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When replying please quote

Reference : EUR/NAT 09-519.TEC (THK/CUP)
MTG/MTS/TRASAS

29 October 2009

Subject : **Convening of the 3rd meeting Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems
Steering Group –TRASAS/3 (Paris, 18 – 19 February 2010)**

Action
required : See paragraphs 4 to 6

Madam, Sir,

1. I have the honour to refer to my letter reference: MTG/MTS/TRASAS 08-0474.TEC of 22 December 2008 informing you of the postponement of the 3rd meeting of the Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering Group (TRASAS/3), which had tentatively been intended to be held in March 2009. Following coordination with my colleagues in the Asia/Pacific and the North American, Central American and Caribbean Offices of ICAO, we have determined that progress on follow-up on the Conclusions of TRASAS/2 has sufficiently developed such that it would be appropriate to hold the 3rd meeting of the TRASAS in Spring 2010.

2. I have thus the pleasure to invite you to the 3rd Meeting of the Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering Group (TRASAS/3) which will take place in the European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Office of ICAO in Paris from **18 to 19 February 2010**. The meeting will commence at **10:00 hours** and registration of delegates at 09:30 hours.

3. The TRASAS is intended as a high level steering group and it is therefore appropriate that major stakeholders attend this meeting to establish policy guidelines on particular issues and delegate action to the appropriate technical body/bodies. The Proposed Agenda (**Appendix A**) is enclosed for your information.

4. I would appreciate receiving the name(s) of your appointed representatives before **5 February 2010**. A list of hotels and other information to make your stay more enjoyable can be found on the ICAO EUR/NAT Office web site at: www.paris.icao.int.

5. The objective of the meeting will be to note the progress on the tasks agreed to at TRASAS/2, of which a status report is provided in **Appendix B**, and provide guidance on future activities to achieve harmonised implementation. You are invited to submit to this Office status reports on actions being taken by your Administration on tasks in the TRASAS Follow-up Task List (**Appendix C** refers). The airspace user community is invited to provide a feedback report on the work that has been carried out so far to meet their requirements.

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Distribution : Canada, China, Democratic People's Rep. of Korea, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United States, Uzbekistan, IACA, IATA, IBAC, IFALPA and
Chairmen of APANPIRG, EANPG and NAT SPG

6. The meeting will work in English. Working documentation should reach the ICAO EUR/NAT Office by **1 February 2010** (email: icaoeurnat@paris.icao.int) so that it can be made available for upload on www.paris.icao.int. Access to the website will be password protected and access will be given to all nominated participants. A hotspot for Wi-Fi connection to the Internet is available in the premises of the EUR/NAT Office to allow viewing papers on-line or downloading documentation. Paper copies of meeting documentation will normally be made available only on request, and you are kindly invited to inform us on beforehand if you have such requirement.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Karsten Theil
ICAO Regional Director
Europe and North Atlantic

Enclosures: Proposed Agenda
Status on follow up of TRASAS/2 Conclusions
TRASAS/2 Follow-up Task List

APPENDIX A

TRASAS/3 - WP/1

21/10/09

**Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering Group
Second Meeting (TRASAS/3)***(Paris, France, 18 – 19 February 2010)***PROPOSED AGENDA****Agenda Item 1: Report on significant international aviation developments**

The Group will exchange information and points of view on significant developments, *inter alia*:

i) outcome of:

- APANPIRG/20;
- EANPG/51;
- NAT SPG/45; and
- GREPECAS/15.

ii) progress on global implementation of Performance Based Navigation (PBN).

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of RVSM, including interface issues

The Group will exchange information and feedback on implementation of RVSM, including interface issues be addressed by the Group, in particular, the RVSM implementation programme in the EURASIA (Eastern part of the EUR Region and Mongolia - target date November 2011, and possibly, Afghanistan).

Agenda Item 3: Work currently underway to enhance the ATS route network

The Group will exchange information and provide guidance on work on-going, *inter alia*, within States, the regional route planning fora, and the Cross Polar Trans East Air Traffic Management Work Group (CPWG).

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of changes to the Flight Plan Format (15 November 2012)

The Group will exchange information and provide guidance on work on-going within States as well as mechanisms put in place to ensure inter-regional coordination between adjacent Regions to ensure harmonised and seamless transition to the new FPL format.

Agenda Item 5: Short term, medium term and long term goals of TRASAS

The Group will review status reports on actions being taken on agreed common tasks and decide on updates to the TRASAS Action List.

