



# Airline safety culture in Europe

*A pan-European survey study of over 7000 pilots*

Ing. Michel Piers (NLR)  
Dr. Anam Parand (LSE)  
Dr. Tom Reader (LSE)  
Dr. Barry Kirwan (ECTL)



# Why this project & survey

- Future Sky Safety (EC funded under Horizon2020)  
Project #5 - **‘Resolving the organisational accident’**
- Why is Safety culture so important ?
- Objectives are to:
  - Identify pilot perceptions on organisational safety culture
  - Identify areas for improvement
  - Compare experiences in different organisations and work contexts

# Safety Culture Dimensions

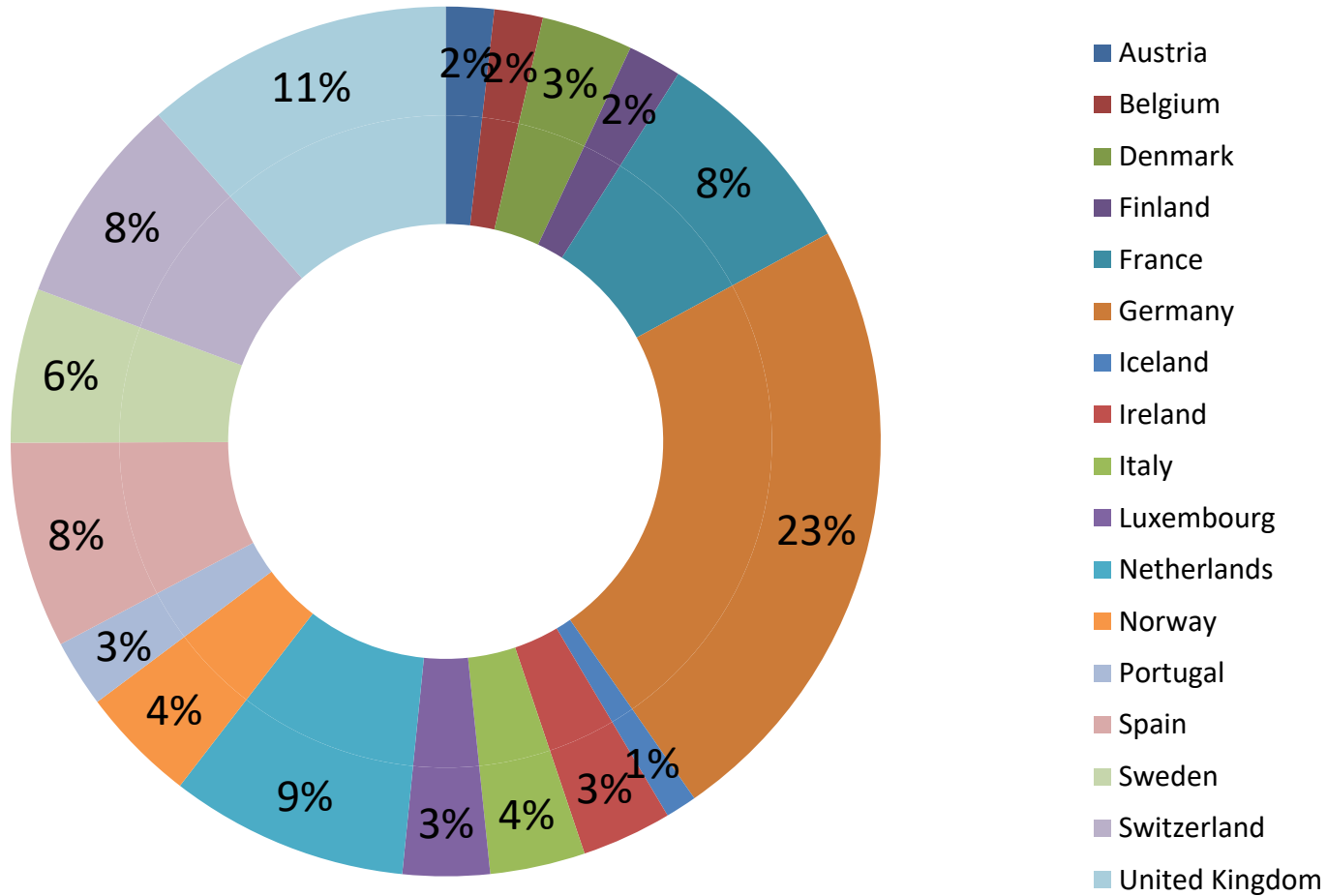


# The Study

- Online survey via ECA & Social media
- Commercial pilots based in Europe
- 7,239 replies (14% of population)
- State of the art statistical analysis
- Strong measures to prevent manipulation
- Not a 'grievance survey'
- Perceptions only

