

# canso POLICY

## **CANSO comments on the draft final report on Functional Airspace Blocks**

CANSO European Regional Office 17.10.2008



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# **CANSO comments on the draft final report on Functional Airspace Blocks**

The draft final report on FABs dated 12 September 2008 is a better reflection of the situation on FABs across Europe:

- FABs are developed in a step-by-step approach.
- Strong commitment from States is required.
- The report confirms the need to address sovereignty and liability issues.

Additional information sent by some FABs should be included in the final report.

## **1. CANSO comments on factual assessments**

### **1.1 Ref - Factual assessment 8 and § 7.2.6 to 7.2.13 – external FAB boundaries**

The on-going FABs initiatives are in line with the definition in the SES II Package. This is of significant value considering that new SES II Regulations are not in force yet. CANSO does not share the evaluation that the PRC gives on the fact that FABs are limited to national boundaries.

Traffic flows are considered in the specific FAB area. FABs have of course external borders often equivalent to national borders but boundaries have to be drawn at a certain moment. The establishment of effective interfaces with other FAB initiatives is going to be addressed.

Even, some FABs initiatives clearly consider traffic flows beyond their boundaries:

- Some States are participating in 2 FAB projects;
- FAB EC works with UK to address interaction with the Southern part of UK.

Also, State boundaries facilitate the complex institutional and legal aspects of FAB implementation.

### **1.2 Ref - Factual assessment 9 – cross-FAB coordination**

CANSO agrees on the need for cross-FAB coordination. The network impact is clearly recognised as one of the criteria in the evaluation of FABs. Some FABs have clearly considered the European dimension of the network and work with neighbouring FABs. CANSO might play a role in the coordination between FABs.

## **2. CANSO comments on recommendations**

### **2.1 Recommendation 2 – Benefits to be expected from FABs**

CANSO supports that European Commission could provide guidance to establish and develop FABs.

CANSO has always supported the bottom-up approach according to which any formal initiative should come from States. According to this approach, States are the only responsible for assessing whether a FAB has reached the targets and judged if the current arrangements are appropriate to suit the objectives.

CANSO therefore does not support that European Commission intervenes in the assessment of individual FAB results. States should be only accountable for the 2012 deadline.

### **2.2 Recommendation 4 - Schedule for FAB implementation**

CANSO has always supported that "one size does not fit all" and that FABs are various from each other. Imposing too rigid descriptions of mandatory progressive implementation phases is therefore not appropriate.

CANSO supports the provisions of the SES II Package as proposed by the European Commission with an establishment of FABs in 2012. This ensures flexibility enough to suit all kind of situations. SES II should not be too prescriptive.

### **2.3 Recommendation 12 – Interoperability of systems**

No further rules are necessary. SES II as proposed by the EC is a good basis. Overregulation should be avoided.

### **2.4 Recommendations 15/16- Common approach to charging**

CANSO agrees that explanation has to be given on how costs could be shared among the parties involved in a FAB to ensure transparency. The recent charging regulation and the SES II regulation as drafted by the EC are a good basis.

### **2.5 Recommendation 19- Minimum requirements for CBAs**

SES II as proposed by the EC is a good basis. Overregulation should be avoided.

## **2.6 Recommendations 21-22 - Specific performance targets at FAB level**

CANSO supports the setting of performance plans at regional /FAB level, when the FAB is sufficiently mature and has the appropriate institutional mechanism to ensure clear accountability at FAB level. In this case it is fundamental to have the NSA coordination also at FAB level.

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