Agenda Item 6: Arrangements for future TRASAS activities**Agenda Item 7: Any other business**

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APPENDIX B - STATUS OF FOLLOW-UP ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE TRASAS/2, HELD IN BANGKOK ON 18-19 MARCH 2008

TRASAS Conclusion 2/1 – Data Link Harmonisation Strategy

That the APANPIRG be invited to consider amending the Strategy for Implementation of the Air-Ground Data Link in the Asia/Pacific Region to include the Data Link Harmonisation Strategy endorsed by EANPG and NATSPG.

Appropriate action has been taken to arrest the divergence of implementation programmes, and further initiatives to harmonise the programmes will be taken through ANB. Nevertheless, since the last update, new developments took place in the EUR and NAT Regions in respect to the implementation of the Single European Sky Programme. These developments should be presented to TRASAS/3 for information and further action.

APANPIRG/19 (September 2008) adopted text agreeing to in-principle support for 'stop divergence, increase convergence' strategies and committed (Conclusion 19/6) to support the Ad-Hoc GOLD Working Group in the coordinated effort with the NAT Region towards harmonized data link operational procedures.

The first Satellite Data Link Operational Continuity Meeting (SOCM, August 2009) was held to discuss the technical and institutional issues with the provision of satellite data link services. APANPIRG/20 (September 2009) agreed to Conclusion 20/32 inviting convening of SOCM/2 during 2010.

APANPIRG/20 formulated Conclusion 20/74 adopting the Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) on release by the Ad-Hoc GOLD Working Group and also agreed to Conclusion 20/31 for States and Operators to populate the GOLD Appendices E and F, respectively. Additionally, APANPIRG/20 agreed to Conclusion 20/33 calling for States to coordinate with Communications Services Providers (CSPs) well in advance and formally record in Service Level Agreements (SLAs) the availability of adequate satellite communications and surveillance capability. Through Conclusion 20/34, APANPIRG/20 invited ICAO to address the technical limitations on satellite data link capabilities at a global level.

TRASAS Conclusion 2/2 – RNP for Cross-Polar and Trans-East Operations

That all PIRGs concerned be invited to consider actions that will harmonise the application of separation standards and a means to achieve:

- a) implementation of the RNP 10 provisions in the airspaces covering the Cross-Polar and Trans-East routes/operations as a short-term/medium-term action;*
- b) implementation of the RNP 4 provisions in the same airspaces as described above, as a medium-term/long-term improvement; and*
- c) amend, as appropriate, the provisions of Regional Supplementary Procedures and the Regional Air Navigation Plans.*

The EANPG has established a PBN Task Force to develop a draft implementation plan for PBN in the EUR Region for adoption by the EANPG in December 2009. Although the NAT SPG has not progressed work on presentation and discussions.

The United States, in conjunction with Canada, has started coordination with the Mexico Regional Office to develop a proposal for amendment to Doc 7030 on the implementation of RNP10 in the NAM Region. The action plan for the implementation of the WATRS Plus Project will serve as a basis for the implementation of this new proposal.

The requirements arising from TRASAS Conclusion 2/2 have been incorporated into the Asia/Pacific Regional PBN Implementation Plan via the APANPIRG Task Force on Performance Based Navigation (PBN/TF). APANPIRG Conclusion 20/42 expands on the interim edition of the Regional PBN Implementation Plan previously adopted by Conclusion 19/25 during 2008 and incorporates the RNAV 10 and RNP 4 navigation specifications. Many State implementation plans have already been developed based on the regional plan.

The last meeting of the Special ATS Coordination Meeting - China, Mongolia, Russian Federation and IATA (CMRI) was the CMRI/5, held in Bangkok during June 2007 and at present there are no firm plans for the convening of the CMRI/6 meeting. In this regard, the APAC Office notes the participation of China, the Russian Federation and IATA in the periodic Cross Polar Working Group (CPWG) meetings and continues to raise route implementation matters in other appropriate forums. These include a variety of missions and meetings in China to support the Chinese RVSM implementation and Beijing Olympic Games, as well as missions to Mongolia to provide assistance with the implementation of radar in the Ulaan Baatar FIR and to DPRK to support the implementation of metric RVSM in the Pyongyang FIR on 22 October 2009. The attendance of Mongolia at the recent EUR/NAT RVSM/TF supporting implementation in the Russian Federation is also noted.

