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IFALPA calls on IAG and Iberia work in partnership with pilots

Paris 4 May: The Spanish Council of Ministers announced last week that it will refer the dispute between IAG-Iberia and its pilots represented by International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) member (SEPLA) to arbitration process that increases the likelihood of industrial action by Iberia's pilots.

This unfortunate situation has arisen as the result of IAG plans to outsource mainline operations and jobs to a new low-cost subsidiary. This action is contrary to the legally binding agreement that Iberia has with SEPLA which is designed to prevent exactly this kind of erosion in pilot numbers at Iberia. Even though protected by this legally binding agreement, SEPLA has worked in good faith and has presented IAG and Iberia with alternatives which, when implemented, would achieve the savings in pilot employment costs sought by the airline. Unfortunately, the company has rejected these independently audited proposals in favour of their more draconian solution.

The experience across the industry shows that successful airlines understand the value of actively engaging with their employees and developing a sense of "investment" in the company. Choosing to outsource jobs runs counter to this business philosophy. Furthermore, industrial action is the last thing that IAG needs in the wake of the £150m cost it absorbed as a result of the recently settled dispute with cabin crew at British Airways

In the final analysis, IFALPA argues that the company will achieve much more by working with their pilots than they will by continuing this costly dispute and calls on the airline to return to negotiations without to delay in order that the airline together with its employees to grow by doing so generate benefits for their customers and shareholders.

Notes to Editors: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations.

See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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