

**For immediate release, 22 April 2005**

## **Ministerial meeting backs implementation of CEATS**

Luxembourg – Ministers or representatives from 8 Central and Eastern European countries have signed a Declaration agreeing to move forward without delay with the implementation of Central European Air Traffic Services (CEATS) project, and welcoming the declaration of the European Commission to the effect that the CEATS project is a fundamental step towards the realisation of the Single European Sky.

At a Ministerial Conference held today at EUROCONTROL's premises in Luxembourg, those Transport Ministers or representatives from the eight CEATS countries who were entitled to do so, signed a declaration expressing their encouragement at the entry into force of the CEATS Agreement, and reiterating the invitation to the three remaining States who have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so. Ministers agreed to move ahead without delay with the implementation of the project, while recognising the need to make further progress on issues regarding regulation, current and future institutional arrangements, civil and military matters, social dialogue, decision-making process and the milestones of the implementation of the project. In order to consolidate all these elements, the meeting agreed to set up a high-level working group comprised of representatives of the Ministers and EUROCONTROL. This group will be tasked with making a proposal to a Ministerial Conference that will be organised in four weeks' time.

Speaking at the Conference, its Chairman, Mr. Dokic, Minister of Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina said "The CEATS project is very important if we are to ensure safe, efficient and cost-effective air transport in the CEATS region in the future. Only regional cooperation has the potential to achieve these objectives. Today we have reconfirmed political support of the governments represented here for this ambitious project."

"We welcome the confirmation of support provided today by Ministers or representatives from the eight CEATS countries," said Víctor M. Aguado, Director General of EUROCONTROL. "By agreeing to this joint declaration, the CEATS States have confirmed their intention to implement the CEATS project in line with the Single European Sky and subscribe the vision of a more coherent and unified pan-European air traffic management system."

European  
Organisation for the  
Safety of  
Air Navigation

Organisation  
européenne pour la  
sécurité de la  
navigation aérienne

Rue de la Fusée, 96  
B-1130 Bruxelles  
Tel: +32.2.729.90.11  
Fax: +32.2.729.90.44

The CEATS project, a regional initiative coordinated by EUROCONTROL, aims to create a single air traffic control centre for the upper airspace (above 28,500 feet) in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, the northern part of Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia. With air traffic in the CEATS countries predicted to nearly double by 2015, well above the European average, CEATS provides a well-balanced and cost-effective solution to the capacity limitations posed by fragmented air traffic services in a limited geographical area. At the same time, CEATS ensures equal and shared benefits to all the partners in the project. The CEATS project is compliant with the philosophy of the Single European Sky and is supported by the European Commission on both a political and financial level.

## COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

**Note to Editors:**

*EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system that fully copes with the growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, reducing costs and respecting the environment.*

*EUROCONTROL has 34 Member States: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.*

*On 8 October 2002, the Member States and the European Community signed a Protocol on the Accession of the European Community to the revised EUROCONTROL Convention. Pending its entry into force after ratification by all Parties, certain provisions of the Protocol are already being provisionally applied.*

**For further information, please contact:**

Kyla Evans, Tel.: +32 2 729 50 95 Email: [press@eurocontrol.int](mailto:press@eurocontrol.int)

For more information via the website: [www.eurocontrol.int](http://www.eurocontrol.int)