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Commission proposes new rules for better investigation of civil aviation accidents

The European Commission adopted on Thursday a proposal for a Regulation on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation. The Regulation establishes a European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities, charged with strengthening cooperation among Member States, the EC and EASA and implementing initiatives such as coordination of training activities and sharing of investigation resources. The EC said current rules in Europe no longer reflect the realities of the internal aviation market and the complexity of the global aviation industry. The EU institutional and legal framework has also changed, notably with the creation of EASA. The proposal also aims at strengthening the implementation of safety recommendations, strengthens victims' rights and increases access to information and the right to assistance. Click [here](#) for more information.

France to renew search for plane's data recorders

France is preparing to spend as much as €20 million next year on a renewed search for the flight data recorders and undersea wreckage of the Air France A330 that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean in June, killing all 228 people aboard, the new head of the Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses (BEA), Jean-Paul Troadec, told media on Monday. According to the press reports, BEA expects the new search to begin early next year, with the support of experts and specialised equipment from possibly the United States, Britain, Brazil and Russia. The agency, which has already spent roughly €10 million scouring the ocean floor, plans to spend an additional €10 to €20 million for the next phase of the search, Mr. Troadec said. In December, the agency plans to publish a second interim report.

IATA: apparent September traffic improvement "misleading"

IATA reported that September international passenger traffic rose 0.3% year-over-year while cargo traffic fell 5.4%, but warned that the apparent improvement after months of declining passenger traffic and a steep drop in cargo demand is "misleading" because the economic downturn is starting to lap itself. It cautioned that the seemingly positive September numbers are "largely due to comparisons with an exceptionally weak September 2008 when traffic fell sharply (-2.9% for passenger and -7.7% for cargo)". It noted that load factors for passenger and cargo did return "to pre-crisis levels" in September at 77.1% and 50.8% respectively. Click [here](#) for more information.

Boeing to place second 787 assembly site in South Carolina

Boeing [announced](#) on Wednesday that it will place a second 787 final assembly line in North Charleston, S.C., reaching for the first time outside its historic Seattle manufacturing hub to set up a new commercial-plane factory. The North Charleston facility, adjacent to a parts plant Boeing bought in July, will be used along with one in Washington state to build, test and deliver the aircraft, Boeing said in a statement. According to US media reports, the planemaker picked South Carolina after failing to reach a no-strike deal with Seattle-area workers. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers hit factories four times in 20 years with walkouts, including a two-month strike in 2008.

First A380 delivered to a European airline

Air France becomes today the first European airline to take delivery of the Airbus A380. The French carrier would receive the aircraft at the Airbus plant in Hamburg and then fly it to Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport. Its first commercial flight is scheduled for November 20, from Paris to New York. Air France has ordered 12 of the A380 model, but has postponed the purchase of some of them due to the economic slowdown. Three other airlines outside Europe have already taken delivery of A380 - Singapore Airlines, Emirates and Qantas. Click [here](#) for more information on today's event.

Pan-European Network Service launched

Eurocontrol announced this week the signature of a contract to launch PENS, a pan-European communications network service that will allow all air navigation service providers to exchange voice and data communications in a seamless and integrated manner. PENS, a managed internet protocol (IP)-based regional communications backbone service, will provide an alternative to the ad-hoc, bi-lateral communications that ANS providers (ANSPs) use today. It is also expected to meet the needs of the SESAR programme for the System Wide Information Management (SWIM) initiative. Furthermore, it will help those ANSPs who are still using the X25

Protocol to move to an IP service in a cost-efficient way in order to comply with the Single European Sky regulation. Click [here](#) for more information.

Lufthansa gives gloomy outlook for aviation sector, plans deferrals

Lufthansa provided a gloomy outlook for the airline industry on Thursday, saying the market environment remained very difficult. In the cargo segment, drops in volumes were not as severe as in prior quarters, but revenue was still falling steeply due to a drop in prices. The group posted a €184 million third-quarter profit but remained €32 million in the red through the first nine months of 2009, reversed from a €529 million profit in the year-ago period. LH said it is discussing delivery deferrals with manufacturers, part of the Climb 2011 programme designed to cut costs and boost the company's result by €1 billion by 2012. The deferrals would apply to aircraft scheduled to arrive in the 2010-13 timeframe. Click [here](#) for more information.

