

Brussels, 07. 07. 2011
MR/hm Ares D(2011) 744391

Mr. Hans Chr. Schmidt
Minister for Transport
Frederiksholms Kanal 27 F
DK-1220 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 May 2011 regarding flight time limitations.

The Commission takes air safety very seriously and is well aware of the importance of managing fatigue of air crews. In this context, the Commission is committed to improving current EU rules.

However, the Commission will only take decisions on this complex and sensitive topic on the basis of a comprehensive technical assessment to be conducted by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) which will take into consideration all relevant elements, such as the latest scientific evidence and national as well as operational practices and worldwide developments, while of course keeping safety as the prime objective.

In terms of the rulemaking process, EASA is now working on draft proposals based on a public consultation launched in December 2010, taking into account comments from all stakeholders and detailed scientific advice. The Agency is conducting a thorough assessment with the assistance of excellent experts coming from Member States, airlines and crew members associations as well as scientific community.

I am pleased to acknowledge the results of the study on pilot fatigue conducted in Denmark, which I will forward to EASA for their consideration during its current work on the area.

In line with EU legislation, it is on the basis of the final recommendations of EASA – expected by Spring 2012 – that the Commission will decide on the way forward. In particular, the Commission will carefully evaluate the final EASA proposal and consult the Member States (in the framework of the competent committee) before putting forward any legislative proposal on this complex and sensitive area.

Yours sincerely,



Siim Kallas

C.c.: Mr. Cezary Grabarczyk, Minister of Infrastructure, Poland
Dr. Erato Kozakou-Marcoulli, Minister of Communication and Works, Cyprus
Mr Patrick Goudou, Executive Director, EASA