

30th March 2012

Mr. Siim Kallas
Vice-President
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
Berlaymont
B-1049 BRUSSELS

Dear Vice-President

The UK and Irish Governments are pleased to present jointly the enclosed material to the Commission in respect of the UK-Ireland Functional Airspace Block (FAB).

This material, fully endorsed by the two States, responds comprehensively to the information requirements set out in Article 6 of Commission Regulation 176/2011. The UK and Irish authorities have worked extremely closely in this endeavour, as has been the hallmark of this FAB since its establishment in mid-2008, the first such arrangement in the EU.

We consider it appropriate to highlight the successful development of both a FAB Safety Case and also the rigorous Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) which has been concluded in relation to the FABs activities. From the beginning, this FAB has had a special focus on providing added value, tangible benefits and improvements in service to its many global airspace users in what is Europe's transatlantic gateway. The CBA confirms the extent of the FABs successes (nearly €350 million in cost savings over the period 2008-2020 from projects undertaken since 2008 and others now in the pipeline). All parties in this FAB are determined to bring forward more projects to generate additional cost savings and significant associated environmental benefits of reduced fuel burn and CO2 emissions.

In conclusion, we would like to assure you of our continuing strong commitment to the work of the UK-Ireland FAB. We firmly believe that it is delivering added value to the airlines and other stakeholders, who have been centrally involved in the FAB since the outset, and is helping to make the Single European Sky a reality.

Kind regards.



Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers
Minister for Aviation
United Kingdom



Leo Varadkar TD
Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport
Ireland