

CONCLUSIONS

Telephone conference on the effects of the volcanic ash cloud on the ATM network – towards a harmonized approach

19 April 2010 – 11.00 CET

The participants at the Conference, and in particular the Members of the Provisional Council and the CEOs of the ANSPs, in the pursuit of a harmonised, safe and efficient European approach:

- a. observed that a prudent initial reaction was adopted by the Member States which reduced risk to the absolute minimum and agreed that it is now time to further strengthen a harmonized European approach;
- b. considered three different alternative scenarios as they are set out in the attached discussion paper (section 3);
- c. expressed their strong preference for scenario 3 and agreed that EUROCONTROL and the European Commission should assure that the following principles be implemented:
 1. “limited No-Fly zone” including buffered area;
 2. in low contaminated areas, States should allow AOs to operate e.g. in regional context such as in FAB level areas, fully supported by shared data including advice from the scientific community (meteo, volcanic ash proliferation etc.) including safety assessments, supported by tests under the oversight of the competent Safety Authorities;
 3. in non-contaminated airspace: no restrictions.
- d. agreed that these actions should be urgently implemented within this scenario within the shortest possible timeframe (latest tomorrow 06:00 UTC):
 - Member States to formally confirm their agreement with the full implementation of the scenario discussed;
 - EUROCONTROL to start the provisional application of the preferred solution;
 - European Commission to report the conclusions of this Meeting to the ad hoc EU Transport Ministers’ video conference on 19 April 2010;

- noted that the ICAO European and North Atlantic Office will organise a meeting this day to discuss effects on the North Atlantic Region;
- noted that the implementation of Option 3 should, in time, work towards the effective development of Option 2 in line with safety practices in other regions.