|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| May 31st , 2016 |  | Dnr 2084-2015/16 |
|  |  |
|  | |
|  | |  |

Dear Mr van Helvert and Ms Belhaj,

Let me begin by thanking you for your Position Paper and questionnaire about Single European Sky (SES) that you have sent on behalf of the Dutch House of Representatives to the Committee on Transport and Communications.

The Committee is unfortunately not able to provide you with formal replies to your specific questions. As head of Secretariat of the Committee, I have however been requested to provide you with some input regarding the Committee’s position when it has addressed the issue of SES earlier.

By reason of the ongoing work in Europe with SES, the Committee on Transport and Communications in the Swedish Parliament has indeed on several occasions considered private members’ motions about SES. The Committee has also in spring 2016 specifically examined the European Commissions’ communication An Aviation Strategy for Europe (COM (2015) 598) which was presented December 7th 2015. Owing to the fact that air traffic control in Europe is divided into a number of different airspaces, the Committee has recently in a specific statement about the Commission’s communication expressed that the priorities that the Commission has set out regarding the completion of the Single European Sky are important. In the statement the Committee makes the following comments.

“The EU has decided to establish a common European airspace – the Single European Sky (EC 549/2004) – with the aim of increasing the efficiency of air traffic management and air navigation services. The initiative was taken as early as 1999, and should be fully implemented by 2030. By means of optimisation of air traffic management, security and capacities will be increased, and shorter, more energy efficient routes will also be possible. In 2013, the Commission presented a development proposal (SESII+), but unfortunately this work has come to a standstill and a decision on the matter has not yet been made by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. As regards the handling of limits to growth in the air, the Commission urges the European Parliament and the Council to adopt the proposals for the full implementation of the Single European Sky promptly and to work with the member states and other stakeholders for the full implementation of the Single European Sky so that it can be accomplished as soon as possible. In the opinion of the Committee, progress to date has been far too slow and the Commission should therefore work more actively with this issue. Now, as earlier, the Committee stresses that the EU’s work with the Single European Sky is an important initiative in order to ensure that the airspace can be used in a more efficient manner, and this work must continue with high priority.”

The Committee’s statement regarding the Commission’s communication can be found on the IPEX website.[[1]](#footnote-1)

I hope that the above-mentioned statement from Committee provides you with some guidance regarding the Swedish Parliament's position regarding the further development of SES.

Best regards,

Mattias Revelius

Head of the Secretariat

Committee on Transport and Communications

The Swedish Parliament

1. <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COM20150598/serik.do> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)