



European Aviation Safety Agency

Patrick Goudou • Executive Director

Cologne, 25 August 2009
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Subject: Invitation to the EASA Conference on pilot training for a safe aviation today and tomorrow: "Are pilots trained to meet the challenge?" on 24 November 2009

Dear Madam or Sir,

Pilot training is of utmost importance and may have to be reviewed with regard to today's demand of pilots' skills. The challenges of a new generation of aircraft and their systems, longer non-stop flights with less opportunity to act as pilot flying, ever increasing air traffic and difficult weather conditions are presently met with training methods that date back to the last century and may not match today's needs.

Which possibilities do we have to improve pilot training in commercial aviation?

In June 2008 EASA published a proposal for a set of Flight Crew Licensing rules and acceptable means of compliance based on JAR-FCL and is presently reviewing thousands of comments that were sent in response. One question that needs to be answered is whether these prescriptive rules for pilot training are still the method of choice or whether performance based training should be introduced to meet the challenge of maintaining and improving aviation safety today.

Or is it that within prescriptive rules simply more hours of initial and recurrent training are needed to reach the level of skill that is needed to cope with flying safely in a demanding environment? And does one way of training fit all needs of training?

Several ways to improve pilots' training are possible. The Agency therefore calls for an international Conference to hear about them and to evaluate which proposals should be further discussed to be included in rules that meet today's challenges.

I would therefore like to invite representatives from National Authorities, Pilots Unions, Airline Associations and Aeroplane Manufacturers to attend this Conference and discuss in a European and International environment the way ahead for safety in aviation. We envisage presentations from pilots, airlines, manufacturers, regulators and safety specialists, and will close the Conference with a Round Table Discussion on the way ahead. The result will be considered when reviewing the rules for pilot training - be that the young person aiming at becoming a commercial pilot or the experienced aviator who needs recurrent training or a new type rating.

Safety in aviation is a common goal - the way to maintain and improve this safety is a top priority not only for the Agency but to all involved. I therefore invite you to attend this Conference to answer the question:

Are pilots trained today to meet tomorrow's challenges?



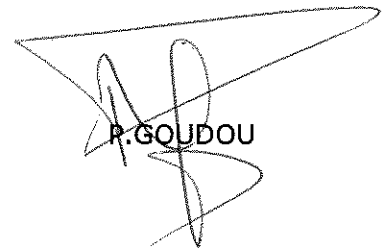
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You are kindly requested to indicate your interest by completing the "registration form" on the EASA website (Events), and to submit it by email or fax, before 13 November 2009 to the indicated address on the form.

The conference is only accessible to registered participants, who will receive confirmation of participation. Registration will be done on a first come first serve basis (125 participants maximum).

For additional information, please write to IR-workshops@easa.europa.eu or contact Ms Narcisa Mihailescu at +49 221 89990 5053.

Yours faithfully,



R. GOUDOU