



FABEC NEWSLETTER

Edition 4, July 2008

FAB Europe Central: FABEC enters a new phase

"FABEC is feasible, FABEC is necessary." With these final words, Jules Kneepkens, Belgian Director General Civil Aviation and outgoing Chairman of the High-Level Policy Group, summed up at the end of June the results of probably the most comprehensive multi-national study in the history of European air navigation services. On the same day, the High-Level Policy Group took decisions which laid the foundations for the successful future of FAB Europe Central. The adoption of a new project structure, the appointment of the first people and the confirmation of the first concrete Task Forces mean that FABEC is now entering a new phase jointly led by States (civil and military) and ANSPs.

The institutional steps necessary are further pursued. In November, the States plan to sign a Declaration of Intent. A Treaty is foreseen to come into effect by 2010/11. The States will decide ultimately on the implementation of a FAB in their airspace.

From now on, the project will be led by a High-Level Implementation Board which will define the political and strategic direction. The project management will move into offices at Belgocontrol near Brussels. In the coming weeks, a project charter and project management plan will be drawn up. Based on the volume of work anticipated, the ANSPs will provide some full-time employees.

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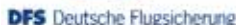
These decisions were made in light of the promising results of the Feasibility Study Reports, which identified the high potential available. Provided some specific issues are taken on board in the development phase, the experts indicate that the same high level of safety can be maintained despite the increase in the number of flights. In regard to capacity, sufficient capacity can be made available to accommodate increased traffic demand in a punctual manner. Without FABEC, flight efficiency in the area is expected to deteriorate over the next years. The FABEC initiatives would contribute significantly to counte-



The High-Level Policy Group: Representatives from the States, the Military and from the ANSPs.



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ring this. It is expected that these initiatives improve the horizontal flight efficiency within the FABEC area. In line with the improvements in flight efficiency there will be a significant contribution to reducing the emissions per flight. In addition, it is expected that with the proposals made by the experts, the military mission effectiveness will improve. But further studies are required.

These results of the study are based on a wide range of proposals and it was not possible to conduct in-depth investigations concerning all of the issues during the feasibility phase. It will therefore be now necessary to further assess the potential identified in the study within the scope of a new project and to flesh out the proposals made.

In addition to the States' Declaration of Intent, the ANSPs are working in parallel on an agreement which will govern the cooperation between the seven organisations. Signing of the Declaration of Intent and the ANSP Agreement will be essential institutional foundations. An intensive consultation process with the various stakeholders will be continued.



Jules Kneepkens thanks the leaders of one of seven working groups, represented here by Karl-Heinz Gatz, Chairman of the Operational Working Group, for their excellent work. More than 240 experts shared their expertise during the last two years.



Bernard Martens, the outgoing Chairman of the Steering Group, presented the study which was approved from the HLPG.

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The summary of the study is available at:
www.fab-europe-central.eu

FORTHCOMING EVENT

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008 -
3RD STAKEHOLDER MEETING

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| ANSP | = | Air Navigation Service Provider |
| FAB | = | Functional Airspace Block |
| FABEC | = | Functional Airspace Block Europe Central |