

AEA CHAIRMAN MEETS THE EUROCONTROL DIRECTOR GENERAL

On Friday 14th March Peter Hartman, CEO of KLM and AEA Chairman 2008, accompanied by AEA Secretary General Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, paid a visit to the recently-appointed Director General of Eurocontrol, David McMillan.

Mr McMillan has joined Eurocontrol at a crucial time for the organisation, and for the airlines. Europe's air traffic management system, based on a last-century model of country-shaped blocks of airspace, is increasingly inadequate to the task of controlling today's, let alone tomorrow's, traffic flows. Delays are on the increase, the cost to the industry of airspace inefficiencies is staggeringly high and – vitally important – the environment is impacted to the tune of twelve million tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted needlessly each year.

Consequently, Peter Hartman has selected the Single European Sky process as the cornerstone of his AEA Chairmanship. 2008 will see EU proposals to move the project forward and the airlines are anxious that progress should not prove to be illusory.

Eurocontrol, which represents the States that 'own' the airspace, is fundamentally linked with the old way of doing business, and will be fundamentally involved in the process of change. Mr McMillan has acknowledged the challenges he faces, and AEA welcomes the opportunity to open a constructive and cooperative dialogue between what are, after all, two key stakeholders in the same business, that of delivering safe, efficient, affordable and environmentally responsible transportation.



l to r: Michiel Laumans (KLM), Patrick Bernard (Eurocontrol), David McMillan, Peter Hartman, Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus

Brussels, 17 March 2008