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IFALPA Welcomes results of the independent study into flight crew fatigue

Chertsey 22nd January: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations (IFALPA) welcomes the publication by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) of the results of the scientific study into the effects of fatigue on flight crews and safety, and urges EASA to incorporate the recommendations into European FTL Regulations.

Research into the effects of fatigue has long held that it is a significant element in increasing risk of accidents. Indeed, in numerous reports of air accident investigations crew fatigue has been cited as a contributing factor and clearly it is a threat that must not be underestimated. In a working environment which calls for long duty hours, often at night and with multiple changes of time zone there is a need for stringent limits on flight and duty times. Even more importantly, these limits must be based on sound and independent scientific study. That's why the Federation applauds EASA for pursuing the study as it frames its regulation for Flight Time Limitations, since this course of action will do much to improve the safety of air transport for the travelling public within the European Union as well as elsewhere in the world.

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

For further information, please contact Philip von Schöppenthau, ECA Secretary General, Tel: +32-2-705.32.93 and visit the FTL section on the ECA web: <http://www.eurocockpit.be/content/view/414/252/>

The European Cockpit Association (ECA) is the European Regional Group of IFALPA

For more information about the effects of fatigue see the article "Flying Drunk or too tired to care" by Capt. Gavin McKellar available from the IFALPA website:

www.ifalpa.org/documents/08nws05_fatigue_article.pdf