



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the
Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA
Director General

Statement by the Director General of the FOCA¹

With the adoption of the European Regulation² regarding reporting of safety relevant occurrences in aviation the FOCA is fully committed to making the best use of the information provided for the sole purpose of improving safety in our aviation system.

In addition to the mandatory reporting scheme, which forms the backbone of the safety information system, a voluntary reporting scheme is being introduced to collect and analyse information on hazards and risks in aviation of which the FOCA would not otherwise have become aware.

The FOCA is committed to take appropriate measures to assure confidentiality of the information received, within the framework of "Just Culture". Regardless of the type or classification of occurrences, names and personal information of individuals will not be retained in any occurrence database. Safety relevant information derived from the analysis of reports will be disseminated in a strictly de-identified manner, for the sole purpose of improving safety. The FOCA also offers the possibility to report anonymously.

The FOCA promotes a culture in which human errors can be reported openly and without any restrictions. In support of this objective, the FOCA gives an assurance that it will not, under clearly defined conditions, institute legal proceedings against the reporters of incidents involving errors or unsafe conditions. However, the authority only refrains from legal proceedings if the event is not the result of willful violation or gross negligence. This principle is applied when the report is received from the directly affected individual(s).³

The FOCA also expects that employers in the aviation business will not subject employees who have made reports to prejudice. Furthermore, the FOCA calls upon all stakeholders (industry as well as unions) to adopt a "just culture" approach within their organisations.

Bern, 4th June 2012

¹ Revised version of 7th February 2007

² Directive 2003/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2003 on occurrence reporting in civil aviation

³ Aeronautical Ordinance of 14th November 1973, SR 748.01, Art. 77e