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FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA TRASPORTI



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PRESS RELEASE: Social Dialogue is key element for FAB implementation

The announcement of the French Ministry of Transport to support the Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) consolidation in Functional Airspace Block Europe Central (FABEC) has created a tense situation in France.

Following this announcement, four French unions members of ETF (CGT-CFDT-FO-UNSA) and CGC, representing the vast majority of ATM staff, decided to call for an industrial action on the 13th/14th January 2010. The strike was a success and many workers decided to protest against this unilateral decision.

FILT-CGIL, FIT-CISL and UIL-T strongly supports the French Trade Unions in this fight, for the next industrial action from 23rd to 26th February and for the following actions that they might decide on during the coming weeks.

We acknowledges the importance of FABs to improve the European ATM system. However, this consolidation model for the implementation of FABs definitively not guarantee that it would enhance safety or cost-effectiveness.

At the opposite, it is clear that a consolidation model will creates big social impact.

We believe that such a decision with huge social impact on the workers, cannot be done with an unilateral political decision. If this is the chosen way for the FABs implementation, Trade Unions will have to reconsider their support.

It is generally agreed that social dialogue is a key element for successful FAB implementation. CANSO clearly expresses it since the real beginning of the FAB process. Also the European Commission highlighted the Social Dialogue importance in FABs development within its 5th Pillar declaration.

The CEATS experience should have taught to all the ATM community, that Social Dialogue is an essential element in the FABs development. We believe that it's more appropriate to follow a pragmatic and bottom-up approach, with the shared goal to improve the ATM system, rather than a top-down approach disconnected from the operational requirements.

There are other options available to reach a coherent air traffic control system for Europe. Options, which could improve safety, increase flight efficiency and secure the social consequences of FAB implementation.

FILT-CGIL, FIT-CISL and UIL-T are convinced that a harmonization of the air traffic and an improvement in the ATM system is possible with positive social consequences instead of social losses. We support a model of cooperation instead of consolidation to establish sustainable Functional Airspace Blocks (FAB).