

**(EU) EU/TRANSPORT: Aeronautics sector welcomes measures presented by Siim Kallas to facilitate restoring normality in aviation sector**

Brussels, 28/04/2010 (Agence Europe) - The aeronautics sector has welcomed the measures proposed on Tuesday 27 April by the European commissioner for transport, Siim Kallas, with a view to facilitating a return to normality in the European aviation sector after one week of paralysis due to the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland (EUROPE 10127). “We welcome the proposals of measures announced today by Vice-President Kallas, which are of a kind to meet the challenges raised by the so-called Iceland volcano crisis”, François Gayet, General Secretary for the Association of Space and Defence Industries (ASD), said in a press release on Tuesday. He insisted on the fact that this crisis has highlighted the “fundamental importance” of air transport. It has also demonstrated that the “European economy and society as a whole cannot work without an effective air transport system”, Gayet said, making it clear that the aviation sector directly employs over 1.6 million people and contributes up to €100 billion to European GDP. Gayet also told EUROPE that the European aeronautics industry mainly welcomed proposals aimed at speeding up the implementation of European Single Sky and that it remained available to provide the advanced technology needed for the modernisation of air traffic management in Europe. Speaking for the European airports sector, Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI-Europe (Airports Council International - Europe), mainly welcomed the fact that the European Commission had taken the whole of the air sector in its assessment, making proposals that can constitute a “feasible European Aviation Relief Plan”. “Coming in the wake of the global economic crisis, from which aviation has not even recovered, this latest shock is the dictionary definition of being kicked when we're already down. We urge national governments to grasp the gravity of the situation and to respond appropriately”, Jankovec said. According to this association, European airports have lost over €250 million due to closure of airspace in Europe from 15 to 21 April following the volcanic eruption. (A.By./transl.jl)

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