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When replying please quote

Reference : EUR/NAT 15-0109.TEC (HAS/LEJ)

20 February 2015

Subject : **Invitation to the ICAO Civil/Military Cooperation Symposium at the ICAO EUR/NAT Office, Paris, France, 14-15 April 2015**

Action

required : see paragraph 9 and attachment

Dear Madam, Sir,

1. I wish to refer to the discussion of the last European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG/56) meeting and in particular to the reported concerns regarding the operation of State aircraft over the High Seas. The EANPG agreed on the following Conclusion:

EANPG Conclusion 56/03 – Safety concerns regarding operations involving civil and military aircraft over the High Seas

That, noting the growing safety concern regarding events involving civil and military aircraft over the High Seas, the ICAO Regional Director, Europe and North Atlantic, on behalf of the EANPG, encourage States and International Organizations concerned to take action, in accordance with EANPG Conclusion 51/03, to review and enhance at national and international level their civil/military arrangements and coordination procedures involving all State authorities concerned, with a view to reducing the risk of serious incidents or accidents.

2. I wish also to refer to the outcome of the Second High-Level Safety Conference (HLSC 2015) which was held in Montreal, Canada from 2 to 5 February 2015 and especially to the Working Paper (WP82) regarding the increased number of occurrences involving civil and military aircraft in High Seas airspace. The States views for strengthening the coordination between civil and military operations was strongly supported and agreed by the Conference, resulting in the following HLSC Conclusion:

HLSC 2015 Conclusion 1/2 –e) States should ensure the safety of civil aircraft through civil/military coordination as outlined in the ICAO Circular 330 (Civil/Military Cooperation in Air Traffic Management) and should update that Circular on a regular basis.

3. After further coordination with the EANPG chairman as well as the RASG Chairman, I have the pleasure to invite you to a dedicated **ICAO Civil/Military Cooperation Symposium** which will take place at the ICAO European and North Atlantic Office in Paris, France from **14 to 15 April 2015**. This event will commence at 10:00 hours on the first day, with registration of participants from 09:30 hours, and should be finished by 16.00 on the last day.

4. The objectives of this ICAO Civil/Military Cooperation Symposium will be:

- to present/remind States of the ICAO provisions (Chicago Convention);
- to present the EASA analysis outcome on occurrences involving military aircraft operating over the High Seas (EASA);

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- to present the NATO policy for civil/military aircraft operating in support of NATO missions;
- to address some of the operational problems and highlight the civil airspace user (IATA) perspective;
- to describe best practices in civil/military coordination/cooperation from various States;
- to present specific aspects related to State aircraft operations including examples of national regulations on the operations (under “due regard”) of State aircraft especially over the High Seas;
- to present the results from the EUROCONTROL workshop;
- to address the aspects associated with the implementation of new airspace concepts (e.g. Free Route Airspace over the High Seas);
- to discuss and enhance civil/military arrangements on the sharing of radar data;
- to highlight possible mitigation measures with the implementation of new technologies (e.g. SESAR).

5. It is intended to use the ICAO symposium conclusions for the development of further guidance material, the update of Circular 330 and as a basis for other future activities.

6. The symposium will be conducted in English and Russian, but due to the current ICAO budgetary limitations, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office will be able to provide only limited language assistance from its own means. Therefore, in an effort to enable the smooth and successful conduct of the symposium, I wish to kindly request your assistance in seeking possibilities to provide this symposium with language support by bringing along interpreters. All assistance from the meeting participants will greatly contribute to the success of this event.

7. A detailed agenda will be forwarded in due course and it is expected that the participants will represent the various stakeholders including: civil and military authorities, international organisations (i.e. EUROCONTROL, EASA, European Commission, NATO, CANSO, IATA, IFALPA, IFATCA, IAC), air navigation services providers, civil/military airspace users, and general aviation. High level officials representing civil and military authorities are specifically encouraged to participate in this important event.

8. The symposium presentations and any further documentation should reach the Secretariat, not later than **7 April 2015** (e-mail: icaoeurnat@paris.icao.int) so that it can be distributed to the participants prior to the symposium and made available on the ICAO EUR/NAT Office website. Please note that no paper copies will be available, so you are kindly encouraged to bring relevant documentation with you. A hotspot for Wi-Fi connection to the internet is available in the premises of the EUR/NAT Office in order to view papers online or download relevant documentation.

9. A list of hotels and other information are available on the ICAO website: <http://www.icao.int/EURNAT/Pages/Practical-Information.aspx> . I would also like to inform you that in case where you would need a **Visa Support letter** to attend this meeting, this request shall be sent to our attention **a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the meeting**. Further information concerning visas is also available on the website at: http://www.icao.int/EURNAT/Pages/Practical_info_visa.aspx .

10. I would appreciate if you could confirm the participation of your Administration/Organization in this symposium with the attached registration form (in English or Russian) in **Appendix A** at your earliest convenience, preferably before **7 April 2015**, to icaoeurnat@paris.icao.int, shalle@paris.icao.int and in copy also to jlevina@paris.icao.int so that a timely preparation and proper conduct of this event can be assured. As communication between States and ICAO is through civil aviation authorities, the authorities are requested to inform their military counterparts and coordinate participation of the military officials as part of their (civil aviation) delegation.

Yours sincerely,

Luis Fonseca de Almeida
ICAO Regional Director
Europe and North Atlantic

Enclosures: Appendix A – Registration Form