

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard  
President of the Swiss Confederation  
Head of the Federal Department  
of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications  
3003 Berne

Zurich, November 20, 2010

## Development of the Functional Airspace Block Europe Central (FABEC)

Dear Madam President

The aim of FABEC is to ensure that all air navigation service providers in the FABEC area progressively act like one, and closely work together to improve the European air traffic management (ATM) system. After four years of active participation in the project under the umbrella of the MARC-group (MOAIC ATM Regional Coordination), the Swiss air traffic controllers' associations represented by SwissATCA are more than ever convinced that in order to act as one in ATM, you have to be "one".

We acknowledge that the approach to a single air navigation service provider (ANSP) can only be progressive. This will be achieved through a step-by-step approach, allowing each provider to establish the required conditions by which the integration into a single entity should occur. But to start acting and implementing common decisions, the various ANSPs must know that they will, in the end, be united into a single entity. This decision has to be taken by States. Should States fail to provide clear directions, individual providers will go on fighting for their own survival, rather than collaborating for the better performance of the system.

The FABEC State Agreement, about to be signed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, is the foundation of the whole project. It is meant to mark the willingness of States to establish a common structure to reach common decisions. This, however, needs to be completed by a plan related to the way such decisions are going to be carried out. That is the goal of the "Declaration of Intent", which was originally scheduled to be signed alongside with the agreement, but now appears to face considerable delay due to disagreements amongst the concerned parties.

We hereby ask the Swiss government not to sign the FABEC State Agreement, as long as a meaningful Declaration of Intent related to the model of service provision is not available. It is only the combination of the FABEC Agreement and the clear direction given by States that will enable a successful outcome of the project.

Time is running out, and that is the reason why, all throughout FABEC, staff organisations similar to ours and affiliated to MARC, the main social partner of FABEC, have sent similar letters to their respective governments, asking them to take the time to build a successful FABEC, rather than to rush into an insignificant and, in the long run, inefficient program.

Our organisation represents air traffic controllers employed by skyguide, a member of FABEC. We will be pleased to be available for any inquiries or further clarification you may require.

Yours sincerely,  
on behalf of the Swiss air traffic controllers' associations (SwissATCA)

Siegfried Ladenbauer  
President Aerocontrol

Simon Eichelsberger  
Vice President Aerocontrol