**European Conference on Meteorology for Aviation - 2015**

**(ECMA-15)**

**Concept Note**

**OUTLINE:**

* Background
  + RA-6/16 session discussions and Resolution 2/16
  + MET DIV 2014 outcomes
  + SES and SESAR Developments
* Objective
  + Build awareness
  + Role and future of regional cooperation mechanisms
  + Recommendations
* Stakeholders/Partners
  + WMO RA-6
  + WMO CAeM
  + ICAO
  + EUMETNET (AVIMET), Met Alliance, NAMCON
  + Eurocontrol, SESAR Joint Undertaking (SJU) and Network/Deployment Managers
  + IATA, IFALPA, CANSO, other user organizations
* Format
* Appendix (RA-6 Res 2/16)

1. **Background**
   1. At its 16th Session held in Helsinki in September 2013, the WMO Regional Association VI (Europe) considered the vigorous developments towards a more efficient organization of the air traffic in the Region as formulated in the European Air Traffic Management (ATM) Master Plan endorsed by the European Council as a key element of the European Single European Sky (SES). The Association noted that the SES regulations, and their recent extension SES 2+, would have a major impact on the provision of meteorological services as part of the air navigation services by most RA VI Members (both EU and non-EU Members). Among those was an increasing pressure for more competitive and commercial service provision. The Association underlined that these trends need to be carefully monitored and discussed, given the importance of assuring aviation safety and service quality, and sustaining fair and equitable cost recovery mechanisms.
   2. The Association agreed on the need to gain a greater understanding of these issues to better inform future discussions and requested the WMO Secretariat to organize a regional conference that would also build on the outcomes of the WMO/ICAO Conjoint MET Divisional Meeting 2014. The Association adopted Resolution 2 (RA VI-16), *Conference on the future of meteorological service provision in Europe*. Note: Change the title in such a way as to create a good acronym, e.g., **European Conference Meteorology for Aviation (ECMA-2015)**
   3. The MET Divisional Meeting held conjointly by ICAO and WMO in July 2014 was an important milestone in the development of the meteorological service provision for civil aviation. It gave clear directions for the future, in particular the need for full integration of the MET information and service in the global framework presented in the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan and its Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) methodology. The MET Divisional meeting adopted 29 recommendations that mark the future performance improvements of the MET services throughout the ASBU time blocks with horizon 2028 and beyond. The WMO will be a key stakeholder in the coordinated follow up action on those recommendations, in particular in providing the necessary scientific and methodological backgrounds for those improvements and organizing respective capacity development with its Member countries. WMO RA VI (Europe) is the arena of the most vigorous development of new ATM environment, both in technology and regulations, therefore, ECMA-2015 will be an opportunity to coordinate the European response to the MET DIV 2014 and promote a regional cooperation approach.
2. **Objectives**
   1. To raise awareness among RA VI Members concerning:
      * Current and future developments in Europe towards more efficient organization of the air traffic in the Region as formulated in the European Air Traffic Management (ATM) Master Plan endorsed by the European Council as a key element of the European Single European Sky (SES) and related institutional and technological changes with impacts on the provision of MET service.
      * Major outcomes of the MET DIV 2014, related to the GANP and ASBU, that would require adjustment of existing or new business models for service delivery, including the shift from “product-centric” to “data-centric” information services, regionalization and globalization.
      * New technology to achieve performance improvements in the light of SESAR, NextGen and other large projects, new concepts and systems (e.g., SWIM).
   2. To promote the development of a coordinated approach among the RA VI Members in addressing the numerous organizational, regulatory and operational issues related to the meteorological service provision in the new European ATM environment and enhance regional coordination and cooperation.
   3. To strengthen the mutual understanding with ATM stakeholders.
3. **Stakeholders/Partners**
   1. The ECMA-2015 will be organized under the aegis of WMO Regional Association VI (Europe) and under the patronage of the RA VI President. It will be intended mostly for the RA VI Members Directors and senior management of the NMHSs and other providers of aviation MET services. Partnership and coordination with sub-regional bodies like EUMETNET and ICH/CIS is highly desirable.
   2. The event will be supported thematically by the WMO Commission for Aeronautical meteorology (CAeM) in view of the global character of the discussed issues. In this regard, the ECMA-15 is supposed to become a model regional event for all WMO regions.
   3. Participation of representatives of the ATM community from different segments (airlines, ANS providers, airport management, etc), would be crucial for building common awareness and understanding. Primary partners in organizing the event will be ICAO and Eurocontrol, while other partners, such as IATA, IFALPA, CANSO, and other relevant organization would be contacted and strongly encouraged to participate and present their point of view.
4. **Format**
   1. The ECMA-15 will be organized under an agenda encompassing institutional and technological aspects of the future MET services for ATM with strong focus on European developments. The sessions will include key note presentations by relevant stakeholders outlining the major needs for change. The key notes will be followed by presentations of existing good practices and planning examples (including relevant research). Each session will conclude a round table discussion and formulation of recommendations. A panel session will be held at the end to summarize the recommendations and prepare a general statement of the ECMA-15.

**Resolution 2 (RA VI-16)**

**CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE PROVISION TO CIVIL AVIATION IN EUROPE**

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI (EUROPE),**

Noting the potentially serious legal and safety consequences of non-compliance with essential International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and WMO Standards and Technical Regulations,

Noting further:

(1) The importance of aviation as an enabler of socio-economic development,

(2) The binding agreements between WMO Members/ICAO Contracting States as signatories to the WMO Convention and the ICAO Convention, including their relevant Annexes,

(3) The increasing pressure from the Single European Sky undertaking to create larger blocks of airspace with adjoint service agreements encouraging a larger role of market forces,

(4) The existence of subregional, general and aviation-specific alliances of Members taking on roles of interest groups, coordinating bodies and commercial consortia,

Considering the role of cost recovery for services to aviation which depends on demonstrated compliance with the regulations cited above,

Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with ICAO and relevant regional working structures, such as the Network of European Meteorological Services and the European Organization for the safety of air navigation, to organize a European conference on meteorological service provision to civil aviation to explore coordinated regional approaches for aviation meteorological service provision in Regional Association VI in response to the evolving air traffic management system and information-centric requirements, based on the outcomes of the Conjoint MET Divisional Meeting (July 2014).

Urges Members to participate actively in the preparation of the conference and provide support for its organization, as appropriate.