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Getting ready to meet the estimated 4.6% traffic growth for summer 2008

Brussels, Belgium – Representatives of European air navigation service providers, airspace users and airports recently met at EUROCONTROL headquarters and have agreed on measures in order to handle the 4.6% traffic growth expected for the summer 2008 period (May-October), in close cooperation with the EUROCONTROL Agency.

“After experiencing a 5.1% growth in traffic during the summer of 2007, the coming summer period is expected to be yet another challenging season for European air traffic management”, said Guido Kerkhofs, Director ATM Programmes at EUROCONTROL *“At this point in time, we are estimating a 4.6% increase in traffic, with the European Football Championships in Austria and Switzerland adding an additional level of complexity in the management of the overall network.”*

The measures opted for will focus on ensuring:

- the full participation of all ATM actors in international coordination and advanced planning;
- the preparation of well-based local and network capacity plans;
- the preparation of detailed traffic forecast scenarios, taking into account the airlines' preference to fly shorter or cheaper routes;
- the preparation of over 100 packages of route network and sectorisation improvements;
- collaborative and flexible decision making between air traffic service providers, airports, aircraft operators and the Central Flow Management Unit (CFMU).
- improved civil-military coordination at local and network level;
- better integration of airports into the European ATM network operations;
- the coordinated implementation of new ATC centres and ATM systems
- improved handling of bad weather situations;
- open sharing of information at European ATM network level;
- implementation of a more dynamic Network Operations Plan.

“Strong coordination and commitment from all actors is expected now on the implementation of these measures in order to ensure an acceptable level of delays and improved flight efficiency for the aircraft operators flying during the summer period,” stressed Jacques Dopagne, Director CFMU.

Most of the measures opted for in order to tackle the air traffic demand expected in the period May to October 2008 form part of the continuous deployment of DMEAN - the Dynamic Management of the European Airspace Framework Programme. DMEAN has introduced a collaborative, pan-European design, planning and management of the European ATM network with a view to increasing in the short term the capacity and efficiency of the current European ATM network.

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COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Note to Editors:

EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective the development of a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system which fully accommodates the growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, enhancing cost-efficiency and respecting the environment.

EUROCONTROL has 38 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, 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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