



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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The Council adopts aviation package

The Council today adopted two regulations to improve the performance and safety of the European aviation system - the first strengthens the Single European Sky legislation ([3640/09](#)), while the second extends the tasks of the European Aviation Safety Agency ([3641/09](#)).

Both regulations are adopted following a first-reading agreement reached with the European Parliament in March 2009.

Single European Sky

The Single European Sky regulation amends four existing regulations¹ adopted in 2004. Since their adoption it has proved necessary to consolidate and address a number of challenges, relating in particular to:

¹ Regulation (EC) No 549/2004 laying down the framework for the creation of the Single European Sky, Regulation (EC) No 550/2004 on the provision of air navigation services in the Single European Sky, Regulation (EC) No 551/2004 on the organisation and use of the airspace in the Single European Sky, Regulation (EC) No 552/2004 on the interoperability of the European air traffic management network.

P R E S S

- sustainable development – attenuating the environmental impact of aviation through, for example, the creation of a rational European route network, including shorter routes for intra-Community traffic;
- performance – the performance of the network in terms of reduction in delays and lower costs for airspace users;
- governance issues - ensuring that the system is supervised in a transparent and correct manner at national and EU level.

The regulation sets a fixed deadline for the implementation of functional airspace blocks that are a tool for a more rational and efficient European airspace. In addition, it strengthens the central network function at the EU level, as well as the principles concerning the degree of autonomy to be accorded to national supervisory authorities responsible for overseeing the provision of aeronautical services in the member states.

European Aviation Safety Agency

The regulation adopted today amends regulation (EC) No 216/2008¹ with a view to improving the safety of aerodromes, air traffic management and air navigation services.

The regulation extends the EASA's competences to cover the safety of aerodromes, air traffic-management and air navigation services. In particular, the EASA's new tasks will cover rule-making and standardisation inspections. In addition, as far as air traffic management and air navigation services are concerned, it will be necessary to coordinate the common safety rules properly with the new Single European Sky regulation and the related implementing rules.

The regulation repeals Council directive 06/23/EEC.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Council Directive 91/670/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 and Directive 2004/36/EC.