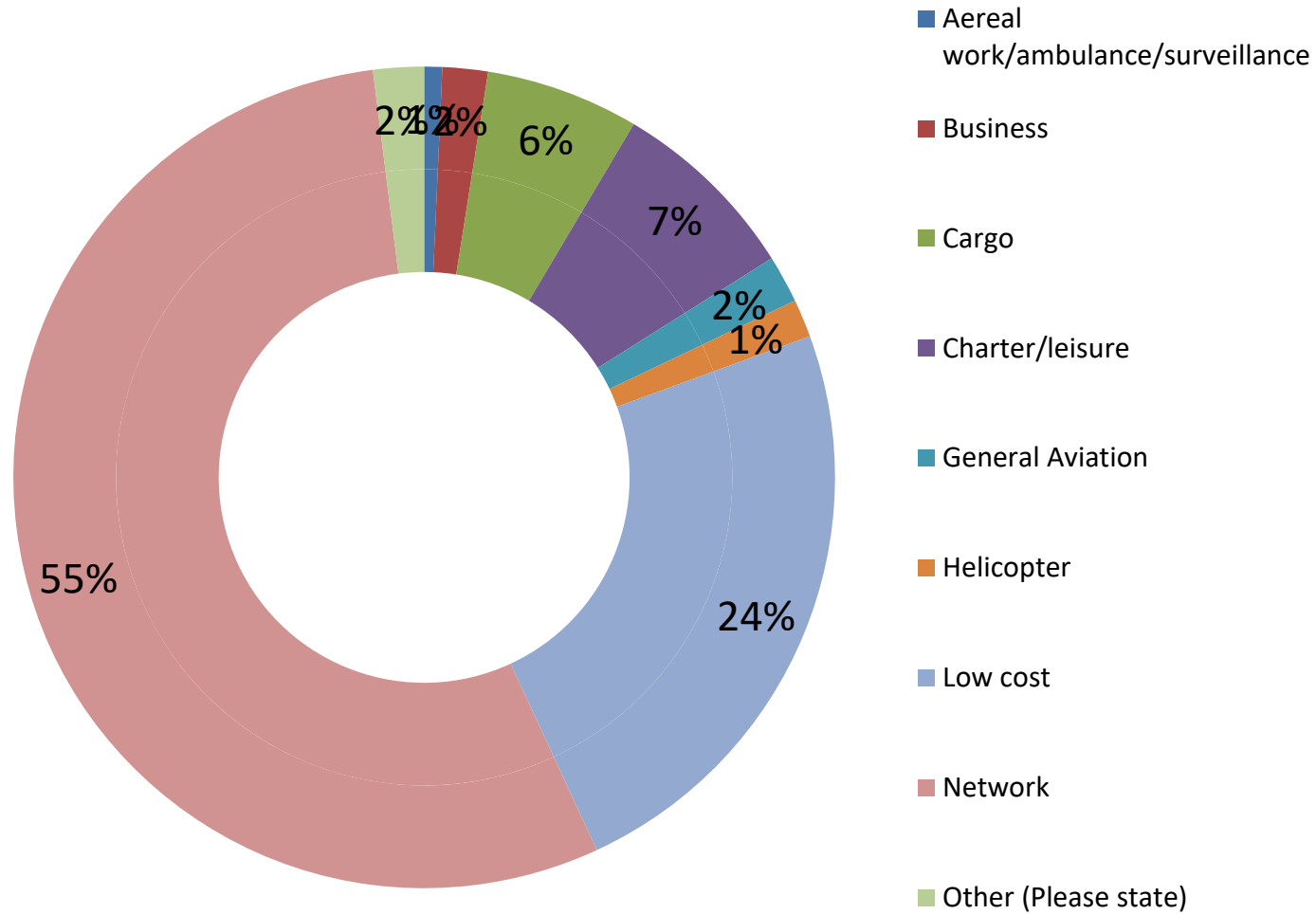


# Responses by Country Base

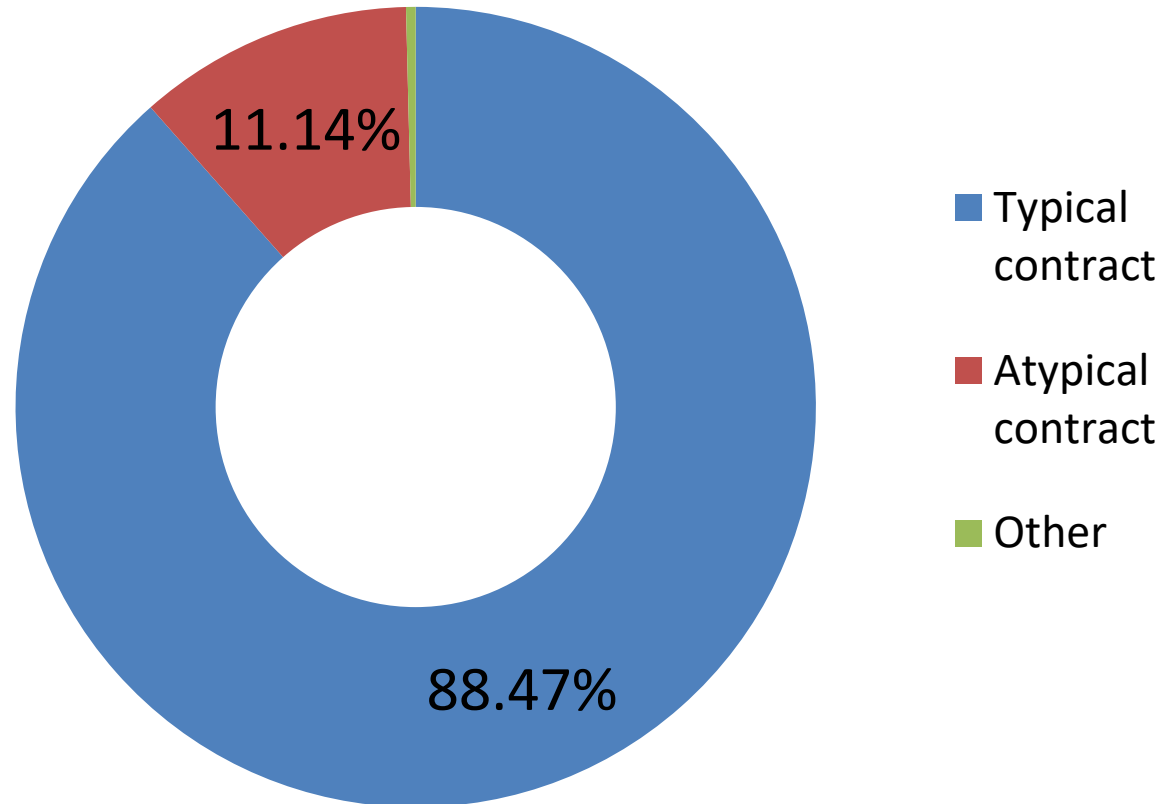


(Nb. Excludes those that make up >1% of sample;  
Nationality very similar make-up)

