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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

STATEMENT

(Presented by the Czech Republic)

MR. PRESIDENT,
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the Government of the Czech Republic allow me to extend my sincere greetings to all participants of the 35th Assembly of ICAO.

I would like to commence my address with the information regarding the last development of civil aviation in the Czech Republic.

On basis of the decision of the Government of the Czech Republic the Air Accident Investigation Institute has been established on 1 January 2003. The Institute is an independent body on both the Department of Civil Aviation of Ministry of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Czech Republic. Its principle task is to determine the causes of aircraft accidents in a professional manner, introduce precautions and thus significantly contribute to increase safety in the Czech civil aviation.

The statistics of the Czech Air Navigation Services (ANS CR) has shown a permanent increase in demand for the Czech airspace from air carriers. A new system of utilizing flight levels (Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum – RVSM) was successfully set off in accordance with the pan-European programme managed by the EUROCONTROL organization. The number of movements in the airspace of the Czech Republic in 2003 rose significantly by nearly 18% compared to 2002. We expect another significant increase in demand for the Czech airspace by air carriers in 2004. The actual growth of air traffic during the first five months of the year 2004 was 23 % in comparison with the year 2003. The decision to launch the project for constructing the ANS CR National Integrated Air Traffic Control Centre (IATCC) was a significant milestone. On its completion in 2006, IATCC Prague will become one of the most modern centres, both in Europe and worldwide.

There are 86 airports in the Czech Republic; among those 12 are international. The Prague-Ruzyně airport operated by the Czech Airports Authority, traditionally hold the most important

place among the airports of the Czech Republic. The Prague Ruzyne is the fastest growing airport in Central and Eastern Europe. Average year-on-year traffic increase reaches over 15%. Recent traffic progression from August 2003 is even much higher – over 30%. There were also taken a number of important steps intended to increase the capacity of Prague-Ruzyne airport. The new terminal is expected to be operational early in 2006. When completed at the end of 2005, its total annual capacity will be more than 10 million passengers. A passenger tax has not been increased for five years and a landing charge is steadily decreasing from 1999 – this year for another 20%. Charges are discussed yearly with airlines and set fully in accordance with ICAO recommendations.

The Department of the Civil Aviation of the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic and the Civil Aviation Authorities of the Czech Republic pay large attention to the safety and security at all Czech airports to be compliant with international standards and recommendations.

The biggest Czech air carrier is the Czech Airlines. They were established in the year 1923. They are members of the Sky team. Their fleet is composed of 43 aircraft. On regular lines they transported 3 591 500 passengers and 21 092 ton of cargo last year. However CSA are not alone. There are many other Czech air carriers as I would like to mention e.g. Travel Service and Fischer air, that are involved in regular, charter and general aviation business.

Necessary measures to support the growth in the sector, including regional air transport, are being taken according to the principles of sustainable development to the concept of cost minimising and internalising externalities. By doing this, emphasis is placed on achieving a balance between growth and environment as well as maintaining standards in the field of security and safety.

No doubt that the application of these principles has become more essential today than ever in creating a safe, secure and efficient air transport system.

The Czech Republic is a member of ECAC, Eurocontrol, EASA and JAA.

Having joined the EU, the Czech Republic, as part of the single market, may take advantage in directly applying the rules of competition in the air transport sector.

Both the level and quality supply of air transport services that are provided to users at reasonable prices remain to be a decisive determinant of growth in the Czech civil aviation.

Now I would like to touch our relationship with ICAO.

It is a pleasure for me to underline that the Czech Republic fully appreciates the work which ICAO has done for the organized and safe development of international civil aviation.

We consider the role of ICAO to be essential and indispensable in dealing with the problems of flight operation safety and security of civil aviation as well as the level of control over the observance of regulations relating to both safety and security oversight. There is also an urgent and growing need to deal with the influence of civil aviation on the world-wide environment so that this issue becomes one of the principal priorities for ICAO now-a-days.

The Czech Republic continually and actively participates in ICAO activities, either on a regional or international level. Since the last Assembly the Czech Republic took part in several ICAO technical co-operation projects. In cooperation with Technical Cooperation Bureau we proceed in

organizing special courses for air traffic controllers from developing countries or countries in transition in the training centre of the Czech Air Navigation Services.

The delegates of the Czech Republic have participated in all major activities organized by ICAO either on headquarters or regional level.

The Czech Republic appreciates very much the work done by the International Civil Aviation Organization to improve safety, security and effectiveness of international civil aviation as well as its effort to decrease impact of air transport on the globe environment. ICAO has to keep pace with new challenges steaming not only from technological development in all disciplines of civil aviation but as well with the growing differences among regions. A Very serious task to be fulfilled by the Organization is to find out and exploit every opportunity in reduction of its expensens with the aim to retain its member states' contributions on an acceptable level. Such savings cannot endanger the principal role of ICAO based on the Chicago Convention.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that you are informed about the diplomatic steps taken in connection with the preparations on the ICAO Council election for another three year period. I would like to draw your attention to the situation within the framework of the agreed rotation of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. In accordance with the MOU Agreement of CERG Hungary, the successor of the Czech Republic is presently standing as a candidate to the 3rd Group of the ICAO Council States for the elections. On this occasion I would like to ask the delegates present to support the Hungary in its group candidacy.

In conclusion I would like to wish the utmost success to the negotiations of the 35th Assembly of ICAO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

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