

SIIM KALLAS  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 25 March 2010  
MR/hm D(2010)195

Mr. Lars Barfoed  
Minister for Transport  
Frederiksholms Kanal 27 F  
DK-1220 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

Dear Mr. Barfoed,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 February 2010 regarding flight time limitations.

The Commission is committed to ensuring at all times a high level of safety. This remains the most important priority guiding legislative action. In this context, I am well aware, as my predecessor, of the importance of managing fatigue of air crews to preserve air safety and we are acting seriously on this topic.

As announced by Vice President Tajani, the Commission has requested the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to prepare draft rules regarding air crew fatigue based on existing legislation while also examining possible necessary adaptations, in an objective way, and in light of all relevant aspects raised by the interested parties. To that purpose, a working group is already examining those items and a consultation on a first draft of rules is foreseen by September, with a view to present an opinion to the Commission by mid 2011.

This group is composed of experts from the Agency as well as of all stakeholders concerned, including crew members, airlines and national authorities.

The Agency has a mandate to examine all elements in a factual manner with the sole objective of improving safety. My services are following the work of this group very closely in order to ensure that this objective is fully met.

I am pleased to hear that the Danish aviation industry has agreed on a joint line on this complex topic and appreciate your suggestions, which I will transmit to EASA for their consideration during the rule making process on this subject.

Yours sincerely,



Siim Kallas

Cc.: Mr Patrick Goudou, Executive Director, EASA