# Responses by Company Type



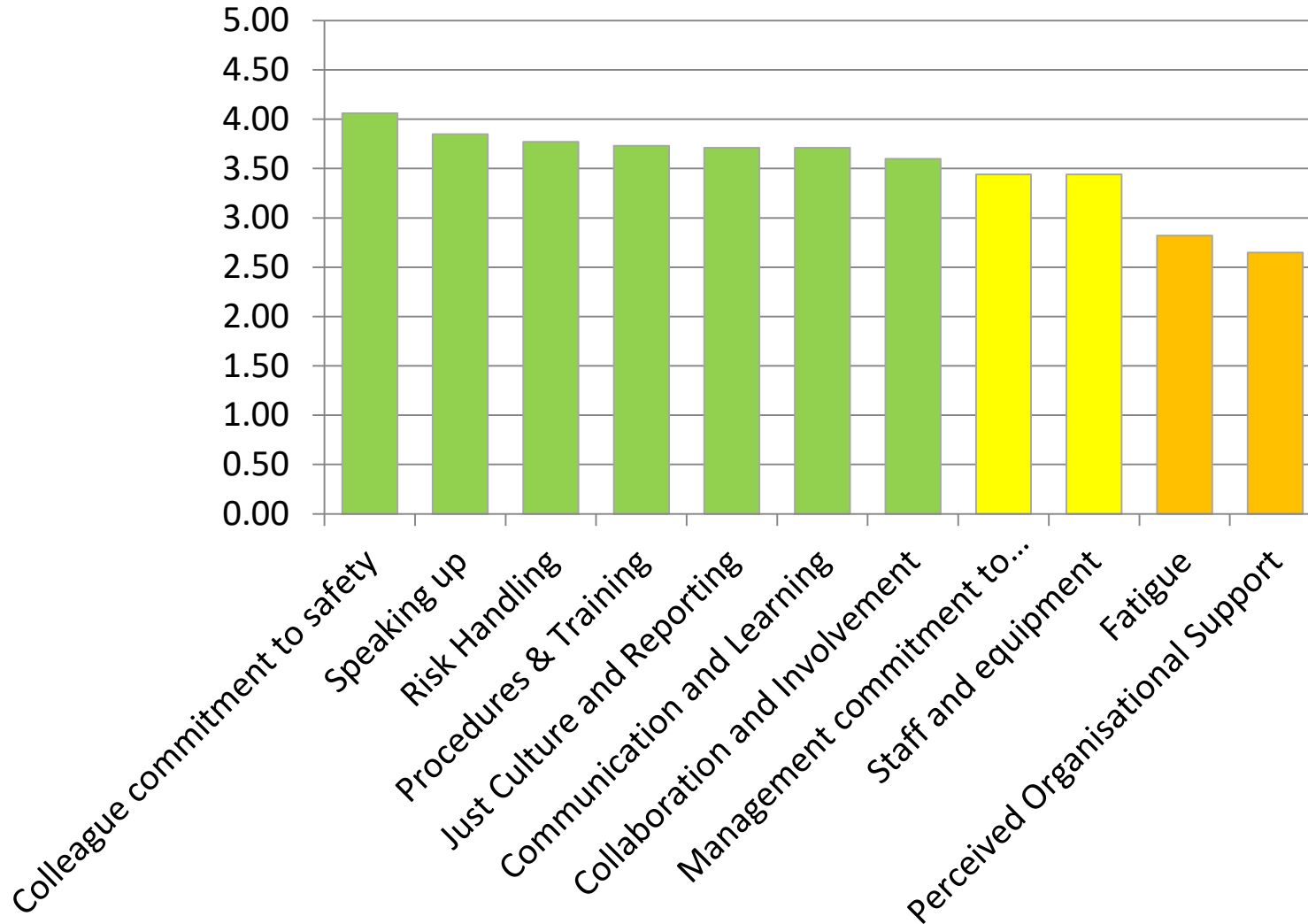
# Responses by Contract Type



**Typical contract** = Permanent contract

**Atypical contract** = Self-employed; Zero-hours, fixed-term, pay-to-fly contracts

# Overall Results per dimension



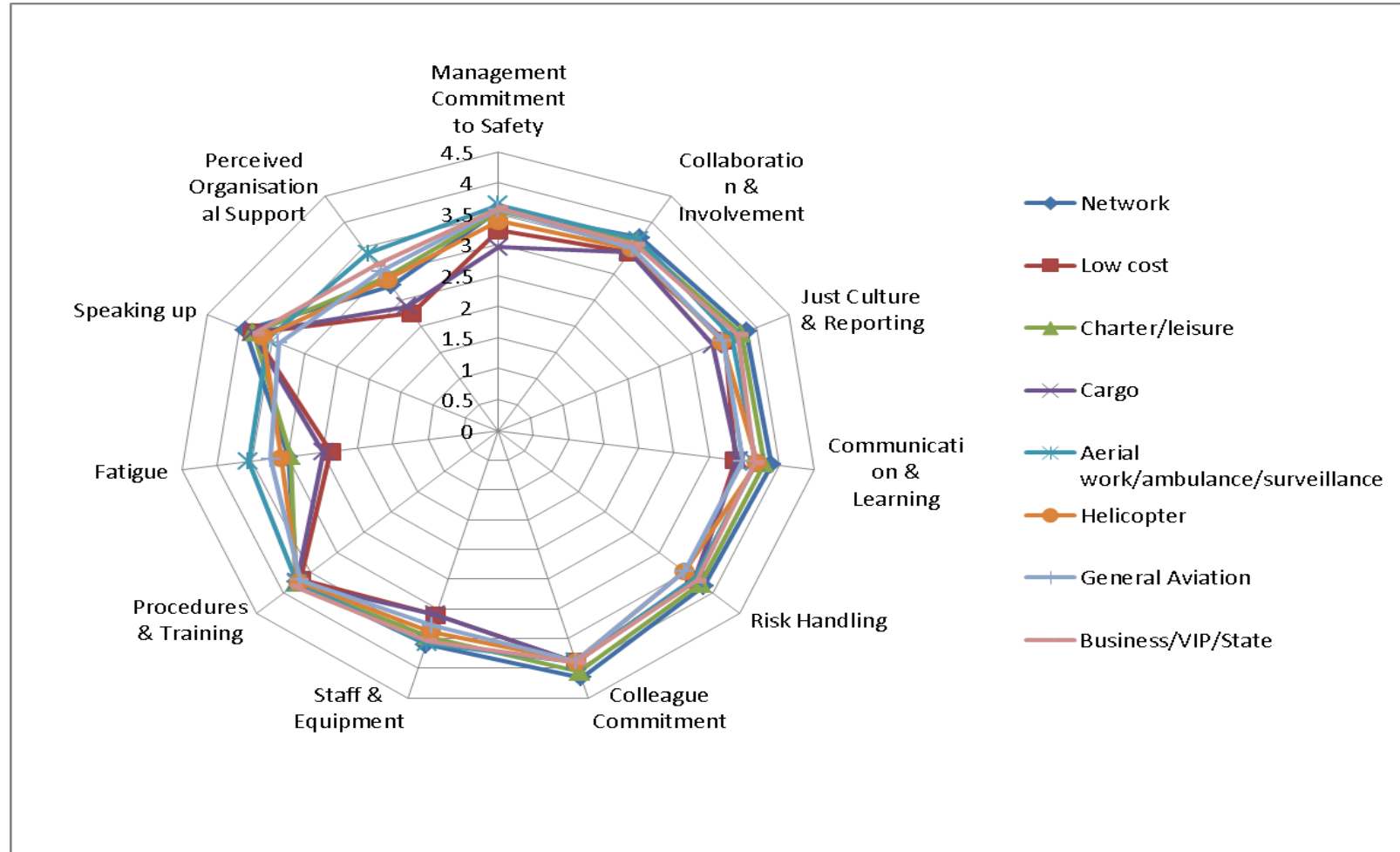


# Responses to individual items

Unfavourable    Neither    Favourable

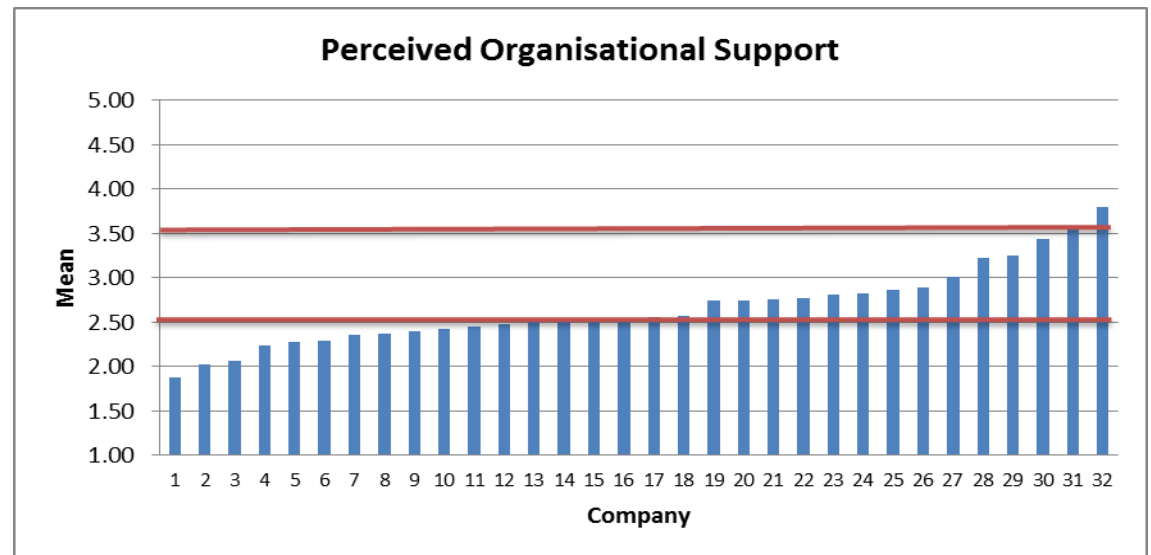


