



ENCASIA OPINION

CONCERNING

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO SAFETY RECOMMENDATION RESPONSES
RECORDED ON THE EU SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS
INFORMATION SYSTEM (SRIS) DATABASE**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Safety Recommendations Information System (SRIS) European Union database was established in application of Article 18(5) of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation.
- 1.2. On 5 December 2012, a Commission Decision was made on access rights to the European Central Repository of Safety Recommendations and their responses established by Article 18(5) of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation and repealing Directive 94/56/EC (Text with EEA relevance) (2012/780/EU).
- 1.3. This decision implemented by Article 2: “All safety recommendations contained in the database mentioned in Article 1 shall be made available to the general public through a public website.”
- 1.4. However, Article 3 states that “The access to safety recommendations responses shall be limited to addressees of safety recommendations.”
- 1.5. The Commission Decision took on board the opinion of the EU safety investigation authorities. This opinion, released in April 2012 by the ENCASIA chairman, concluded with the following text: “(...) It is desirable that unrestricted public access should be a long term goal but there are many hurdles to overcome before that is considered practicable. In order to gain experience with working with the SRIS, it is recommended that access rights are further reviewed in 12 months time.”
- 1.6. Since the inception of the SRIS EU database, ENCASIA has gained a lot of experience. It has developed common guidance material for its Members. As mentioned in the 2016 ENCASIA annual report, 28 states have entered SRs in the database. The hurdles identified in 2012 have been overcome.

2. Discussion

- 2.1. The SRIS EU database was set up to meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 Article 18(5) and all EU member States that have raised recommendations now routinely input their Safety Recommendations, responses and SIA response assessments onto the database.

- 2.2. Public access to the SRIS EU database was set up in 2012 and gives access to the Safety Recommendation text. However, it did not provide access to responses in accordance with article 3 of the Commission Decision 2012/780/EU.
- 2.3. In order for the general public to understand the assessment, there is a need for them to also refer to the response that was received by the SIA.
- 2.4. The public nature of safety recommendations provides strong incentives for addressees to reply in a constructive manner. This transparent dialogue on safety matters contributes to improving aviation safety.
- 2.5. Many Member States already publicise responses that have been received and EASA regularly publicise their own responses in their annual report.
- 2.6. Guidance on how to prepare response text for SRIS has already been produced by ENCASIA WG6.

3. Opinion

- 3.1. ENCASIA's opinion is the European Commission amend Commission Decision 2012/780/EU to allow responses that are recorded on the SRIS EU database under Article 18(5) of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 to be made available to the general public through the public website. The responses to be made public would be those recorded in the SRIS EU database after the date of the Commission Decision.
- 3.2. For those Member States that have already established procedures to publish their safety recommendations and the associated responses on their own websites, it is recommended to make public the historical responses in the SRIS EU database.

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