

11th June, 2002

On 17 June the Council of Transport Ministers will discuss the **Single European Sky**. The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) and air carriers, represented by the Association of European Airlines (AEA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), would like to express their support for the Single European Sky concept.

We expect that air transport in Europe will again turn to growth. In order to provide the necessary capacity for air traffic management (ATM) - in an economically viable manner - it is vital that, as reiterated by the Barcelona Summit in March 2002, the regulations be adopted by the end of 2002.

Whilst recognising that the Single European Sky leaves the individual States free to determine the status of their Air Navigation Service Providers, we hold that a strong independent economic regulation will help improve the cost-efficiency of ATM in Europe.

The safe organisation and use of airspace around functional blocks of airspace, irrespective of national boundaries and optimising traffic flows in Europe as a whole, is a cornerstone to enhancing efficiency and containing delays to an acceptable minimum.

We hold that effective co-ordination of civil and military aspects in European ATM would further enhance the efficient use of limited resources.

The undersigned organisations call upon Transport Ministers to provide political leadership and set the guidelines to avoid a watering-down or a delay of a promising Single European Sky approach.

Signed AEA Secr General

CANSO Secr General

IATA Dir General