

**Vice-President Siim Kallas' Address to the**

**ICAO ASSEMBLY**

**Montreal, 28 September 2010**

Mr. President,  
Dear Colleagues,

**What is the EU's main expectation from the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Assembly:**

**Safety must come first.**

As a demonstration of our willingness to share safety information, I have signed this morning a Memorandum of Understanding with ICAO, the US FAA and IATA. Sharing of safety information is crucial in ensuring that technical assistance and resources can be provided where they are most urgently needed to raise safety standards.

The second area of high political importance to Europe is, naturally, **the environment**. Here I want to make five points:

1. The EU is strongly committed to an ambitious global solution and to an ambitious global plan to reduce the negative impact of aviation to environment and climate.
2. The EU is strongly committed to find this solution within ICAO.
3. The EU has all necessary political flexibility and willingness to find a compromise concerning a possible solution provided that the global plan of ICAO is acceptably ambitious. The compromise cannot mean abandoning our goals.
4. If somebody considers that the failure to find a solution within ICAO could be advertised as a commercial victory, this is a very short sighted view. The challenge of climate change and air transport's contribution will not go away.
5. If we fail, the world will see, in the nearest future, chaotic measures and countermeasures to correct appearing imbalances. And this is disastrous for aviation business and passengers.

We must work to avoid this and move forward together to make this Assembly a success.