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Международная
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Subject: Proposal for amendments to Annex 6, Parts I, II and III concerning a delay of the applicability date for the mandatory carriage of automatic emergency locator transmitters operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz

Action Required: To note the ongoing work by ICAO as specified in paragraphs 4 and 5, concerning Standards for the mandatory carriage of automatic emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to inform you that the Air Navigation Commission, at the ninth and tenth meetings of its 169th Session, held on 9 and 14 June 2005, respectively, discussed the results of a consultation with States and international organizations, on proposed amendments to Annex 6 — *Operation of Aircraft*, Part I — *International Commercial Air Transport — Aeroplanes*, Part II — *International General Aviation — Aeroplanes* and Part III — *International Operations — Helicopters* concerning a delay of the applicability date of 1 January 2005 of Standards for the mandatory carriage, by aircraft operated on long-range over water flights and over designated land areas, of automatic emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz.

2. While States had been requested to comment on the specific proposal related to the change of the applicability date, a broad array of comments were received that ranged over several issues related to emergency beacon carriage including the reliability of ELTs (particularly the ability of automatic ELTs to operate upon crash impact), the current costs of installation of ELTs (particularly the costs of retrofitting), the types of automatic ELTs most cost-effective in meeting ICAO provisions, and the areas in which carriage is required including those areas designated as being especially difficult to search. A common concern was the cost-benefit of automatic fixed ELTs, especially when retrofitted.


3. During its discussions, the Commission came to the conclusion that changing the applicability date of the Standards would not be effective in alleviating the purported implementation problems. Furthermore, some aircraft operators were already compliant. The Commission considered,

rather, that the types of automatic ELTs suitable for carriage, their availability and respective procurement and fitment costs needed further research and closer definition.

4. Based on the above, the Commission instructed the Secretariat to conduct a study, in consultation with experts from the worldwide search and rescue (SAR) community, to explore the full range of options for compliance with a view to gaining a better understanding and providing clarification of the alternatives. The results of the study will be presented to the Commission before the end of October 2005, in the light of which the Commission will review the need for any amendment to existing provisions and will ensure that any resulting proposals will take into full consideration the fact that several States have already regulated compliance with the existing Standard.

5. Please be assured that any amendment proposals that may emanate from the Commission's review will be communicated for comment at the earliest opportunity.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.


for Taieb Chérif
Secretary General