

**For immediate release, 2 June 2005**

**Ministerial meeting welcomes agreement on modalities  
for the implementation of the CEATS project**

Brussels, Belgium – Ministers from eight Central and Eastern European countries yesterday signed a Declaration welcoming the decision of the Republic of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia to proceed without delay with the implementation of the Central European Air Traffic Services (CEATS) project.

At a meeting in Vienna, these five States agreed modalities for the implementation of the CEATS Agreement covering a range of issues including regulation and institutional arrangements, implementation of the CEATS Control Centre, civil/military coordination matters and the creation of a Social Forum.

The CEATS project, which is coordinated by EUROCONTROL, aims to create a safe and efficient 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, CEATS provides a cost-effective solution to the capacity limitations posed by fragmented air traffic services in a limited geographical area. It is estimated that implementing the CEATS project will result in savings for airlines and airspace users of up to 200 m€ in 2015 alone due to reduced air traffic control delays. The CEATS project is supported by the European Commission as part of its Single European Sky initiative, in particular in the context of the development of Functional Airspace Blocks, contributing to part of its financing.

Speaking at the Conference, its Chairman, Mr. Dokic, Minister of Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina said “We are very pleased that a progressive implementation of the CEATS project will start without delay. This project is central to achieving safe, efficient and cost-effective air transport in the CEATS region in the future.”

“We welcome the agreement signed here today which lays out how to move ahead with the implementation of the CEATS project and indicates long-term objectives,” said Víctor M. Aguado, Director General of EUROCONTROL. “Through this text, the CEATS States have agreed on the modalities for implementing the CEATS project in line with the Single European Sky and with the ultimate aim of a more coherent and uniform pan-European air traffic management system.”

**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.*

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## COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

*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.*

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