



CIVIL AVIATION PRESS RELEASE

June 30th, 2006

ETF trade-unions of Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany, France , Italy met in Brussels on the 16th of June to examine the Air Navigation Services current situation and future in this region of Europe.

The signatory trade-unions noted that:

- Several FAB initiatives concerning their countries are already ongoing processes.
- The possible privatisation of the German Provider DFS, when the other continental ANS Providers remain public, introduces a threat of competition and destabilisation in the area.
- There is a lack of information and consultation of trade-unions concerning the FAB project regarding Benelux countries and Germany. This is contrary to the principles agreed at the Palermo conference and endorsed in the recent social dialogue report.
- Unity among ATM personnel is the best guarantee that their interests will be preserved.
- The SES regulations do not require competition, liberalisation or consolidation.

They take into consideration:

- The important and detailed work by the European Social Partners, CANSO and ETF, resulting from the Palermo Conference in 2004 and the subsequent Social Dialogue working groups in 2005 which sets out principles applicable in the present context.
- The study ordered by the EU on the extension of the licensing scheme to other jobs of the ATM chain.



They underline :

- The necessity for each FAB project, whatever its origin and promoters, to be compliant with the Palermo principles and with the 2005 FAB Social Partners' report. Belgian and Luxemburg Ministers are particularly reminded of these principles.
- The public service obligations of Air Navigation Services with the highest standards of responsibility and competence for all ATM workers.
- Their opposition to privatisation and liberalisation.

They support :

- Any initiatives that German colleagues could undertake against DFS privatisation and are ready to provide any help on request.
- JATMWG efforts to keep the closest possible links between CNS services and ATS. Its hard work to expand the licensing scheme to the jobs of the ATM safety chain, especially ATSEPs.

They reiterate :

- Their wish for a close association of Italy in the Franco Swiss FAB project

They call on :

- All Member States and providers (in particular in Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Luxemburg and Italy) to involve representative trade-unions and, if necessary the ETF-JATMWG, to the relevant FAB studies from the very early stages of initiation.
- The concerned States and Providers to study an alternative Airspace project of the Belgian and Luxemburg to be associated with adjacent States ongoing projects.
- The German Government and Parliament to reconsider the assets sale of DFS and keep them in public hands as they believe that DFS privatisation will have a dangerous impact on German and European ATM level of service

They declare that they remain open to any FAB project that is compliant to social partners' principles. They are not bound to any specific project even if they are Mosaic signatories. They are still in a phase of assessing the best possible projects applicable to their region.