



# ICAO/McGill pre-Assembly Symposium: Enhancing Air Transport Connectivity and Profitability

## Session 7 – Taxes, Fees and Charges

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## Air Navigation Charges in Europe

### Pan-European approach:

Costs of air traffic management (ATM) services in Europe (infrastructure, staff and other operational costs):

→ funded through **air navigation charges**

### Common Route Charges System:

Member States of EUROCONTROL agreed to *“create a joint system for the establishment and collection of route charges and to use for this purpose the services of EUROCONTROL”*

- EUROCONTROL: European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (39 Member States)
- Common Route Charges System established in 1971

## Air Navigation Charges in Europe

### **Basis:**

- Article 15 Chicago Convention
- ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services (ICAO Doc. 9082)

### **Main Principles** for Common Route Charges System:

- Simple
- Equitable
- Non-discriminatory between “local” and foreign users
- Cost-related: based on sound accounting and economic principles
- Cost effective – joint system
- Reasonable – not to discourage use of services

## Common Route Charges System

### Key features:

- Consultation with users
- Non-discriminatory because charges are calculated with the same rules and applied to all parties
- A single charge per flight
- Subject to economic and performance regulations (EU level)
- Route charges paid by users and not by taxpayers
- Charges finance a service which is related to the exercise of the powers of a public authority

## Common Route Charges System

### A few figures:

- Route Charges System created 1971: 38 participating States in 2013
- The average total billing of route charges is **7 billion Euros** yearly
- In 2012, over **9.66 million flight messages** (IFR flights only) were processed
- In 2012, the number of kilometers recorded in Member States' airspace, used in the calculation of route charges, was **8.97 billion kilometers**
- Recovery rate: **99.7% for route charges in 2011** (medium-term recovery rate, measured on 31 December 2012)