



KISS LANDING* IN COLOGNE **FOR THE EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY**

Cologne, Germany, was today the world capital of civil aviation. Over 400 senior representatives from the sector gathered from all over the world in the brand new premises of the Agency to celebrate its establishment in Cologne.

The European Commission was represented by Jacques Barrot, Vice President and Commissioner for Transport and Günter Verheugen, Vice President and Commissioner for Enterprise. The German Federal Minister President of Nordrhein-Westfalia Peer Steinbrück, the German Federal Minister for Transport Manfred Stolpe and the Mayor of Cologne, Fritz Schramma made also a short address during the ceremony for an audience composed of high level representatives from national aviation authorities and representatives of the industry.

"This day is an important milestone in the development of the Agency" said Jacques Barrot. "Much has been accomplished in a short time. The Agency is open for business and is already playing a vital role in aviation safety. We all have high expectations for this organisation. It has made a good start and I have confidence that over the next few years, the Agency will be fully able to assume responsibility for all aspects of aviation safety".

After less than 15 months of operation, the Agency, organised around four Directorates (Rulemaking, Certification, Quality & Standardisation, Administration), with 100 staff of 17 different nationalities has already issued 13.000 certificates. These have been delivered for both products and organisations. Experts are progressively joining the Agency, and the Agency keeps recruiting via its web site.

"The start-up phase can be considered behind us" stated Patrick Goudou, Executive Director. "We are now entering into a consolidation phase, even if we are still recruiting a lot of people. Although we have achieved quite a lot, thanks to the hard work of our most valuable resource, our staff, with no disruption of service for the industry during this transition period, we know that a lot remains to be done. But I am convinced of the clear support of the aviation industry, the National Authorities and other stakeholders in helping us succeed in achieving our other important tasks".

Indeed the next challenges to be faced by the Agency in the forthcoming years are to establish a stable funding policy for its activities and to continue to attract the best experts in-house.

* From *EASA with Love*: 'Kiss landing' is an English phrase used by French-speaking pilots to refer to 'a safe touchdown achieved after much effort'. The EASA Communications team specifically chose this poetic image for the opening ceremony press release. It is a linguistic example of how European collaborations and *entente cordiale* produce enhanced results. The 'kiss landing' of Gallic English conjures up the perfect, passionate embrace of tyre-rubber with landing lane asphalt. Our second suggestion, 'safe touchdown', sounds prosaic by comparison.

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Further information:

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