London (Heathrow) Airline Consultative Committee

Matt Claydon
Civil Aviation Authority
CAA House
45-59 Kingsway
London WC2B 6TE

6 May 2011

Dear Matt,

Draft UK National Performance Plan (NPP) for ANS

Thank you and your team for the consultation on the UK NPP on 19 April. As you know from this meeting the airlines at Heathrow, represented by the LACC, are extremely disappointed at the proposed UK cost-effectiveness target in particular.

Airlines have consistently supported the EC Performance Scheme as a vital step to drive efficiencies in ATM and a critical pillar of the Single European Sky (SES) in line with the political vision to achieve a more competitive Europe. The UK Government has fully supported these objectives and with more than ten years experience with independent economic regulation of its ANSP ATM, the UK should be a leading example to other States. We are therefore consequently very disappointed at the UK cost-effectiveness target of only -1.1% per annum 2009-2014 which is significantly less than the -3.2% for the EU-wide target.

As you may be aware we fully support the ongoing work on an environmental metric that includes reflection of vertical as well as horizontal efficiency. During the NATS CP3 review process we urged for earliest possible application of this metric as soon as it is considered sufficiently robust. Similarly the early adoption of the Future Airspace Strategy is an essential enabler for the restructuring of airspace in the SE England and particularly in the London TMA where environmental benefits are significant.

Clearly our major concern is the UK's insufficiently challenging cost-effectiveness and capacity/delay targets for RP1. As a leading and influential EC and EUROCONTROL member State, responsible for some 9% of total traffic and en route costs, we strongly urge the UK to re-examine these targets in line with EC Performance Scheme and users' requirements.

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Yours sincerely,

Steve Ronald
Chair, London Airline Consultative Committee

CC Mr Jim Hunter General Secretary and MD Heathrow AOC

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