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Brussels, April 8, 2010

Mr Etienne SCHOUPPE

Letter to the Transport Ministers of the FABEC countries

CO-OP MODEL FOR THE FABEC

Dear Minister,

The recent announcement of the French Transport's Minister to promote the idea of a single ANSP in FABEC area has created a tense situation in France. Following this decision, the French ETF ATM unions have decided to call for two industrial actions, the first one on the 13th/14th January and the second one from 23rd to 26th February. The large participation of the ATM staff to those two initiatives has demonstrated that the employees in France are strongly opposed to the idea of a single ANSP for FABEC.

Your country is member of the FABEC project and, in this respect, your opinion will influence the development of the process.

The ETF, the first organization for ATM staff in Europe, supports the idea of cooperation in the FABEC rather than consolidation of service provisions (merger of Air Navigation Service Providers, closure of services and centres). The ETF believes that the single ANSP approach would have strong and negative social consequences for limited economical benefits. In the opposite, the ETF proposes a pragmatic approach: the integration based on cooperation of services will bring important benefits on an economical and operational perspective. To support this policy, the ETF has produced the "Co-op Model" for FABs and strongly recommends that this model will be applied on FABEC.

On the ETF perspective, the "Co-op Model" is the only way to ensure a smooth and sound implementation of FABEC with the full support of staff. Any other approach based on dogmatic consolidation is likely to bring obstacles that could jeopardize the whole project.



President Graham Stevenson

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Brigitta Paas

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas



The ETF would also like to draw your attention that only a fair and large consultation process at FABEC level is likely to ensure the success of the project. In this respect, the ETF doesn't understand and support the policy of the FABEC project management to impose professional associations in the social dialogue process at FABEC level. Social Dialogue is an issue that concerns social partners only, employers and unions recognised at all levels.

The ETF requests a meeting with your services to explain our policy and objectives in the FABEC area.

Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards,



François Ballestero
Political Secretary



President Graham Stevenson

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Brigitta Paas

