



REMARKS

FIFTH MEETING OF THE ALLPIRG/ADVISORY GROUP

(Montreal, 23 – 24 March 2006)

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Good morning/afternoon L & G. On behalf of ICAO's Air Navigation Commission I would like to present this brief report on the process recently started by the ICAO Council who wants to see how the PIRGs contribute to achieving the ICAO's Strategic Objectives. I would like to give you some background information first, and then I will report on the progress made so far.

You all know that reports from PIRGs and Planning Groups are reviewed by the ANC's Working Group on Regional Plans. This review by the Working Group is undertaken typically 3 months after the PIRG meeting. The review is largely based on a draft Council Working Paper that has been prepared by the Secretariat. Such a draft C-WP extracts significant issues from the PIRG reports and reflects the discussion in the ANC. To help matters, the C-WP includes in an Appendix a 'Summary of most significant issues' which should form the basis of a verbal presentation to Council. In addition, the C-WP lists in another Appendix Conclusions/Decisions that are considered for specific action by the Air Navigation Commission and/or Council.

The process I have just described is a type of filtering process that takes a PIRG report and systematically extracts a relatively small number of action items for the ANC and/or Council. This is what the ANC did with the report of the APANPIRG/16 meeting held in Bangkok in August last year. The ANC agreed a Council Working Paper on 3rd February and I had the pleasure of presenting it to Council on 20th February.

The reaction of Council was to express the view that it was time to reconsider the Terms of Reference of the PIRGs, as well as the format and method of processing the reports of the Commission. It was clear that some Council representatives could not endorse a list of eight Actions by Council without better understanding the resource implications and how the actions related to the ICAO Business Plan. The perception was that this process could lead to actions counter to the aims of ICAO's Strategic Objectives. It was clearly not the way Council wanted to do business.

The Commission, together with the Secretariat, immediately established a small working group, chaired by Bertrand Thébault, and held a series of meetings which led to a Commission Working Paper that was reviewed early last week. (AN-WP/8121 Revised). Based on this, I presented an oral brief to Council last Friday and stated the following:

The Commission recognized that the work being carried out by PIRGs, as well as their reporting processes, should be related to the Business Plan of the Organization, the revised Global Air

Navigation Plan and the working methods of the Secretariat and the Air Navigation Commission, all of which were currently under review. Considering that this review was to produce more mature results in the near future and that these results were to be important contributors to the future of the PIRGs, the Commission could only provide an interim oral progress report last Friday. The Commission intended to complete its work during 2006 and would then present a C-WP on the subject, as requested by Council.

In addressing the issues identified by the Council, the Commission was of the opinion that its work would require more than just a minor change to the way that PIRG reports were processed. The work of the Commission during the coming months would therefore encompass the following:

- 1) the alignment of the Terms of Reference of PIRGs with the Business Plan and the Global Air Navigation Plan;
- 2) the revision of the reporting format of PIRGs to the Commission;
- 3) the revision of the method of presenting PIRG reports by the Secretary General to the Commission; and
- 4) the revision of the method of reporting to the Council by the Commission.

The Commission recognized that for the implementation of the Global Air Navigation Plan, the activities at Headquarters, particularly the work of the Air Navigation Bureau, would have to be better integrated with the work of the Regional Offices. This would require:

- continuous communication amongst staff in Headquarters and the Regional Offices, and
- increased involvement of technical staff at Headquarters in the work of PIRGs and their subgroups

The Commission agreed that an annual report on all PIRG activities should be prepared for consideration by the Council. Its objective would be to:

- highlight the main achievements of the regions with regard to the implementation of the Global Plan Initiatives,
- reflect any deficiencies observed or difficulties encountered, and
- allow a comparison to be made between the regions on the progress achieved in their planning and implementation activities

On issues requiring Council's decision, the Commission would prepare reports to Council when considered necessary. In connection with this, the impact of the regional activities on the completion of the Business Plan would be assessed, including possible allocation of resources.

I believe that the Secretariat will be presenting a working paper to ALLPIRG/5 to guide all the PIRGs on the approach taken by Council and the Commission with respect to Terms of Reference and functioning.

The Commission will continue reviewing PIRG reports through the Commission's

Working Group on Regional Plans. We will, therefore be reviewing the APIRG, GREPECAS and EANPG reports during its next Session, but will not be preparing a C-WP for each, but will consolidate its findings into a single annual report.

That completes this progress Report.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Adrian Sayce
President
Air Navigation Commission