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Welcome to the sixth issue of the SESAR e-news. This regular electronic newsletter aims at giving an overview of the latest developments at SESAR, Europe's ambitious ATM modernisation programme.

Volcanic ash cloud: European Commission coordinates action



European
Commission

Following the closure of airspaces in many European countries due to the volcanic ash cloud, an extraordinary meeting of the transport ministers was called on 19 April to coordinate European action. The [European Commission](#) also set up a group to assess the impact of the situation on the air travel industry and the economy in general.

The Commission liaises with Eurocontrol and the competent national authorities on the development in the airspace and decisions on flight suspensions, which are the competence of the national authorities. Vice-President Kallas emphasised in a [statement](#) that there can be no

compromise on safety, that all decisions must be based on scientific evidence and expert analysis and that more European co-operation is needed to find solutions for this crisis. Eurocontrol offers up-to-date information on the current air traffic situation in Europe on its [website](#).

First green transatlantic flights



In the framework of the AIRE (Atlantic Interoperability Initiative to Reduce Emissions) programme, the two first complete (gate-to-gate) green transatlantic flights were operated on 6 and 7 April 2010 from Paris-Charles de Gaulle to Miami airports. The flights were carried out by Air France (6 April) and American Airlines (7 April). AIRE is the green component of the SESAR programme. During the approximately nine hours flight, enhanced procedures were used to improve the aircraft's energy efficiency. As a result, considerable

savings in fuel consumption as well as lower noise levels could be measures. For more information, [click here](#).

SESAR completes first deliverable!



Providing the functional baseline to be used for SESAR project 9.33 'ATS Datalink Operational Improvements' is the first deliverable of the SESAR programme. The project's objective is to address, on the airborne side, the core Controller Pilot Datalink Communications (CPDLC) services required by the more extensive use of data link expected in the future. The baseline mainly consists in applicable documents (e.g. standards) and identification of any deviation, limitation or additional capability for each solution to be developed

and validated.

European Commission adopts new flow management rules



European
Commission

On 25 March the European Commission adopted new rules on how to manage the flow of air traffic to optimise available airspace capacity. According to the Commission, "This new regulation is an important step in implementing the EU network manager foreseen in the second package of measures of the Single European Sky." This is the first legislation covering air traffic flow management at a European level. For more information, [click here](#)

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