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Mr Daniel Calleja-Crespo  
Director of Aviation  
Directorate General for Energy and Transport  
European Commission  
Rue de Mot, 24  
B-1040 Bruxelles

### **Eurocontrol statements on R&D external to SESAR**

Dear Mr. Calleja,

Mr Jan van Doorn, Director of the Eurocontrol Experimental Centre, presented on behalf of Eurocontrol the same material to ICB/11 that he had presented at the "Aeronautical Days" event in Vienna on June 20, 2006.

The Eurocontrol presentation gives the clear impression that not only do Eurocontrol not expect the SESAR Definition Phase to deliver the required paradigm shift to modernise ATM in Europe but that they also expect to perform substantial R&D in parallel to SESAR. At the ICB meeting, some members expressed serious concerns about the Eurocontrol presentation and the perceived need for parallel R&D activities. The conclusion of the meeting was to request a clarification of Eurocontrol's position in the SESAR Joint Undertaking. I have been asked to write a letter to the Commission in this regard.

In moving forward with SESAR and the Joint Undertaking it is clearly important that a mutual understanding is achieved between all parties on their roles and responsibilities as the SESAR project proceeds. It is particularly important that the founding members of the Joint Undertaking recognise the importance of the SESAR ATM Master Plan in shaping their activities in the field ATM research.

I would therefore like to re-iterate the ICB's position on ATM R&D in the Development Phase of SESAR as managed by the proposed Joint Undertaking:

- Industry has declared its commitment to reallocate resources to SESAR that are currently invested in related activities in accordance with the conclusions of the Master Plan. A similar commitment is required from all members of the JU: Eurocontrol, the Commission and Member States to ensure that R&D activities are not duplicated. SESAR should, and must, lead to a reduction in the overall R&D spend on ATM.
- Industry recognises that some R&D will be required at a national and regional level to investigate local issues not fully addressed by SESAR. This investment should be agreed as part of the usual user consultation process.

- Industry recognises that long term research is required to ensure that new concepts and technologies are available to meet the long term challenges ATM will face in the future. Industry expects provision for such research to be made in the ATM Master Plan and for it to be managed by the Joint Undertaking.

The Commission has made it clear that they expect from the SESAR Definition Phase an ambitious proposal for the modernisation of the ATM. The SESAR consortium has accepted this challenge. The ICB believes it is important that all stakeholders and institutions support the SESAR consortium in achieving this goal so that the SESAR JU can move forward with certainty. It is not appropriate for Eurocontrol, who will be a founding member of the JU, to suggest that the outcome of SESAR will not be sufficient. Eurocontrol should instead, join with the ICB and the Commission in working to ensure the success of the Definition Phase.

Industry is certainly not willing to continue with the insufficient approaches of the past to cope with the requirements for a European ATM system that is more efficient and provides the necessary capacity for growth. SESAR has to be ambitious enough to provide the necessary quantum leap in ATM performance that consumers and industry partners desperately need.

I therefore request clarification from the Commission on the principles set out in this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Fritz A. Feitl  
Chairman ICB