# By company type



- Lower safety culture ratings amongst pilots at Low Cost & Cargo airlines than other airline types (esp. Network airlines)

# Company variations

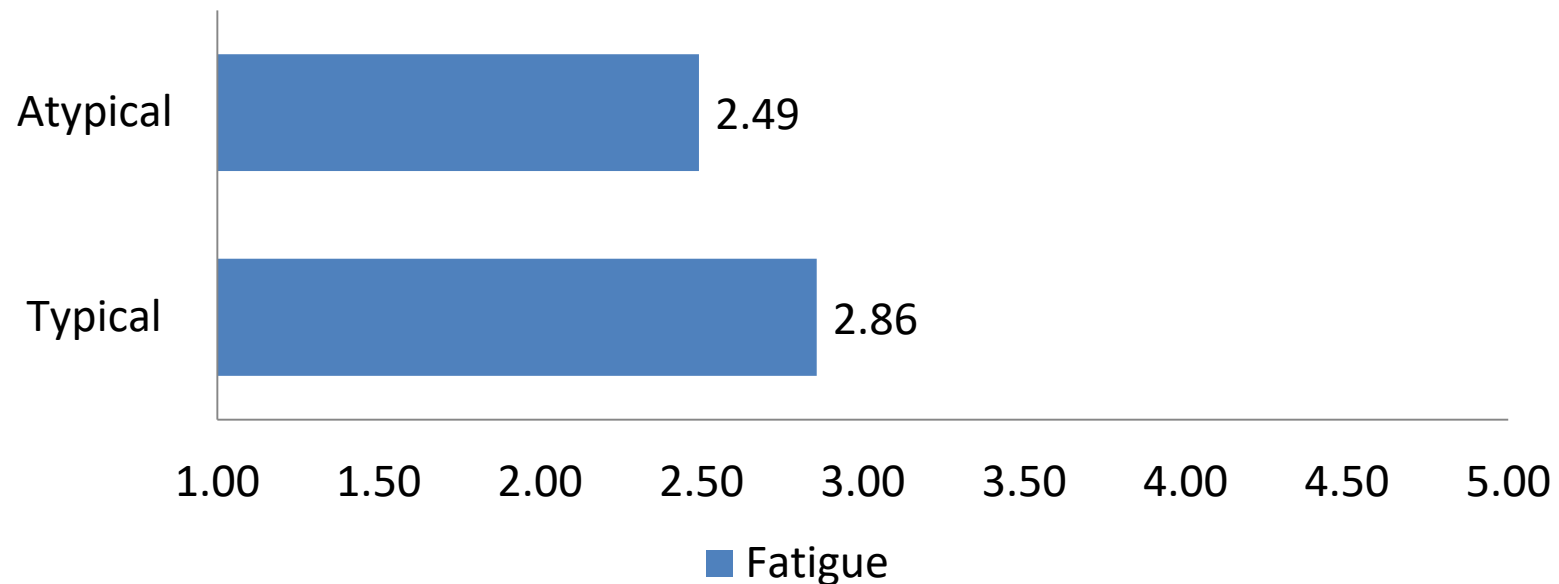


(NB. Excludes companies with >30 responses)

(NB. Company ID varied per graph)

# Contract Type

- Pilots with atypical contracts view safety culture less positively than those on typical contracts



(NB. Typical (n=6394), Atypical (n=805) contracts)

# Concluding comments

- Overall, the *average* safety culture is good.
- Over 50% of pilots say they are often tired at work and feel their companies do not take **fatigue** seriously
- Those pilots on **unsecure contracts**, **Cargo** and **Low Cost** airlines generally had poorer perceptions of safety culture
- The study has is representative for the European pilot community and provides excellent insights for the EC, regulators, airlines and pilot associations to take safety initiatives.



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