Czech Airlines not being sold off

The Czech government has abandoned plans, at least for now, to sell its national carrier. Several airlines, including Air France-KLM and Aeroflot, had reportedly considered bidding, but the weak economic condition left only one consortium, including local charter operator Travel Service, to formally place a bid. The government rejected the demands of the bidder and the price offered, around \$58 million according to the country's media. The focus instead will be on restructuring Czech Airlines.

US Airways, American Airlines cut 1,700 jobs

US Airways and American Airlines said Wednesday they were cutting a total of 1,700 jobs as they face turbulence amid prolonged recession. US Airways said it would cut about 1,000 jobs during the first half of 2010 and reduce service to Europe. The announcement came after the airline reported last week a net loss of \$80 million in the third quarter. Separately, AMR, the parent of American Airlines, said it was slashing up to 700 management and union jobs in its maintenance and engineering operations to respond to restructuring changes.



Final political hurdle cleared – road to Lisbon open

In the context of this week's EU summit in Brussels, the Swedish Presidency [announced](#) that the European Council accepted the exemption requested by the President of the Czech Republic in order to be able to ratify the Treaty of Lisbon. With this decision the Czech Republic has received the same exemption as Poland and the United Kingdom, from "protocol 30" in the Lisbon Treaty's Charter of Fundamental Rights. Despite yesterday's agreement, the Czech Constitutional Court still has to complete its examination of the Treaty, and President Vaclav Klaus still has to sign it. The court can present its verdict on 3 November at the earliest. If the Treaty is signed during the month of November

EU history at the click of a mouse

On 16 October, the EU bookshop launched its digital library, its online collection containing every document published by the EU since 1952 – 110 000 publications. With the archives now included, the digital library contains no fewer than 12 million scanned pages in 50 languages. One of the oldest documents in the library is a speech from September 1952 given by Jean Monnet to the Assembly that later became the European Parliament. The digital library was created in response to overwhelming demand for digital versions of out-of-print publications. PDF copies can be downloaded free of charge or ordered in print. The new digital library will be linked to Europeana, a digital version of libraries and archives all over Europe. For further information on the EU bookshop, click [here](#).

Climate change: IPCC grants EC full participation

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has decided to let the European Community participate fully in IPCC meetings, a prerogative normally reserved for governments. The IPCC is a United Nations organisation which acts as an objective source of information on climate change. The decision recognises the special status of the European Community and gives the Community the possibility to participate actively in all scientific discussion and introduce proposals at IPCC meetings, but without the right to vote. The members of the IPCC are countries which are either Members of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) or the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). As a member of neither the WMO nor UNEP, the European Community cannot become a full member of the IPCC. Click [here](#) for more information.

Long Night of Cologne Museums

In the tenth anniversary edition of the Long Night of Cologne Museums, more than 40 museums and art places will open their doors until late into the night on Saturday 7 November. Among the highlights of the event is an exhibition of drawings by the architect Jean-Baptiste Lepère, who accompanied Napoleon on his campaign to Egypt. The drawings will be on display in the Wallraf Richartz Museum for the first time publicly. Five shuttle routes, whose lines intersect at Neumarkt, will take the visitors from museum to museum. Click [here](#) for more information.

Germany for Beginners - Exhibition at the Stadthaus Deutz

The exhibition “Germany for beginners” gives a bird’s eye view of the country, looking at its habits and things which Germans take for granted, but also from the perspective of those who are not German. The exhibition is divided into 26 parts along the alphabet, beginning with A like “Alltag” (everyday life) until “Z” like “Zukunft” (future). The main display panels are translated from German into English. The Exhibition is hosted at the Entrance hall of the Stadthaus Deutz (Willy-Brandt Platz 2), just 5 minutes walk from the EASA tower, until 4 November, and is free of charge.

Claudio Monteverdi – Marian Vespers

The Marian Vespers, Claudio Monteverdi’s sacred work of 1610, will be presented at two concerts by the Consortium Musica Sacra and the Kleine Chor Köln, on Saturday 7 November (in the Basilika St. Aposteln Church, at Neumarkt, at 8 pm), and on Sunday 8 November (Altenberg Dome, in Altenberg, at 2 pm). Tickets are available at the Office St. Aposteln (0221-9258760, 0170-2435857 and 0177-9621103) and the Dome-Shop (02174-419930) respectively.

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