

FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

(Third Meeting, Montreal, 12 to 16 February 2001)

Agenda Item 4: Other matters

COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT FACILITATION FOR GREATER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICAO FACILITATION PROGRAMME

(Presented by Mr. V.M. Gonzáles Calero, Cuba)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Eleventh Session of the Facilitation Division, held in Montreal from 18 to 27 April 1995, noted from WP/4 (presented by the Secretariat) the work of the three regional civil aviation bodies (African Civil Aviation Commission, European Civil Aviation Conference and Latin American Civil Aviation Commission) in the field of facilitation and their importance in finding solutions to regional problems which were often found to be of world-wide scope and thus provided material for Standards and Recommended Practices that were eventually introduced in Annex 9. In this connection, Saudi Arabia indicated that an annual meeting of a working group on regional FAL cooperation would benefit the Middle East Region in providing concerned States and ICAO with information regarding regional problems and solutions.

1.2 The details of the approach to regional cooperation in facilitation matters are given in Assembly Resolution A32-17, "Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the air transport field", Appendix D, Section III, "National and international action and cooperation on facilitation matters":

"- *Urges* Contracting States to establish and utilize national facilitation committees and adopt policies of cooperation on a regional basis among neighbouring States;

- *Urges* Contracting States to participate in regional and subregional facilitation programmes of other inter-governmental aviation organizations;

...

- *Urges* Contracting States to encourage the study of facilitation problems by their national and other facilitation committees, and to coordinate the findings of their

committees on facilitation problems with those of other Contracting States with which they have air links;

- *Urges* neighbouring and bordering States to consult one another about common problems that they may have in the facilitation field in cases where it appears that these consultations may lead to a uniform solution of such problems;

...

- *Urges* Contracting States to call upon international operators and their associations, to participate to the extent possible in electronic data interchange systems in order to achieve maximum efficiency levels in the processing of passenger and cargo traffic at international terminals;”

2. ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Through cooperation among States in facilitation matters, the experience gained in solving problems of mutual interest in this area of international air transport will be exchanged and put to good use.
- 2.2 The work undertaken by a State’s National or Airport Facilitation Committee in defining and solving a problem may be of benefit to other States in solving the same problems.
- 2.3 The results of the cooperation among States in facilitation matters are tied to ICAO’s objectives in this area which are to ensure the speed of international air transport, through greater implementation of the ICAO Facilitation Programme.

3. ACTION BY THE PANEL

- 3.1 The Facilitation Panel is invited to:
 - a) note this working paper and exchange opinions thereon; and
 - b) propose that the Air Transport Committee of the Council of ICAO take appropriate action and include on the work programme of the ICAO Facilitation Panel for the year 2001 the task of undertaking studies and developing specific proposals leading to the practical application of cooperation among Contracting States with respect to the facilitation of international air transport.