

Dear Madam Secretary General,

Referring to a letter of the ICAO Secretary General N^o AS8/5-18/17 concerning *Laser illumination and flight safety*, please be kindly informed that with reference to the execution of the existing rules of law related to the use of a laser which may influence the aviation safety, issues related to the emission or to causing an emission of a laser beam or a light from other sources in the direction of an aircraft in airspace used for air navigation are regulated in Art. 87a of an Act of July 3, 2002 – Aviation Law (O.J. of 2017, item 959 and 1089 and of 2018, item 138). Moreover, on the basis of Art. 87a, item 4 of the above-mentioned Act, a Regulation has been issued which defines airspace used for air navigation, where causing the above-mentioned emission is banned. The Regulation defines also detailed conditions for the use of a laser or a light from other sources in such an airspace and the course for issuing a permit to use a laser or a light from other sources.

The Aviation Law Act in its Art. 211, item 1, point 12 stipulates also sanctions against people who, despite the ban defined in Art. 87a, emit or cause an emission of a laser beam or a light from other sources in the direction of an aircraft in a way which may cause glare, flash blindness or after image and as a result pose a threat for the safety of the aircraft or for the health of the crew and passengers on its board. The sanctions for the above-mentioned action are a fine, restriction of liberty and imprisonment up to one year.

Referring to legislation to the already existing stipulations of the Aviation Law Act related to the rules of using lasers in airspace, inclusive of a ban to emit a laser beam in the direction of an aircraft, in 2017 a draft amendment of the Aviation Law Act was drawn up whose aim is to provide more details on stipulations concerning punishment and penalization of persons emitting a laser beam in the direction of an aircraft. The suggested wording of Art. 87a forbids to emit a laser beam or a light from other sources in the direction of an aircraft in a way which may cause a threat to the aircraft or to the health and life of the crews or passengers on its board.

Taking into consideration the fact that the legislative activities are only one of the activities aimed at the safety enhancement related to lasers, the Civil Aviation Authority has taken up a range of additional activities that promote the awareness about the threats.

In addition, in March 2017 the President of the Civil Aviation Authority approved a National Safety Plan 2017 – 2020 which constitutes an Annex to the National Safety Program in Civil Aviation. It identifies blinding aircraft crews with a laser as one of the threats at a national level. Within this threat safety indicators were defined measuring the number of incidents of the LASER category on the basis of ECCAIRS data and with consideration to all operations, CAT operations and weighted data counted annually. Also incidents of the LASER category divided according to their location are monitored. Due to that, it is possible to prepare safety indicators related to the location of the most frequent incidents with lasers on the territory of the Republic of Poland.

In order to react to this threat the Civil Aviation Authority has prepared a social campaign whose start is planned on April 5, 2018. The campaign includes a TV spot and a poster which will be distributed both, in the social media and in the public transport in Warsaw. Due to the cooperation with Polish airports the campaign will cover also the airports. The spot is to be broadcast before movies in movie theaters all around Poland. The partners of the campaign are: the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Polish Airports State Enterprise and the Polish Air Navigation Services Agency. Additionally, in order to increase the society's awareness, the President of the Civil Aviation Authority issued in February Safety Bulletin No 1(2)/2018 which was devoted to incidents in civil aviation related to the use of lasers and to the influence of a laser beam on human body and its threat to manned flight operations. It was indicated that the threat related to the use of lasers has increased. Moreover, the number of reports related to the use of a laser beam has been stated in relation to the number of incidents and accidents in 2014 – 2017. This information was also published on the CAA's website.

It is also worth mentioning that the Police is also involved in the social campaign.

Please accept, Madam Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.