



European Cockpit Association

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 21 November 2005

Pilots Embrace New Members from Balkan and Baltic Regions into their European Organisation

European Pilots made an important step towards further strengthening their European interest representation, welcoming five Airline Pilot Associations as members to the Brussels-based European Cockpit Association (ECA).

At last week's General Assembly, in Athens, ECA members approved full membership of:

- **Croatian** Air Line Pilots' Association, CRO-ALPA
- Air Line Pilots' Association of **Slovenia**, ALPA-SL
- Pilots Trade Union of **Latvia**, Latvian ALPA-PTUL
- Air Line Pilot Association from the Former Yugoslav Republic of **Macedonia**, ALPA-FYROM
- Yugoslav Air Line Pilots' Association, YALPA (**Serbia & Montenegro**).

This grows ECA's membership from 22 to **27 Member Associations**, representing **34.300 European pilots** and flight engineers.

ECA, which is a recognised Social Partner in the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue, is the representative body for Flight Crew Unions from across Europe. ECA plays an active role in the further development of the European **air transport industry**, ensuring it is above all **safe** and characterised by **sustainable growth**.

Since its creation in 1991, **aviation safety** has been ECA's prime concern. It is best addressed with well-trained crews and proper employment conditions, along with harmonised regulations for flight crew licences, flight and duty time limitations, proper aircraft maintenance, air traffic management, effective safety oversight and a strong central aviation safety body.

* * *

For further information, please contact:
Philip von Schöppenthau, ECA Secretary General, Tel: +32-2-705.32.93