

FORMAL CONSULTATION
CONSULTATION OFFICIELLE



08/03/2006

DAS/CSM/HQ/RU/FMTP/06-026

To: Distribution List
(please see attached)

**Draft EUROCONTROL Specification of Interoperability
and Performance Requirements for the Flight
Message Transfer Protocol**

Mr Melvyn REES

From: Director ATM Strategies

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DEADLINE:	08/05/06
ECHEANCE:	

In 2004, the European Commission issued, within the Single European Sky (SES) framework, three requests to EUROCONTROL concerning the development of draft implementing rules for Interoperability on Flight Message Transfer Protocol (FMTP), Co-ordination and Transfer (COTR) and Initial Flight Plan (IFPL).

At its 14th session in December 2005, the Single Sky Committee gave its formal support to the adoption by the European Commission of the COTR and IFPL implementing rules. Regarding the FMTP draft implementing rule, the Single Sky Committee supported the proposal of the European Commission to invite EUROCONTROL to move the technical elements (related to the communication protocol) of the Annexes into a EUROCONTROL Specification and to make this EUROCONTROL document mandatory through an appropriate reference in article 3 of the rule.

The European Commission hence invited EUROCONTROL to transform former Annex I and part D of former Annex II of the draft implementing rule into a EUROCONTROL Specification.

A draft EUROCONTROL Specification of Interoperability and Performance Requirements for the Flight Message Transfer Protocol has therefore been developed and is included in the attachments.

I would like to stress that the technical content of this document is fully in line with the material which was included in the draft implementing rule, which had already been the subject of wide stakeholder consultation. It is not expected therefore that it should lead to any controversial issue. Grammatical changes have been made to improve legibility and several minor changes are identified in the Annex.

In accordance with the EUROCONTROL Regulatory and Advisory Framework (ERAF) which was approved by EUROCONTROL's Permanent Commission in November 2005¹, I herewith would like to submit this draft EUROCONTROL Specification for formal consultation, using the mechanisms of the EUROCONTROL Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (ENRPM) process.

The formal consultation allows all States, stakeholders and interested parties to express their formal views on the draft EUROCONTROL Specification.

The consultation package is included with this letter and consists of the following Enclosures:

- Draft EUROCONTROL Specification of Interoperability and Performance Requirements for the Flight Message Transfer Protocol (Enclosure 1).
- Consultation Response Sheet (Enclosure 2).
- Formal Consultation Distribution List (Enclosure 3).

You are invited to provide your formal comments on the draft EUROCONTROL Specification, using the Response Sheet (Enclosure 2).

Please return your responses to Mr Melvyn REES, Head of DAS/CSM Business Unit, by 08/05/2006 at the latest.

Responses will be compiled, reviewed and taken into account to amend the draft EUROCONTROL Specification as required. A Summary of Responses (SOR) document will be distributed to you in the course of May 2006. The document will then be finalised on the basis of the outcome of the consultation and submitted to the formal approval of the Director General before being transmitted to the European Commission.

A distribution list for the consultation is also attached to this letter.

I am grateful for your collaboration in the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,



Bo REDEBORN
Director ATM Strategies

¹ A copy of the EUROCONTROL Regulatory and Advisory Framework (ERAF) can be downloaded from:
http://www.eurocontrol.int/ru/public/standard_page/framework.html.

LIST OF CHANGES

During the creation of the specification, the authors have improved the wording in several places without changing the technical content or commitment. It should be noted that the text used in the specification only describes the FMTP state tables, these remain unchanged. In addition several minor changes have been introduced into the text of the original IR, these are listed, for convenience, below:

Section 1.1: added the abbreviation ASCII as it is used in the text
Section 1.1: corrected abbreviation for UTF-8
Section 2.3.1 Table 1: deleted notion of IRs defining the operational messages as this is no longer necessary nor true.
Section 3.2.8: deleted range of TYP field, Table 2 lists the mandatory values so there is no need to restrict the range of the field.
Section 3.3.1: Added MT-User for clarity
Section 4.1.2: Re-worded statement as it was incorrect and unclear
Section 4.2.1: corrected MT-Initiator by FMTP-Initiator
Section 4.2.1: deleted suffix (resp) and (init) as they are undefined in section 1.3.2
Section 4.5.1 c) : Over specification - deleted this clause as there is no notion in FMTP to confirm an Association release and it introduces problems when reading 4.5.2. Note (d) now becomes (c)
Section 4.8.5: deleted this statement as it repeats 4.8.3
Section: 6.2.7: replaced "ATC units" by "Systems" to be more open, in any case the IR specifies the applicability of FMTP for the purpose of SES.
Section 8.4: corrected abbreviation for UTF-8

All references above refer to the original IR text as presented to SSC13 on 4 November 2005.