

The sun sets on JAA

On 30th June 2009, the system of the European Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) will be officially closed. This decision is the logical consequence of the creation of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) under the EU umbrella.

AEA has been a main contributor to the work of JAA, which developed its safety rules through an effective partnership between airlines, industry, other stakeholders and National Aviation Authorities (NAAs). This excellent work of JAA has resulted in a harmonized set of European safety rules which has contributed to the impressive aviation safety levels achieved in Europe.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has taken over all JAA tasks. It is to be hoped that EASA will maintain the JAA policy of working together with industry and NAAs in particular when drafting rules, which need to be based on clear safety objectives. The European Commission shares AEA's objective for EASA to build on the JAA heritage. EASA will continue to play an important role to further improve European aviation safety levels in particular through standardization inspections of the NAAs to ensure an uniform level of safety oversight in all EU Member States.

The AEA thanks the current and former JAA team for its outstanding achievements under the leadership of Andre Auer and his predecessor Klaus Koplín, and wishes many happy landings to the EASA team for trying to match the JAA's impressive achievements.

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Note to the Editor: The Association of European Airlines (AEA) brings together 33 European established scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 366 million passengers and 7 million tonnes of cargo each year, operating 2,617 aircraft serving 662 destinations in 162 countries with 11,585 flights a day. They provide around 494,200 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €79 billion