

Monday, 28 November 2011

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EC says Member States need to do more to ensure Single European Sky



The European Commission (EC) has warned that Member States and stakeholders still need to do more to ensure that the Single European Sky becomes a reality.

In a progress update issued on Friday, the Commission said that its “main concerns relate to insufficient steps towards cross-border air navigation service provision, the lack of interoperability of air navigation systems and the lack of resources for national supervisory authorities as well as their low level of activity in monitoring the air navigation service providers”.

It urges Member States to confirm their commitments and to take appropriate action to make the Single Sky implementation process a success. The EC warned that failure “to take measures at national level to achieve the Single European Sky would oblige the Commission to reopen the legislative packages in view of more radical solutions”.

“There is a genuine risk that we will lag behind and find ourselves unable to satisfy the rising demands of air travel, which is set to nearly double by 2030”, said European Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport. “2012 is a make or break year for the Single European Sky and there is a lot at stake”.

Thomas Cook to borrow another £100 million



The Thomas Cook Group has announced that it has reached agreement with its banks to provide it with “a new facility” that improves the Group’s financial position. The banks have agreed to provide a £200 million facility, available until April 2013, replacing the £100 million short-term facility announced last month.

In addition the banks have “agreed a further relaxation of the financial covenants under the existing facilities. This provides the Group with much increased headroom to deal with

unexpected events and the effects of an uncertain economic environment”.
Shares in the Group fell dramatically last week following news that it had asked lenders for a second financial injection within five weeks.
Sam Weihagen, Group Chief Executive, Thomas Cook Group said “I am absolutely delighted that we have reached agreement and I would like to thank the banks for acting so swiftly”.

El Al sees quarter’s profit halved



El Al has posted a fall in profits for the third quarter.
The airline announced a net profit of \$21 million for the three months, compared to the \$42.5 million reported during the same period last year. Operating profit reached \$25 million, again down by nearly half from the year ago \$56 million. A 47 per cent rise in fuel costs was blamed as the main reason for the drop in performance. Elyezer Shkedy, the flag carrier’s CEO and President commented “El Al will continue relentlessly to become more efficient, so as to be able to meet the commercial and organizational challenges that may arise in 2012, as a result of the world financial crisis. Within this framework we are implementing a plan to reduce the Company’s expenses and to make El Al more efficient”.

Air France in talks with Indian carriers to join SkyTeam



According to a report in Friday’s The Hindu Business Line, SkyTeam member, Air France is talking to low cost and full service Indian carriers with a view to them joining the alliance. The report quotes an Air France spokesman as saying that it is “looking at the reach of their network and what each one of us can bring to the table”.

Piece of Aviation History for November 28



1979 – Air New Zealand flight 901, a DC-10 registered ZK-NZP, crashed into Mt Erebus on Ross Island, Antarctica, instantly killing all 257 people on board.

A very thorough report about the ‘Erebus Story’ has been compiled by NZALPA. It can be found at - <http://www.erebus.co.nz/>

Quote of the Day

It's wonderful what we can do if we're always doing. George Washington (1732 - 1799)

A Bit of Light Relief

“Insofar as manifestations of functional deficiencies are agreed by any and all concerned parties to be imperceptible and are so stipulated, it is incumbent upon said heretofore mentioned parties to exercise the deferment of otherwise pertinent maintenance procedures.”
Or to put it another way - “If it ain't broke, don't fix it”