



On Thursday, October 6th, 2011, the SkyTeam Pilots Association (SPA) concluded its semi-annual meeting in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The pilots of the SPA continue their unprecedented cooperation, mutual support and information sharing from their member airlines in areas concerning safety, security, industrial matters, industry consolidation and other related issues of concern in today's fast paced global aviation environment, most notably emissions trading issues.

The SPA unions unanimously call on all member states of ICAO to continue to oppose the European Union's (EU) plan to include all flights by carriers to/from an airport in the territory of an EU Member State in its emissions trading system (EU Directive 2008/10/101/EC) which is anti-competitive and will create an uneven playing field. The SPA also urges the EU and its Member States to work collaboratively with the rest of the international community to address aviation emissions through ICAO. The SPA supports improvements to ATC facilities, airport facilities, sustainable alternative fuels, and development of low-carbon aircraft technologies, all of which will help reduce emissions. Additionally, the SPA supports ICAO efforts to develop meaningful CO2 standards.

SPA expresses its strong support for the pilots of Alitalia and CSA Czech in their ongoing disputes regarding flight safety concerns.

The SPA continued to discuss the issue of Korean Air Lines' (KAL) use of temporary dispatched pilots (TDP) in direct violation of South Korean law. While this matter has been referred by the Ministry of Labor to the Prosecutor's office, the practice continues. Hiring expatriate pilots undermines the career and earnings prospects of KAL pilots as well as limiting both KAL and TDP pilots' collective bargaining rights. Most egregiously, TDP pilots are allowed to perform flight duty periods for 20 consecutive days.

The SPA condemns these practices as unacceptable for a member airline of the SkyTeam Alliance. The SPA believes that the SkyTeam Alliance should have one level of safety.

SPA congratulates the pilots of Aeromexico on the agreement they reached with their management regarding the new pilot training standards for the Aeromexico Connect pilots.

The pilot representatives of the SPA continue to work on behalf of the pilot groups we represent. In today's global economic environment, cooperation between the member organizations of the SPA is paramount to protecting the interests of all SkyTeam pilots.

The SkyTeam Pilots Association will next meet in the spring of 2012 in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

The SkyTeam Pilots Association consists of representatives of pilots from nine member airlines around the world who maintain international codeshare agreements with each other. The SPA represents over 25000 professional pilots. Members include pilots from AeroMexico, Aeroflot, Air France, Alitalia, CSA Czech Airlines, KLM, Korean Air, Alaska and Delta. Together, the pilots of SkyTeam airlines safely fly almost 487 million passengers per year (one of every four airline passengers in the world) to nearly 926 destinations in 173 countries.