Dear Sir / Madam,

The European Aviation Safety Agency EASA would like to invite you to participate in the workshop:

**Volcanic Ash Cloud: Detection, Observation, Measurement, Modelling – The way forward –**

21 June 2010, 09:30 – 16:30 h
at EASA in Cologne

The Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull eruption showed very clear during the past weeks how vulnerable to natural events a modern transportation system such as aviation can be. This event demonstrated the importance and the need of a comprehensive overview of the situation for the decision makers on flight restrictions; namely the intensity of the eruption, the dispersion of the volcanic ash cloud and its characteristics. Many operational and scientific institutions in Europe conducted measurements and provided data to the relevant entities. However, reviewing the event after it has passed and the various activities which took place during that time it became apparent that there is room for improvements concerning the coordination and optimisation of detection, observation, measurement, and modelling of the volcanic ash cloud.

Therefore ESA and EUMETSAT took the initiative and organised a 2 days workshop on 26-27 May 2010 at ESA/ESRIN, Frascati (IT) to take stock of Europe's remote sensing capabilities to address the impact of the Eyjafjallajokull eruption.

EASA now would like to build on the results of this workshop and the knowledge and experience of other relevant competent entities in the field of observation and measurement technologies and practices as well as modelling of the dispersion of the cloud for the use by decision makers. See draft Agenda attached.

The objective of the workshop is to get a comprehensive overview of the observation / remote sensing capabilities, in-situ (ground based and airborne) and satellite, and discuss in an expert forum the possibilities of a roadmap toward an operational observation, measurement and modelling system which is capable to provide reliable data and information to decision makers in due time in case of a similar event in the future.

Clearly there were many more institutions which performed measurements and modelling of the volcanic ash cloud dispersion on a scientific or operational basis during the Eyjafjallajokull event than there are on the agenda; but to let them all report would take much more time than a 1 day workshop and this workshop should not a repeat of the ESA/EUMETSAT workshop. However, I encourage you take an active role in the discussions, particularly in the afternoon session, where you also may contribute with your experience and suggestions.
Secondly, please note that the focus of this workshop is solely foreseen to get a comprehensive picture of the detection, observation, measurement, and modelling capabilities in Europe and explore the possibilities for improvements and development of a reliable and accurate data supply infrastructure. Of course key questions are: who needs what and when at which accuracy and how can further research assist to improve the situation. The workshop is not to discuss any governance and decision making architecture for future events nor any related cloud concentration values and limits.

I apologise for the short notice but the frame set by several other events, e.g. Council on 26 June and EARONET III workshop on 30 June – 1 July, make it necessary to hold this workshop now.

Could you please send as soon as possibly an answer concerning your participation to Mrs. Renate Sopora renate.sopora@easa.europa.eu

Best regards

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