least one means maintaining a slight pressure in the sail.

Figure for the abstract: Figure 2