COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Bulgarian and Romanian delegations
To: Council
Subject: Single European Sky: Agreement on the Establishment of the DANUBE Functional Airspace Block

- Information from the Bulgarian and Romanian delegations

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the BG and RO delegations on the above mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "Any Other Business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 12 December 2011.
The Creation of the DANUBE Functional Airspace Block

On 26 February 2010 the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania and the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in air navigation services provision matters and for the establishment of a functional airspace block, comprising the national airspace of Romania, the national airspace of the Republic of Bulgaria and the airspace included in the scope of the international legal obligations of Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria (DANUBE FAB). The creation of the DANUBE FAB was also supported by the European Commission through the TEN-T financing programme.

Stemming from Art.9a, Para 3 of the Service provision Regulation (EC) 550/2004, both States have prepared, within the DANUBE FAB MoU, the final draft of the international Agreement on the establishment of the DANUBE FAB.

An important step towards the implementation of the single European sky requirements will be the signing of the international Agreement on the establishment of the DANUBE FAB, in Brussels, on the 12th of December, 2011.

The DANUBE FAB will be compliant with the EU single European sky legislation, ensuring a gradual harmonisation in the provision of air navigation services, enhanced efficiency and reduced costs for airspace users while reducing the impact of aviation on the environment, all with due regard to safety of traffic.

Following the optimisation of the DANUBE FAB airspace structure, it is estimated that the airspace users will benefit from an overall distance reduction of about 1 million miles/year that will be reflected in less CO2 emissions and cuts in fuel costs of about 5 million EUR per year. Due to shorter flight routes, passengers will experience reduced travel time.