



On Wednesday, April 13, 2016 the SkyTeam Pilots Association (SPA) concluded its semi-annual meeting in New Orleans. The pilots of the SPA continue cooperation, mutual support and information sharing at their member airlines in areas concerning safety, security, industrial matters, and other related issues of concern in today's dynamic global environment.

Regarding the recent implementation of new European Flight Time Limitation, Alitalia rosters pilot flight activity very close to the maximum limits on a continual basis. This creates a significant increase in crew's operational fatigue. SPA shares the concern expressed by ANPAC Italy ALPA and desires there will soon be a policy change by Alitalia in order to take into consideration pilot fatigue at maximum level and to assure the same safety level inside the SkyTeam Alliance.

In recent years, regulators globally have attempted to update fatigue and rest regulations to reflect current science. Application of these rules from airline to airline is uneven, and deserves a closer look to be sure all pilots operating within SkyTeam are adequately rested.

As the pilots of Delta Air Lines, Air France and Kenya Airways are in challenging negotiations with their respective companies, the representatives from SPA pledge their wholehearted and unwavering mutual support to the pilots of Delta Air Lines, Air France and Kenya Airways.

As the Aeromexico pilot contract contains separate pay and work rules for pilots hired after 2011 creates uneven labor conditions for its pilots, the representatives of ASPA note the adverse affect on labor and economic conditions. Therefore, ASPA will seek by the appropriate means, adequate formulas that ensure improvements at all times reflected by equal conditions regardless of date of hire. Additionally, SPA strongly recommends Aeromexico's management to be receptive to the need in eliminating the enormous and unfair gap between labor conditions in the same contract.

It is critical that airlines offer compensation and work rules to attract and retain highly qualified and motivated pilots. This is the single most important safety decision that airline managers make.

SPA emphasizes the importance of governments adhering to established international standards with respect to lands adjacent to airport facilities. For example, recent landfill construction in close proximity to Beirut International Airport poses a potential wildlife hazard to aircraft.

Delta's Pilot Assistance Network has been proven highly effective in supporting pilots during difficult times. SPA believes that these peer to peer programs should be established and encouraged within our airlines as soon as possible.

The SPA was pleased to host as guests, pilots from the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA). They expressed concerns about a break-away union splintering the Virgin Atlantic

pilot group. SPA acknowledges the benefit of maintaining the relationships and agreements negotiated by the recognized representation.

At this meeting, the SPA unanimously elected new leadership. Capt. René Joziasse from VNV (Dutch ALPA) was elected as the SPA Chairman. Capt. Heriberto Salazar from ASPA de Mexico was re-elected Vice-Chairman and Capt. Ron Flanders from ALPA Int was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

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

The SkyTeam Pilots Association intend to next meet in Indonesia, 27-28 September 2016.