

APPENDIX C –
DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
TRANS-REGIONAL AIRSPACE AND SUPPORTING ATM SYSTEMS STEERING GROUP
(TRASAS)

(Paragraph 4.31 refers)

1. Introduction

1.1 In order to continue work already done concerning the traffic in the Northern area and to respond to the new requirements for increased efficiency and further developments, co-ordinated efforts of the international civil aviation community is required. It would involve States and Organisations from four of the ICAO Regions: EUR, ASIA, NAT and PAC. A Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering (TRASAS) Group shall respond to these requirements under the following Terms of Reference.

2. Purpose and objectives

2.1 The ICAO Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering (TRASAS) Group shall co-ordinate the requirements of international civil aviation for a coherent and economically viable and operationally optimal structure of ATS routes, linking city-pairs in Europe and Asia, Europe and North America and Asia and North America. The route network shall have sufficient flexibility to plan different flight paths, day-by-day, to take advantage of prevailing upper winds.

2.2 The Group shall work in close co-operation with aircraft operators' international organisations in order to ensure that known and expected requirements for international and domestic routings and cost-effective implementation are taken into account. The Group will also take account of the requirements for adequate feeder and connection routings to enable optimal access to the route network from points of departure and points of destination, upstream, downstream and from within its vicinity. The scope of the work will respond to the global objectives of the ICAO operational concept and support the new ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan Initiatives: GPI-1 (flexible use of airspace), GPI-2 (reduced vertical separation minima), GPI-3 (harmonised level system), GPI-5 (performance-based navigation), GPI-6 (air traffic flow management), GPI-7 (dynamic and flexible ATS route management), GPI-8 (collaborative airspace design and management), GPI-17 (implementation of data-link applications), GPI-20 (WGS-84 implementation), GPI-21 (navigation systems) and GPI-22 (communication network infrastructure).

3. Scope of work

3.1 The TRASAS Group shall make proposals and promote improvements for the safety and efficiency of the Northern area route structure and the supporting ATM systems within the States affected by such proposals. It shall base its work on aircraft operators' requirements, which may be expanded and complemented, as necessary.

3.2 The Group shall take into account modern space based technology (GPS/GLONASS/GNSS and ADS) in accordance with the ICAO CNS/ATM system concept and plan for an orderly transition period. This transition period should enable a seamless migration of current aircraft fleets to full CNS/ATM compliance on such routes in the future. TRASAS shall consider an equitable cost recovery scheme for the established route system in accordance with ICAO provisions in line with Article 15 of the Chicago Convention.

3.3 The Group shall not substitute itself for other existing bodies which are active under the auspices of ICAO (e.g. European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG), North Atlantic Systems Planning Group (NAT SPG), ASIA/PAC Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG), etc.) or bodies operating as bilateral/multilateral State initiatives. It may provide guidance as well as a co-ordinating function for these Groups working on the various technical and operational aspects related to the intended transit route network and to combine the results into one coherent overall plan. This will lead to the amendment, if and when required, of the ICAO Regional Air Navigation Plan (ANP) in accordance with procedures established by the ICAO Council.

3.4 In addition to its technical work on the newly established route system, the TRASAS Group shall explore proposals for financing and cost recovery for this system.

4. Activities

- To promote a modern, efficient and cost-effective international ATS route network linking city-pairs in Europe, Asia and North America, taking into account the recognized requirements of the airspace users, taking advantage of seasonal wind patterns, and making use of space-based technology in accordance with the ICAO CNS/ATM system concept.
- To promote efficient air traffic management and associated systems to improve safety, increase capacity and enhance operational and economic efficiency.
- To promote the provision of sufficient capacity so as to avoid the need for air traffic flow management (ATFM).
- To develop a coherent transition plan enabling a seamless migration of current aircraft fleets to full CNS/ATM compliance on such routes in the future.
- To promote the establishment of a minimum number of suitably equipped Area Control Centres (ACC) and an infrastructure adequate to provide the required air traffic services along the proposed ATS route structure.
- To promote suitable financing and cost recovery mechanisms for the newly established route system in accordance with the applicable ICAO provisions and in line with Article 15 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, 1944).
- To analyse the costs and benefits achieved by individual ATS routes of the newly established route system to determine their eligibility for inclusion into the ICAO Regional Air Navigation Plan.

4.1 TRASAS may establish Contributory Working Bodies (CWB) that shall work on its behalf on specific expert issues (route network developments, RVSM implementation, communications, airport issues etc).

5. Composition

5.1 The TRASAS Group shall be composed of representatives with operational and technical, expertise from Canada, China, Democratic People's Rep. of Korea, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Mongolia, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United States and from international organisations (e.g. IACA, IATA, IBAC, IFALPA).

5.2 The TRASAS Group shall work under the auspices of ICAO. The EUR/NAT Office shall provide full secretarial support to the Group.

5.3 The Group may invite participation from other States which may be concerned during the progress of its work (e.g. States in Central Asia, in the South Caucasus area, and others) and international organizations which may provide useful input during its deliberations.

6. Reporting

6.1 Reports of the TRASAS shall be prepared by the ICAO Secretariat in the usual standard fashion. As reports of an informal group, this documentation will be made available to participating States and international organization(s) and shall be distributed to the Regional Planning Groups [in particular the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG), the Middle East Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (MIDANPIRG), the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) and North Atlantic Systems Planning Group (NAT SPG) for their information and to facilitate co-ordination which may be required within their respective work programmes.

7. Communication

7.1 As far as possible, members and participants in the work of TRASAS shall correspond by electronic mail. Their communications should be as informal as possible to ensure rapid progress of the work programme.

8. Target dates and deliverables

8.1 TRASAS shall establish a comprehensive work programme containing target dates and milestones to be achieved. It should strive to complete its tasks in the shortest possible time.