TRASAS Conclusion 2/3 – Improved Surveillance and Communications in the Northern Airspace

That the NAT SPG be invited to:

- a) establish a Task Force consisting of concerned stakeholders from the States (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation and United States) providing services north of latitude of 80N, to assess the existing communication infrastructure and propose a way forward;*
- b) ensure that the Russian Federation be invited formally to participate in this work; and*
- c) report progress to TRASAS/3.*

The NAT SPG established the Surveillance and Communications in Northern Airspace Task Force (SCNATF) to carry out an analysis of existing surveillance and communications facilities available to provide Air Navigation Services (ANS) North of 80° North, determine the future requirements for surveillance and communications facilities and propose ways and means to meet the requirements. The SCNATF is composed of representatives from Canada, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States under the leadership of Canada.

Canada carried out the task and as a result the contents of the Arctic Flight Information Regions (FIR) Air Traffic Management/Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (ATM/CNS) table were updated thus fulfilling the requirements of the NAT SPG task. It should be noted that the Cross Polar Working Group (CPWG) will be maintaining the accuracy of the contents of the table and advance further work in order to respond to the TRASAS Conclusion 2/3 regarding the Improved Surveillance and Communications in the Northern Airspace. The NAT SPG agreed that the SCNATF had completed its assignment, disbanded the Task Force and requested the Secretariat to inform TRASAS accordingly.

TRASAS Conclusion 2/4 – Airspace of Unassigned Responsibility over the Arctic Ocean

That the ICAO Secretariat be invited to take the necessary actions to resolve the pending issues regarding the portions of airspace of unassigned responsibility extending over the High Seas between Bodo Oceanic FIR, Sondrestrom FIR and Murmansk Oceanic FIR.

Initiated by this Office, several informal discussions have taken place between representatives from Norway and the Russian Federation. For the time being there was no visible progress in this issue and the States concerned should be invited to report back to TRASAS/3 on this issue.

APPENDIX C – FOLLOW UP TASK LIST OF THE SECOND TRANS-REGIONAL AIRSPACE AND SUPPORTING ATM SYSTEMS STEERING GROUP (TRASAS/2)

X-REF in TRASAS/2 Summary	ACTION	WHO	WHEN/WHAT
3.16	a) Issue of new entry/exit points between the Russian Federation and China to be included on agenda of the next Special ATS Coordination Meeting China, Mongolia, Russian Federation and IATA (CMRI/6) meeting and b) Kazakhstan to be invited to participate.	ICAO Bangkok	Progress reported in Appendix B to this letter.
3.19	Conduct bilateral meetings to coordinate the issue of overflight permissions and airport slots, as necessary, in order to ensure efficiency of the existing system during the Beijing Olympics and consider finalising agreement not later than June 2008.	China Russian Federation	Progress report to TRASAS/3 requested.
3.21	Send ICAO State letter to encourage States concerned to cooperate and coordinate with CAAC/ATMB and to undertake appropriate actions within their own areas of responsibility in order to ensure their preparedness for the Beijing Olympic Games.	ICAO Bangkok ICAO Paris	Done
6.1	Consider TRASAS Conclusion 2/1 Data Link Harmonisation Strategy.	APANPIRG	Progress reported in Appendix B to this letter.
6.3	Consider actions to harmonise the application of separation standards and means to achieve the various RNP provisions implementation in the short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (2-5 years) and long-term (5-10 years) plans. (TRASAS Conclusion 2/2 RNP for Cross-Polar and Trans-East Operations refers).	APANPIRG EANPG NAT SPG GREPECAS	Progress reported in Appendix B to this letter.
6.5	Establish Task Force to assess the existing communication infrastructure and propose a way forward on improved surveillance and communications in the Northern Airspace (TRASAS Conclusion 2/3 Improved Surveillance and Communications in the Northern Airspace refers).	NAT SPG	Progress reported in Appendix B to this letter.

X-REF in TRASAS/2 Summary	ACTION	WHO	WHEN/WHAT
6.7	Conduct studies on proposals by IATA to improve the process of	Russian Federation IATA	Progress report to TRASAS/3 requested.
7.2	Confirm dates TRASAS/3 (17 to 18 March 2009).	ICAO Paris	Done
8.1	Take the necessary actions to resolve pending issues regarding the portions of airspace of unassigned responsibility extending over the High Seas between Bodo Oceanic FIR, Sondrestrom FIR and Murmansk Oceanic FIR. (TRASAS Conclusion 2/4 Unassigned Airspace of Unassigned Responsibility over the Arctic Ocean refers).	ICAO Paris	Progress reported and action for States concerned in Appendix B to this letter.

– END –