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## **IFALPA calls on European Parliament to improve safety with Flight Time Limitation legislation.**

Chertsey 16 March: Within two years, the 25 Countries of the European Union could have harmonised flight time limitation (FTL) legislation on their statute books. IFALPA applauds any move that will raise safety standards to the highest level and for these standards to be applied as widely as possible. However, the present FTL proposal, which is due to go before the European Parliament (EP) to start its second reading this week, falls some way short of the highest possible level of safety. Indeed in its present form the legislation fails to require FTLs which match those applied in a number of EU member states today.

Although in some states the adoption of the proposal in its present form will improve safety with more stringent FTLs, in other member states which currently apply far stricter rules, there is a danger that commercial pressures will result in a 'rolling back' of FTLs to the lower requirements of the EU legislation. This will inevitably lead to a degradation of air safety standards thanks to increased pilot fatigue and its attendant dangers. An additional concern is that the inferior standard as proposed by the new Regulation will be accepted in other parts of the world as a benchmark and, as result be adopted on a wider stage far beyond Europe's borders.

The Federation argues that if the EP carries out a thorough review of the medical and scientific evidence of the impact of fatigue on pilots it will quickly come to the conclusion that the proposed legislation must be amended to ensure the highest standards of safety for the travelling public. Certainly, there should be a full medical and scientific evaluation to be carried out by EASA no later than two years after the new Regulation's entry into force.

Accordingly, IFALPA joins the European Cockpit Association's calls on the European Parliament to take the opportunity during the legislation's second reading to create EU-wide FTLs which will protect the safety of passengers and crews across the 25 nations of the Union.

*Notes to editors*

*IFALPA represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website [www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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