



## **Position on the candidates for Director General of EUROCONTROL**

Brussels, 22/05/17

Dear Madam / Dear Sir,

With considerable interest, the EUROCONTROL staff representatives took notice of the list of candidates for the position of Director General of EUROCONTROL. We have also taken note of the misleading and insulting letter from the A4E lobby group which is unacceptable and unfair. As joint representatives of the EUROCONTROL Staff, we would like to highlight the following:

- As EUROCONTROL is an international Organization with a governance system based on the participation of the different countries that form the Organization, it is vital for its Director General to be able to maintain a good dialogue like the current DG who was seriously and respectfully committed to achieve reforms for the Agency and its staff. It was not necessarily the case with the previous DGs. Moreover, it is also important to foster agreements between the different stakeholders and to use independent expertise in the decision-making process.
- A number of candidates on the shortlist have throughout their respective career clearly demonstrated they completely lack the essential skills outlined above. We submit that a number of them have continuously opted to ignore all forms of dialogue and/or compromise. We submit this makes them completely unsuitable for the post of EUROCONTROL Director General.
- In addition, it should be clear to anyone knowledgeable of the European ATM scene that the EUROCONTROL Agency should remain an independent entity, without political or commercial bias and using professional expertise to perform its function within the European ATM system. A number of candidates appear to plan to run the Agency as a CEO and steer it into a commercial direction. This would most likely not only undermine the credibility of the Agency but also reduce the governance of the Member States to a ceremonial one - with social and economic consequences.
- After a huge number of reforms, a significant number of which have not even yet been fully implemented – to the detriment of the staff we might add – we submit that the Agency is in dire need of stability and consolidation. Yet, at least three of the candidates have already indicated that they want additional reforms of the Agency. If their track record to date is anything to go by, we don't believe the Agency can survive another round of aggressive reform, nor another period of stringent and misplaced austerity. We need to continue to reinforce the cooperation and the relationship with all European ATM partners.

- Last but not least, we want to urge you to ensure the focus of the new Director General is on safety – as the Agency is the ‘European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation’. This is the essence of its mission and of the existing vision. In our opinion, it is something that is often conveniently forgotten by its critics. A number of candidates clearly have a questionable track record for believing that safety is nothing but a by-product and can be taken for granted. In that sense, we believe that giving in to the pseudo arguments of lobby groups such as A4E would be a major mistake.

With the above in mind, we invite you to very carefully consider the past track record of each candidate and choose in the interest of the Agency, the Member States and all other stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,



Benoît BAMS  
President FFPE



Volker DICK  
President TUEM



Georges TSOLOS  
Vice-President US



María AGUILERA  
President USEF