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## PRESS RELEASE

### AN ACTION PLAN FOR SAFER EUROPEAN AVIATION

Paris, 29 August 2005 — Directors General of the European Civil Aviation Conference's (ECAC<sup>1</sup>) Member States, together with representatives from the European Commission, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) and EUROCONTROL met on 27 August in Romania to discuss as a priority aviation safety following the accidents which occurred in August. On this occasion, they expressed their deepest condolences to the families of the victims and re-affirmed their commitment to maintain and enhance the already high level of safety in aviation in Europe.

In this context, the following Action Plan was agreed:

1. Increase monitoring by national and European authorities to ensure full compliance with existing rules and procedures;
2. Increase transparency so that passengers know in advance the identity of the airlines they will be using;
3. Establish European common criteria for imposing European-wide bans on unsafe aircraft/airlines; and publish on the Web the list of those banned;
4. Strengthen the system of inspections on third-country aircraft (SAFA Programme) including resources and enhance the exchange of information amongst aviation authorities on revealed findings;
5. Adopt European measures for assessing foreign airlines prior to authorising them to fly into Europe.

Directors General committed themselves to immediate activity designed to enable the launching of this Action Plan for Europe before the end of the year. They were encouraged that several of these measures have already been proposed by the Commission and are already underway within the European Union legislative process.

In addition, it was agreed that Europe would take the initiative within the worldwide body responsible for aviation (ICAO) to promote this approach to safety to ensure the highest level of safety worldwide. In doing so, Europe will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to countries requiring this.

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<sup>1</sup> The following 42 States are members of ECAC: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.