



**For immediate release, 10 February 2010**

## **Human factors and safety culture should be put at the heart of the ATM system**

Brussels, Belgium – Human factors and a just culture have a key role to play in improving the safety of Europe’s future air traffic management system and should be fully integrated into the Single European Sky, according to a major conference on Safety and Human Performance held in Brussels on 2 and 3 February.

The Conference, organised jointly by EUROCONTROL and the European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF), focused on how human factors influence and can improve safety. It underlined that human factors and competence of staff working in air traffic management (ATM) are at the heart of the ATM industry and are essential to delivering the best safety performance

“Safety and human performance are pivotal features in every project we undertake”, said David McMillan. The main goal of both EUROCONTROL and ETF is to support – and create – an effective, efficient, safe ATM system; a system that can not only function well but one that can also promote organisational objectives and staff needs.”

Discussions during the conference included topics such as the growing automation of ATC, fatigue, resource management, a safety culture, regulation and licensing and competency requirements as well as training of ATM staff. As human factors are central to safety, the meeting concluded that ongoing social dialogue is essential. Human factors should be integrated into all the work being done on the Single European Sky Legislation, as well as in the developments in SESAR. In this regard, harmonised competency requirements and training are needed across Europe. A good safety culture as well as a dialogue between all parties involved is seen as essential. As a result, EUROCONTROL and ETF have agreed to combine forces to prioritise their work on Safety and Human Performance.

European  
Organisation for the  
Safety of  
Air Navigation

Organisation  
européenne pour la  
sécurité de la  
navigation aérienne

Rue de la Fusée, 96  
B-1130 Bruxelles  
Tel: +32.2.729.90.11  
Fax:+32.2.729.90.44

“Safety is a real priority. There is a strong personnel commitment to safety and we cannot split the working arrangements and the safety issues. Safety requires permanent information and training to keep high the awareness of the staff, the management, the users and the public,” said François Ballester, ETF Civil Aviation Political Secretary.

***For further information, please contact:***

Kyla Evans/Catherine De Smedt, Tel: +32 2 729 50 95 Email:  
[press@eurocontrol.int](mailto:press@eurocontrol.int)

For more information via the website: [www.eurocontrol.int](http://www.eurocontrol.int)

**Jean-Pierre Etienne** - ETF Civil Aviation Adviser  
Tel : +33 623194003  
[jp@jpenet.net](mailto:jp@jpenet.net)  
[www.iatmwg.org](http://www.iatmwg.org)



**Note to Editors:**

*EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system that fully copes with the growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, reducing costs and respecting the environment. EUROCONTROL has 38 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On 8 October 2002, the Member States and the European Community signed a Protocol on the Accession of the European Community to the revised EUROCONTROL Convention. Pending its entry into force after ratification by all Parties, certain provisions of the Protocol are already being provisionally applied.*

***ETF, the European Transport Workers' Federation,** is a pan-European trade union organisation, which embraces transport trade unions from the European Union, the European Economic Area and Central and Eastern European countries. The ETF has affiliated unions, which organise workers in railways, road transport, maritime transport, ports and docks, inland navigation, civil aviation, fisheries and tourism services. The ETF represents more than 250,000 civil aviation employees and protects their social and economic interests at European level.*