



**AUSTRIA - BELGIUM - IRELAND - LUXEMBOURG -  
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS - SWITZERLAND**

## **ABIS Group**

Common Delegation to the  
International Civil Aviation Organization



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**24 October 2007**



# **Being a member of a rotation group in ICAO....**

**A win-win situation?**



## What you will hear today

1. Why do European States form rotation groups and how they function in ICAO?
2. Why European States should form rotation groups in ICAO!
  - advantages
  - challenges
3. What about their effectiveness? Do they really have an impact on ICAO developments?
4. Future of rotation groups and vision for European and other States



## Why do States form rotation groups?

- Get a seat on the Council of ICAO and pursue national interests?
- Proactive approach in international cooperation
- ABIS MoU: „...enhancing the chances of continued representation in the permanent bodies of ICAO..“
- Today: multiple objectives



## How do rotation groups function?

### „The ABIS Example“

- Formed in 1980, enlarged in 1997
- Today representing 6 States
- Basis MoU: setting out the objectives, tasks, rotation and financial mechanisms
- Rotation of Council and ANC Member every three years
- Joint financing of the ABIS Representation at ICAO
- Regular coordination meetings on DG level and close ad-hoc coordination on Council and ANC matters
- Cooperation on other aviation issues
- Fifth biggest contributor to ICAO: 5,2% of the budget
- Common characteristics



## Why European States should form rotation groups in ICAO!

- Many Advantages
  - Continuation of representation, but fresh blood every 3 years*
  - Sharing of resources and information*
  - Multiple expertise for panels and working groups*
  - Support of ICAO projects and programs*
  - Taking more proactive approaches, training...*
  - Joining forces covering different fields in ICAO*
  - More focus on international cooperation and cooperation with EU*
  - Strengthening the position and participation of smaller States*

***Ensuring participation of all members  
of the group in the work of Council***

- One major condition: close coordination and cooperation



## Why European States should form rotation groups in ICAO!

- Challenges
  - Resources: personnel and financial
  - EU and non EU members
  - Different interests and means of countries
  - Coordination overlaps in Europe (EU, ECAC, EASA, EUROCONTROL...)
  
- Rotation Group vs EC: EC seat on the ICAO Council is currently no option, but groups improve European representation ...



## Impact on ICAO developments – do groups make a difference?

- State is elected to the ICAO Council
- No recognition or legal basis for rotation groups in the ICAO Convention, Resolutions or Council decisions
- Strong financial input but minor recognition
- Expectation that a group is less defensive on national interests
- Different perception of the group in Council depending on subject matter and tactics
- Input and impact is dependent on cooperation mechanism



## **Future of rotation groups „The ABIS Example“**

- Next Step: Enlargement of ABIS with the accession of Portugal in 2008
- In parallel: Discussion about the future of ABIS in the context of the future of ICAO
- Critical review of coordination, cooperation and working methods
- New orientation in 2008



## European participation on the ICAO Council

- ICAO Council : 36 Members – 8 European seats
- Only half of ECAC countries are currently represented in ICAO via groups or single representation

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, FYROM, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom



## **A Vision for Europe and others for participation in ICAO „an interim solution“**

- Include all European States in rotation schemes and/or associate them with European members on the ICAO Council
- Allow active and passive memberships depending on needs and interest
- More involvement of all European States in ICAO developments allows better access to information and strengthens the European position in ICAO
- Development of rules in Europe and ICAO for rotation groups



## Conclusion

- For the time being: Rotation groups are a win-win for member countries
- They allow better access to information and participation in the work of ICAO for more countries than just a few
- They strongly contribute to the strength of a region in ICAO
- They need to be better recognized and formalized in Europe and in ICAO



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**DANK U WEL !!!!!**