

FIRST ROAD MAP WORKSHOP

CAIRO – 26 and 27 May 2009

CONCLUSIONS

The Participants in the First Road Map Workshop which took place in Cairo on 26 and 27 May 2009 have reached the following conclusions:

EMCAA Strategy:

They welcome and support the proposed scenario of the progressive establishment of the EMCAA which include two main milestones accompanied by a regulatory 5 years work programme

- the conclusion by 2012 of bilateral air services agreements between the European Community and most Meda Countries
- the conclusion by 2015 of a multilateral aviation agreement between the EC and Meda Countries

Participants have insisted on the need to encourage Meda Countries to conclude bilateral agreements among themselves during the 1st step.

The Project Team insisted on the need to receive detailed comments on the strategy, focussing in particular on the scope of the bilateral and multilateral agreements and their timings.

Market:

The situation in this field is sufficiently harmonised to allow the swift conclusion and implementation of bilateral air services agreements of the 1st step.

The Road Map proposes nevertheless further work to harmonise rules and practices of Meda Countries with those of the European Union.

Some participants insisted that market opening should be gradual so as to control its economic and social impacts.

Safety

Based on survey mission reports, answers to the questionnaire and USOAP, the situation in this field can allow the conclusion and implementation of bilateral air services agreements.

To build a genuine civil aviation area requires further work to establish mutual confidence and provide for convergence with the EU.

The Road Map suggests therefore various actions including in particular setting up a cooperation structure inspired from the former European JAA.

Security:

The Participants have expressed their interest in the aviation security objectives presented in the draft Road Map, while acknowledging the difficulty to implement the One Stop Security (OSS) within the EMCAA.

To try and achieve the OSS, a stepped approach (4 elements) is proposed for regulatory convergence and confidence building.

It was underlined that the current EU regulatory framework allows States to impose higher standards than those commonly applicable for the OSS arrangements to address specific national situations.

Participants have expressed their concerns about the access to some EC security regulations. The Road Map contains a specific line of action for the European Commission to address this issue.

Environment

The participants agree on the progressive alignment of environmental protection requirements with those of the European Union.

As regards Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), action should be limited to conducting an impact assessment.

Air Traffic Management:

The proposed extension of the SES framework to the Meda countries was well received and supported.

It was perceived as an opportunity to improve safety and cost efficiency despite a significant investment for its implementation.

The Road Map proposes therefore appropriate mechanisms for assessing impacts and setting priorities.

Impact assessment and Funding:

Several participants drew the attention of the Workshop on the cost implication of the proposed Road Map and insisted on the need to have a clearer view before Ministerial decisions are taken. Many also pointed out that additional technical assistance and training should be provided to make the Road Map implementation possible.

The Project Team answered that an impact assessment, including individual costs and possible funding sources, is being undertaken, which will be communicated in September or October and finally presented with the Road Map in the 3rd Advisory Group Meeting in November 2009 in Brussels.

Road Map Implementation Monitoring:

All participants agreed on the need to establish a Euro-Mediterranean structure to monitor, and report on, the actual implementation of the Road Map.

Further actions:

The Project Team will send to the participants next week:

- the 9 questions on the Strategy to be answered by the Countries by the 15th of June 2009
- the reviewed Detailed Objectives Descriptions to be filled in by the Countries by the 30th of June 2009

A revised draft Road Map, including specific action plans per country, will be forwarded by the Project Team to the Countries before end of July 2009 for comments.

A 2nd Road Map Workshop will be held, subject to the EC approval, in September or October with the objectives to review the new draft Road Map and present the draft Impact Assessment.