

09PRL03

IFALPA expresses concern over the arrest of Capt. Yuri Goncharov in connection with Itek Air 6895 crash

CHERTSEY 10 September: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) expresses concern over the arrest of Capt. Yuri Goncharov in connection with the tragic crash of Itek Air flight 6895 near Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 24 August.

IFALPA is of the strong opinion that any criminal prosecution, before a full and independent technical investigation has been completed in accordance with the internationally agreed provisions laid out in Annex 13 of the Chicago Convention, is premature. Furthermore, the Federation is firmly of the belief that the criminalisation of individuals involved in accidents and incidents does little to improve air safety and calls on the Kyrgyzstani authorities to release Capt Goncharov forthwith.

Notes to Editors

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 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

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