Standing committee on

Infrastructure and the Environment

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 Invitation round table discussion

 Aviation Safety

 to: **Ms. H. Schmidt**

 **Ryanair**

 date: 2 May 2013

 place: The Hague, The Netherlands

 our reference: 2013Z08925/2013D18329

Dear Ms. Schmidt,

Referring to the telephone conversation earlier this week I am pleased to provide you with some additional information about the invitation to the round table discussion on Aviation Safety.

**Round table discussion Aviation Safety**

On June 6th 2013, from 13.30 till 15.00 PM, the standing committee on Infrastructure and the Environment of the Dutch House of Representatives in The Hague will organise a round table discussion on Aviation Safety.

In an open and conversational discussion several experts will be invited to give their point of view regarding aviation safety issues. You will find the programme and the draft list of invited speakers for the discussion attached to this invitation.

Main goal of the round table discussion is to check the facts and get information from the relevant stakeholders regarding aviation safety. The Dutch Members of Parliament (MP’s) will use the information provided during the round table discussion to prepare themselves for a debate with the Dutch minister concerned with aviation (Ms. Mansveld). This meeting will take place one week after the round table discussion: June 12th 2013. During that meeting the MP’s will attempt to influence the Dutch (international) policies regarding aviation and aviation safety.

**Background**

The following topics were indicated by the MP’s as the key points of interest for the discussion:

* Safety issues regarding flight time limitations
* The balance between safety and cutting costs
* Aircraft cyber security
* The role of air traffic control in respect to safety issues (runway incursions)

**Invitation for Ryanair**

The members of the standing committee suggested that Ryanair would be a very interesting company to invite to the round table discussion. Consequently, I would like to invite you or a colleague of Ryanair to participate as a speaker in this round table discussion.

The specific questions to Ryanair are not available beforehand, but the standing committee indicated its interest in Ryanair’s viewpoints and experiences on the balance between safety and cutting costs. I note that the members of the committee are free to address other issues regarding aviation safety as well.

Please be informed that participation is voluntary. Hence, we cannot offer any financial compensation for your attendance and/or travel costs.

**Set-up of the round table discussion:**

The round table discussion is a discussion between the MP’s of several political parties who are concerned with aviation, and several stakeholders and experts on the matter. The discussion will be organised as follows:

* the speakers will give a short statement (maximum two minutes);
* the MP’s will pose questions to the speakers;
* the speakers are kindly asked to answer the questions posed to them;
* there will be some room for further discussion;
* the participants have the opportunity to react on each other’s statements.

Please be aware that the larger part of the discussion will be held in Dutch, but that you will be addressed in English. You are welcome to bring an interpreter, in order to be able to follow the discussion with the other participants as well. In case you want to do so, then please let us know in advance, including the name of the interpreter.

**Time and venue**

The round table dicussion will take place in the House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) in The Hague, The Netherlands. Please register at the entrance on Plein square (Plein nr. 2). There you will be informed in which room the discussion will take place. Our security services will check your ID and scan your luggage. Please be aware that these security measures may well take up 15 minutes of your time.

**Video conference**

As an alternative for your presence at the round table discussion we could also arrange a 20 minute videoconference prior to the actual round table discussion.

**Input for the discussion**

In order to facilitate a good preparation for the discussion, the members of the standing committee would appreciate it if you were to send them your thoughts on the matter at hand in writing, at least a week in advance (so before May 30th). They would like to ask you to keep it as brief as possible (one or two pages).

**Confirmation**

Please inform us about your participation to the round table discussion or video conference as soon as possible. You can refer to Mr. Blacquiere (contact details below). Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

L.Tijdink

Clerk to the standing committee on Infrastructure and the Environment

Dutch House of Representatives

***Contact:***

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**Round table discussion Aviation Safety**

Date: 6 June 2013
Time: 13:30 – 15:00h

Place: House of Representatives, Plein 2 The Hague, The Netherlands

**Participating Members of Parliament**

The following MP’s already confirmed their presence during the discussion:

1. Ms. Kuiken (PvdA, Labour party)

2. Mr. Bashir (SP, Socialist Party)

3. Mr. De Rouwe (CDA, Christian Democratic Appeal)

4. Ms. Hachchi (D66, Democrats 66)

**Invited speakers**

1. Mr. Teso (security consultant, NRUNS AG) *> videoconference*
2. Aircraft Engineers International
3. Ryanair
4. KLM
5. Dutch Union for Cabin Crew (VNC)
6. Dutch Expert Group Aviation Safety
7. Mr. Van den Berg (Toxicologist, University of Utrecht)