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CANSO: “THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL” ON SES ACCELERATION

CANSO, the global voice of ATM, has welcomed the European Commission’s response to the volcano crisis, but warned that there is still considerable ‘devil in the detail’ with the proposals to accelerate the implementation of the Single European Sky.

“CANSO welcomes the commitment of the European Commission to learn the lessons from last week’s airspace shutdown” said CANSO Director General Graham Lake. “In particular we are pleased that our call for greater European coordination is addressed by the creation of the Crisis Cell, but we stress that ANSPs must be embedded within it from the beginning as an integral part.

The acceleration of the Single European Sky is also broadly welcome, but the difficulties in bringing forward such a complex project are extensive and should be done methodically and through correct processes, not in response to short-term political pressures.

There are a number of elements of the proposal to accelerate Single European Sky which have not been fully worked out and the devil will be in the detail. For example, the extension of EASA competency to support the network manager needs to be extremely carefully defined so as not to come into conflict with national safety decisions.

However, we do believe that if we learn the right lessons and define the right solutions, then the recent crisis offers an opportunity to create a truly safe and efficient European air transport network.

Finally, on the issue of costs, the proposal to defer the actual payments for en-route charges for a restricted period of time must be considered in the context of the EUR 25m per day loss of revenue for ANSPs during the height of the crisis. An alternative option would be for airlines to apply for state assistance to help to pay for any increased costs as a result of the volcano.”

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CANSO – The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation – is the global voice of the companies that provide air traffic control, and represents the interests of Air Navigation Services Providers worldwide. CANSO members are responsible for supporting over 85% of world air traffic, and through our Workgroups, members share information and develop new policies, with the ultimate aim of improving air navigation services on the ground and in the air. CANSO also represents its members’ views in major regulatory and industry forums, including at ICAO, where we have official Observer status.