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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate E - Aviation
E.3 - Single European Sky

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Mr Olaf DLUGI
Chairman of ICB
Kaigasse 32
A - 5020 SALZBURG

Subject : Your letter of 17 November 2016 on the ICB Position Paper on the evolution of Network Management (NM)

Dear Mr Dlugi,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your letter in reference, the accompanying ICB Position Paper on the evolution of Network Management, as well as the Context Paper on the long-term evolution of Network Management. Secondly, I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to such an important piece of work, which I understand the ICB (through the ISG) has developed over a long period of time.

After having read your position carefully, I note the key issues raised by the ICB in terms of the strong principles laid out for a Network Manager (NM), and recommendations on its future, governance, regulation and oversight, organisation and management of network functions, and additional network functions defined. I also recognise the barriers to changing the current NM arrangements, and am aware of the nuances amongst operational stakeholders (airspace users and ACI) versus CANSO and the professional staff associations when it comes to developing a model for the governance and execution of the future NM.

As you are aware, the ICB was also invited to attend a session dedicated to network functions at the Single Sky Committee (SSC/64) on 22 February 2017. In this context, the aforementioned position paper has also been made available to Single Sky Committee members. Moreover, the ICB secretariat is also attending a dedicated Working Group on the revision of the regulatory framework as observer, for sake of efficiency.

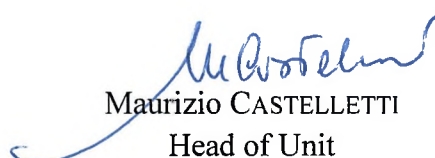
In general, I agree with the principles and recommendations laid out in your position paper. Nevertheless, further work needs to be done to define the requirements for the future NM, and this is currently being carried out. I note and appreciate the value this position paper has brought and will continue to bring to our work on this issue.

Therefore, I would welcome a timely position from the ICB on the requirements recently identified by the Commission for the designation of the next Network Manager, and also on the update of the regulatory framework. The timeframe for the former advice could be September 2017.

Advice on the transition to a new NM could be proffered next year.

Thank you once again for your valuable contribution and we will keep the ICB informed of further developments on this topic.

Yours sincerely,



Maurizio CASTELLETTI
Head of Unit