



EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE EUROPÉENNE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

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European Commission and ECAC Directors General of the European Civil Aviation Conference confirm shared commitment to further development of European air transport

Paris, 13 December 2012 — On the occasion of the participation of Mr Siim Kallas, Vice President of the European Commission, in the 139th meeting of ECAC Directors General, the European Commission and the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the 44 ECAC Member States confirmed their shared commitment to cooperating together wherever possible in international forums to support and promote the further development of European air transport, in the interests of the European people and the region's economy.

As reflected in a joint Declaration signed during the meeting by Vice President Kallas and the ECAC President Catalin Radu (Director General of Civil Aviation for Romania), the European Commission and ECAC Directors General addressed a range of current civil aviation issues, and *inter alia*: –

welcomed the progress made by European air transport in recent decades and emphasised the importance of a Pan-European approach to its continuing development, as reflected in the Commission's recent Communication on the EU's external aviation policy;

acknowledged the progress made in implementing the 'Single European Sky' initiative, while also recognising the challenges posed by the establishment of Functional Airspace Blocks, and undertook to exercise their influence wherever appropriate to accelerate this process;

affirmed their commitment to making progress within the International Civil Aviation Organisation towards a global solution on the issue of aviation and climate change at next year's 38th Session of the ICAO Assembly; and

emphasised the importance of cooperation in developing mutual recognition of aviation security measures and one-stop security arrangements between EU and non-EU ECAC Member States, where appropriate.

The full text of the Declaration, which also addressed the safety and economic dimensions of European air transport, is attached here and available on the ECAC Web site.

Cooperation between ECAC and the European Commission was further in evidence during the 13 December meeting in the signing of a Cooperation Arrangement between the two sides in the field of civil aviation security, setting forth provisions under which they intend to pursue cooperative activities and exchange information.

For further information, please contact pkirk@ecac-ceac.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The European Civil Aviation Conference brings together the widest grouping of States of any European organisation dealing with civil aviation, being currently composed of 44 Member States (see list below). Based in Paris, ECAC has since 1955 promoted the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system. In so doing, it seeks to harmonise civil aviation policies and practices amongst its Member States, and to promote understanding on policy matters between its Member States and other regions of the world. A policy statement on "ECAC's Strategy for the Future" can be found on the [ECAC Web site](#).

ECAC's Member States are: *Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.*

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Declaration of the European Commission and the Directors General of ECAC on the occasion of the visit of the Vice President of the European Commission Mr. Siim Kallas to DGCA/139 on 13 December 2012

The Directors General of the Civil Aviation of the Member States of the European Civil Aviation Conference, meeting in Paris on 13 December 2012, welcomed the visit of the Vice President of the European Commission, Mr. Siim Kallas.

The European Commission and the Directors General of ECAC:

- a) underlined the need to continue to pursue the development of a safe, secure and sustainable European air transport sector, as a fundamental pillar of European societal and economic progress;
- b) welcomed the progress made by European air transport in recent decades and emphasised the importance of a Pan-European approach to its continuing development, for the benefit of European citizens and the region's industry stakeholders;
- c) welcomed the Pan-European dimension of the Commission's recent Communication "The EU's external aviation policy – addressing future challenges";
- d) agreed to present European proposals at the 2013 ICAO Air Transport Conference and to seek global action on a number of current challenges including achieving open and fair competition and the liberalisation of market access and of air carrier ownership and control;
- e) acknowledged the progress made in implementation of the Single European Sky initiative, and in particular the establishment of the Network Manager within EUROCONTROL, while recognising at the same time the challenges in the establishment of the Functional Airspace Blocks; undertook to exercise their influence wherever appropriate to accelerate the process, in order to secure the full benefits of this initiative as soon as possible;
- f) acknowledged the benefit to safety brought by the European Aviation Safety Agency, and urged the Agency to continue to take systematically

into consideration both the Pan-European dimension of its safety regulatory and oversight activities, and the potential risks deriving from over-regulation;

- g) noting the achievements in Europe in the field of security, emphasised the importance of co-operation in developing mutual recognition of security measures and one-stop security arrangements between the EU and non-EU ECAC Member States, where appropriate;
- h) recognized that Europe is a leader in addressing the environmental impacts of aviation, and underlined the adoption by the 44 ECAC Member States of many common policies in this field;
- i) affirmed their commitment to making progress within ICAO towards a global solution on the issue of aviation and climate change, at the 38th Session of its Assembly, in 2013.

The Directors General of ECAC and the European Commission will continue to cooperate together wherever possible in international forums to support and promote the further development of European air transport, in the interests of the European people and the region's economy.

Paris, 13 December 2012

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**FOR THE EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION
CONFERENCE**

Siim Kallas

Catalin Radu

Vice President

President