



14 APRIL 2021

## WISE PERSONS GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN SKY

### **Statement of the Wise Person Group on the future of Single European Sky**

It has been two years since the publication of the Wise Persons Group (WPG) report, presenting recommendations for the future of the European ATM. Although we are currently experiencing a sharp contrast to the conditions in which the WPG report was developed (i.e. the capacity crisis of 2018 and 2019), the ideas contained within it remain relevant even more considering the climate challenges aviation is facing. The recommendations have the potential to provide solutions for a more sustainable, efficient and resilient European ATM sector.

The Wise Persons Group has met on 14 April 2021 to exchange views about the main challenges for the new Single European Sky framework, in particular in regards to the progress of negotiations of the SES2+ recast file.

The Wise Persons Group concluded the following:

- While all ATM stakeholders have already started implementing some recommendations of the WPG, for others the change of regulatory framework is necessary in order to establish the required structures. The WPG group members are therefore concerned with the lack of progress in this regard.
- The unprecedented crisis of the aviation sector, however hard and unfortunate, should be seen as an opportunity to improve the system and the structure of the European ATM. That will then in turn provide benefits to the environment and all stakeholders when traffic returns.
- Especially because of the crisis, we emphasise that the European airspace/airspace users cannot bear another network operational crisis (as in 2018 and 2019) when traffic is back and when European citizens start traveling again for leisure, work and to see their families and friends.
- Any regression from the current Single European Sky provisions will take us a step back in achieving a fully functional, sustainable and resilient European sky.



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The Wise Persons Group therefore calls on the European institutions, Member States, all ATM stakeholders and the staff engaged in this process to:

- Support the measures aimed towards the improvement of the provisions applicable today. In our view, the WPG report recommendations remain to provide a good high-level framework for what needs to be achieved to make the European ATM better.
- Constructively engage in the negotiations on SES2+ recast proposal fully noting the emphasis on sovereignty, security, defence and safety arguments as they are in the core of our aviation system, and will always be ensured whichever policy action is taken.
- Support effective social dialogue towards the Digital European Sky and make sure that training and licensing rules become adequate.
- Work together as a team Europe in order to ensure that European ATM network becomes more efficient, green and fit for the future. This will enable a sustainable and swift recovery of the whole aviation sector, and it will fulfil our obligations towards the traveling public.

The members of the Wise Persons Group stand ready to support this process in their personal and professional capacity.

### Members of the Wise Persons Group:

**Mr Pekka HENTTU**  
Chair of the WPG

**Mr Eamonn BRENNAN**  
Director General  
Eurocontrol

**Ms Regula DETTLING-OTT**  
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**Mr Volker DICK**  
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**Mr Emilio FAJARDO**  
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**Mr Patrick KY**  
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