

PRESS RELEASE



Brussels, 9th September 2010

ISIS Programme 2009-2012 – Supporting the implementation of Single European Sky in South East Europe

In the 1st Governing Body meeting of the ISIS Programme, the Partners of the Programme, the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council and the International Civil Aviation Organization reaffirmed their commitment to achieve the main objectives of the Single European Sky in South East Europe.

The meeting held in Budva – Montenegro on 8th September 2010, was co-organised by the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council and the International Civil Aviation Organisation with the support of the Civil Aviation Agency of Montenegro.

The conclusions adopted by the Partners of the South East Europe region reaffirmed the continuous commitment to accelerate the regulatory convergence with the Single European Sky (SES) *acquis*, and reflected the consensus on the possibility to launch further activities in the field of improvement of airspace design, cross border coordination and air traffic control delineation, and interoperability.

At the same time it was decided to appropriately associate the ISIS Partners to the workings and activities of the National Supervisory Authority Coordination Platform.



The second phase of the ISIS Programme was hence formally launched where focus will be made on completing the regulatory convergence with the SES legislative framework, as well as to provide the necessary technical support to facilitate the regulatory alignment. The activities are being concentrated for the time being mainly on the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of the regional National Supervisory Authorities.

The SES legislation, in force in the European Union since 2004, aims to restructure the European air traffic management system to meet the future capacity and safety needs and to improve flight efficiency while reducing significantly the environmental impact of aviation and the air traffic management costs. Improving interconnectivity between the European Union and its neighbours contributes decisively to trade and economic developments. In that context, the support to the extension of SES to neighbouring regions is an integral part of the neighbouring policy of the European Commission policies and of the SES Framework Regulation, reflected in the air traffic management part of the international treaty signed between the European Union and its Member States and the South East Europe countries and Partners, known as the European Common Aviation Area Agreement (ECAA).

“The ISIS Programme has to be perceived in the framework of the neighbouring policy of the European Union and, more specifically, within the enlargement and stabilization and association process with the South East Europe region”, said the acting Chairman of the Programme Mr. Luc Tytgat from the European Commission (DG MOVE). Mr. Tytgat noted that the ISIS Programme will facilitate the acceleration of the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the abovementioned ECAA.

The Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Mr. Hido Biscevic, underlined that: “The ISIS Programme presents an opportunity for the airlines and other interested parties to take advantage of the liberalized market, improve air connectivity in the region and strengthen cooperation in the area of air traffic management, air safety, National Supervisory Authority cooperation and licensing military flights.” Moreover, Mr. Biscevic stressed that air traffic is an RCC priority, in line with the recently adopted Regional Cooperation Council’s Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.

The Director of the Europe and North Atlantic Regional Office of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Mr. Karsten Theil, reaffirmed the support of his organization to the ISIS Programme and highlighted the convergence of strategies between the ICAO and the programme. He also noted the common activities to be undertaken in cooperation with his Regional Office, in particular in the field of air safety and just culture.

The European Commission and the Regional Cooperation Council underlined the importance of the Programme for the region and confirmed their commitment to provide the political framework and appropriate support to conduct the Programme, financed by the European Commission (DG MOVE), through their joint co-chairmanship.

“Conclusions of the 1st ISIS Governing Body” were adopted in Budva on 8th September 2010.