



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**AVIATION 43**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

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From : General Secretariat  
To : Council  
Subject : Results of the high level meeting on aviation safety  
(Bucharest, 6 February 2009)  
- Information from the Romanian delegation

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Delegations will find annexed a contribution from the RO delegation on the abovementioned subject in support of their intervention under "any other business" at the TTE Council on 30 - 31 March 2009.

Information on CERG Aviation Safety Program in 2009

The concept of **safety management system (SMS)** was defined by ICAO in November 2006, as a systematic approach to managing safety, including the necessary organizational structures, accountabilities, policies and procedures. The requirements for the implementation of an SMS were introduced in Annex 6 (Operation of Aircraft), Annex 11 (Air Traffic Services) and Annex 14 (Aerodromes) to the Convention on international civil aviation (Chicago Convention).

For the implementation by the air operators, air navigation services providers and airports of the SMS, States have to establish a **State Safety Programme (SSP)**, which is an integrated set of regulations and activities aimed at improving safety (achievement of an acceptable level of safety) in the operation of aircraft, in the provision of air traffic services and in aerodrome operations.

The introduction of requirements regarding the existence of an SSP in each Member State, establishing the applicable SMS criteria, from 1 January 2009, is a consequence of the growing awareness that safety management principles affect most activities of the civil aviation authorities, including safety rulemaking, policy development and oversight. Under an SSP, safety rulemaking is based on comprehensive analyses of the State's aviation system, safety policies are developed based on hazard identification and safety risk management, and safety oversight is focused towards the areas of significant safety concerns or higher safety risks. An SSP provides the means to combine prescriptive and performance-based approaches to safety rulemaking and oversight by States.

Further, is presented an initiative of the CERG<sup>1</sup> Member States with the purpose of highlighting the importance of SMS in the civil aviation entities and of the SSP and also, the necessity to ensure their appropriate implementation in the CERG Member. This initiative was proposed by Romania (at present represents the interests of CERG Member states in the Council of ICAO) and is consisted of certain related activities on safety management comprised in the **CERG Safety Program in 2009**.

The programme is included in the official calendar of ICAO for 2009, being the first time when an initiative of CERG is included on ICAO agenda, and is composed of the following activities:

**1. SMS Course – already organized between 2 and 6 February 2009, in Bucharest**

- this course was attended by 31 experts from the CERG Member States, representatives of the civil aviation authorities, air operators, airports and air navigation services providers;
- the aim of the course was to develop participants' knowledge of safety management concepts, as well as those to certify and oversee the implementation of key components of a basic SMS, in compliance with relevant ICAO SARPs and national regulations, aim achieved, in our opinion and of the ICAO instructors.

**2. High-level meeting – on 6 April 2009, in Bucharest**

- the main theme of this meeting is the discussion on the management level of the civil aviation in CERG Member States of the different aspects related to the implementation of SMS in the ICAO Member States and in particular, in CERG Member States, on the basis of the applicable criteria established in the State Safety Programmes

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<sup>1</sup> CERG – Central European Rotation Group for the Council of ICAO composed of Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia

- also, it is desired to discuss at this meeting the aspects related to the future of USOAP audits performed by ICAO after 2010, when the process of comprehensive audits will be finalized, what are the intentions of ICAO concerning the safety audit activity after this date;
- from ICAO will attend this meeting the Director of the Air Navigation Bureau and the Chief Safety and Security Audits and the ICAO responsible for SMS/SSP, but also representatives on the Council of ICAO
- besides the directors general of civil aviation from the CERG Member States will attend the meeting representatives of the air operators, air navigation services providers, airports and also, of the training organizations in civil aviation;
- taking into account the initiatives on safety matters at the European level, there were invited to attend the meeting representatives of the European Commission / DGTREN, EASA, Eurocontrol, JAA-TO, ECAC and also, of IATA and ACI –Europe.

### **3. SSP Course – between 7 and 9 April 2009, in Bucharest**

- this is the first SSP course organized by ICAO in Europe;
- the course is addressed especially to the representatives of the civil aviation authorities of CERG Member States with responsibilities regarding the implementation of SSP, the implementation and/or oversight of SMS in the areas of aircraft operations, air traffic services and aerodrome operations, with direct reference including to the amendments which will be finalized by ICAO to these standards and recommended practices of ICAO;
- the objective of the course is to develop participants' knowledge on the ICAO SSP framework and its components, to provide practical guidance on key elements of an SSP and the establishment of a State's acceptable level of safety.

#### 4. **Workshop on SMS implementation – in September 2009, in Bratislava**

- this event is focused on the evaluation of the effective level of implementation of SMS in the CERG Member States, after the organization of SMS and SSP courses, as well as the sharing of views on this implementation and possible difficulties occurred;
- for increasing the visibility of this programme, which is not a Romanian one, but of a group of 5 States, this last event will be organized in the Slovak Republic, the CERG Member State which will candidate for the Council of ICAO at the elections in 2010.

**This short presentation of the CERG Aviation Safety Program in 2009 is aimed both on the information on the safety initiatives at the regional level of 5 EU Member States, and also to the encouragement of the other States to develop similar regional programmes, which might be a real support for the authorities with regulatory and oversight responsibilities in civil aviation and also, to the aviation service providers, our goal, of all of us, being the implementation of the highest safety standards in aviation.**

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