



## Ministry of Transport

### Permanent Secretary

11. marts 2021

Frederiksholms Kanal 27 F  
DK-1220 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

Phone 41 71 27 00

European Union Aviation Safety Agency  
Att.: Executive director Patrick Ky

Dear Patrick Ky,

I have been informed that EASA is planning to carry out an audit of the aerodrome department of the Danish Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in late September 2021.

The Danish Ministry of Transport would be grateful if the audit could include a specific occurrence in Copenhagen Airport in 2019 and how the Danish CAA handled the occurrence and the follow-up procedures.

In September 2019 ground personnel in Copenhagen Airport detected foreign object debris (a runway light/AGL) on one of the runways. The airport initiated procedures to clean the runways and return to normal operations. At the same time, the airport established an internal follow-up group to examine the issue due to the airports safety procedures. The occurrence was subsequently reported to the Danish CAA through the European Central repository/ECR, and the Danish Parliament was in parallel made aware of the occurrence through the media. An employee, who at this time was member of the airports Safety & Crisis Management unit at Copenhagen Airport, found it necessary to involve the media, because the employee had found Copenhagen Airport's handling of the situation insufficient.

The Danish CAA has - by order from the Ministry of Transport - produced an unclassified report (March 2020) based on information from an incident investigation report made by the airport (January 2020) and other relevant information obtained from the airport. This statement, briefings and memos from the authority and the airport have been the basis of a parliamentary process and discussions in the winter 2019/2020 – and recently again as a result of renewed media focus.

The Danish CCA has followed up with three oversights of the airport until this date.



As the occurrence was reported to the Danish CAA through the EU-mandated European Central repository/ECR, the authority cannot pass classified information regarding the occurrence to the parliament.

There has been considerable interest from the Danish Parliament in finding out what exactly happened, the underlying causes of it, and whether the airport's response was adequate. Recently the parliament has also questioned if the follow up procedures initiated by the Danish CAA have been adequate, and if the parliament received all relevant information regarding the occurrence and the response to it.

The Ministry of Transport finds that the need for both handling confidentiality and at the same time allowing sufficient parliamentary oversight is difficult to satisfy in this matter. As I see it, a good solution to establish whether Copenhagen Airport and the Danish Civil Aviation Authority have handled the occurrence and the follow-up process correctly, is to include the issue in an EASA audit. If possible, we would also ask you to move the audit forward in time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish more information. Point of contact at the Ministry is Head of Division Christian Haxthausen (clh@trm.dk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Heinsen', is written over the typed name.

Jacob Heinsen