

EU policymakers learn about air traffic management industry ambitions during skeyes visit



Brussels, 13 July 2022 – This summer, Europe’s Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) are addressing the challenge of managing growing traffic levels as passengers return to flying again. It was therefore timely for Members of the European Parliament’s Transport Committee and national Aviation Attachés to the EU to visit today the Belgian air traffic control centre of skeyes at Brussels Airport to see how air traffic management (ATM) works in practice.

The visitors were invited as guests of skeyes, the Belgian ANSP, and the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), which represents 35 European ANSPs. Every day on average skeyes controls 650 movements at Brussels Airport and 1,630 flights across the whole of Belgium (figures before COVID). The skeyes **air traffic control centre** is therefore an ideal facility to demonstrate the complexity of ATM in Europe.

The visitors were given a tour of the air traffic control tower, the joint civil-military air traffic control centre (CANAC 2) and the skeyes training facility. As well as witnessing an ANSP's operations at first hand, they learned about European ATM industry's future ambitions, such as the completion of the Single European Sky, the transition to more digitalised and automated ways of working, the provision of more environmentally optimised routing and the facilitation of the nascent market for drone flights (U-Space).



Michiel van Dorst, Chair of CANSO's EC3 (CEO Committee) said: "The pandemic has been tough for the whole aviation industry, but Air Navigation Services Providers successfully fulfilled their mandate to keep the skies fully open. They will seek to continue to provide the capacity required by airspace users as traffic recovers. Looking further ahead, we call on the EU institutions to find the necessary compromises on the Single European Sky legislative proposal in order to support the transition of our industry.

"skeyes CEO, Johan Decuyper said: "In these challenging times, skeyes is ready to guarantee the safety of air traffic in Belgian airspace and at Belgian airports. We are continuously recruiting air traffic controllers and technical staff, and will soon build the first remote tower centre in Belgium. At the same time, skeyes is preparing for the future by investing in innovative projects regarding Unmanned Air Traffic and by contributing to reduce environmental impact by promoting Continuous Descent Operations, setting up

“Collaborative Environmental Management on Belgian airports and collaborating strongly with the sector of renewable energy.”

About CANSO

CANSO – the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation – is the global voice of the air traffic management (ATM) industry and is shaping our future skies. Our members support over 90% of the world's air traffic and include 87 air navigation service providers, as well as airspace users and operators, manufacturers and aviation industry suppliers. We raise the bar on global ATM performance by connecting the industry to share knowledge, expertise and innovation.

About skeyes

skeyes ensures the safety and efficiency of air traffic in Belgium 24/7. The skeyes air traffic controllers manage over 3,000 flight movements every day, which makes up over one million flight movements per year. The autonomous public company is active at the heart of Europe, in one of the busiest and most complex airspace sections of the continent. skeyes operates at Brussels Airport and at the airports of Antwerp, Charleroi, Kortrijk, Liège and Ostend. Thanks to its CANAC 2 control centre, skeyes manages the flight movements above Belgium and a part of Luxembourg up to an altitude of 7,500 metres (*). More than 900 experienced staff members assist our numerous customers: airline companies, airports, the aviation sector and the authorities. skeyes also develops innovating services regarding drones and contributes to a sustainable future of the aviation sector, among other things with respect to the environment.

skeyes is a member of FABEC, a joint airspace block - regrouping Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland - with the aim of improving the efficiency of air navigation in the heart of Europe in the framework of the Single European Sky.

www.skeyes.be

(*) The upper airspace of the Benelux countries and North West Germany is managed jointly with the EUROCONTROL centre in Maastricht.

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