

Information material regarding the DANUBE FAB Project, for dissemination to the neighboring countries

The DANUBE FAB Project is a joint project of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania for study and establishment of a Functional Airspace Block (FAB), comprising the national airspace of the Republic of Bulgaria, the national airspace of Romania and the airspace included in the scope of the international legal obligations of the two States.

DANUBE FAB is in compliance with the EU Single European Sky (SES) legislation, since the Project is intended to bring gradual harmonization of the provision of Air Navigation Services (ANS) in the two countries, enhanced efficiency and safety of flights, reduction of the costs of the airspace users and the impact of aviation on the environment.

Those goals are planned to be achieved through a number of measures like: establishment of a joint airspace management regardless of national borders and based on the interoperability of automated air navigation systems; adaptation of the concept for civil-military coordination and flexible use of airspace for the DANUBE FAB environment, etc.

The Project gained momentum by a number of mutual agreements between the Bulgarian and the Romanian major stakeholders. Strong impetus was given with the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministers of Transport of the two countries, signed on 26 February 2010, on cooperation in air navigation services provision matters and for the establishment of a functional airspace block – DANUBE FAB. Following, a MoU between the Romanian Civil Aeronautical Authority (RCAA) and the Directorate General for Infrastructure and Air Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania (MTI/DGIAT) and the Directorate General “Civil Aviation Administration” of the Republic of Bulgaria was signed on 19 October 2010 ensuring support for the DANUBE FAB at the level of NSAs. The MoU between the respective ANS providers – BULATSA and ROMATSA, signed on 10 August 2010 paves the way for further enhanced cooperation between the companies guaranteeing the availability of all necessary resources for successful completion of the Project.

The development of the DANUBE FAB Project is divided into the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Feasibility Study Phase (consisting of two stages) – completed
- Phase 2 – Preliminary Design Phase (2009 - 2010) – ongoing
- Phase 3 – Detailed Design and Pre-Implementation Phase (2011 - 2012)
- Phase 4 – Implementation Phase (2012+)

The DANUBE FAB Project was approved for 50% financial aid (Phase 1/Stage 2, Phase 2 and 3) granted by the European Commission (EC) under the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) Programme. The EC decision was published in September 2009 and the total amount of the grant is EUR 2,515,784.00, to be shared equally between the two countries.

The Project structure consists of a Steering Committee, 2 Project Leaders and 6 working groups, all including participants from the two countries. Important parts of the Project are also the Social Dialog and the Customer Consultation Processes. The Project activities are performed in accordance with a

Strategic Action Plan, approved by the TEN-T Executive Agency in January 2010. For more details, please visit the Project's website: <http://www.danubefab.eu> .

All decisions, development efforts and management of the Project are based on the principle of parity and consensus between the participating States.

All neighboring to the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania countries, regardless of their being an EU Member State or not, are kindly invited to note the above information about the DANUBE FAB, its goals, principles, organization and progress.