

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

19 APRIL 2010

1. The Ministers of Transport of the European Union, following the initiative of the Spanish Presidency, have held an extraordinary meeting, via video/audio-conference to deal with the effects of the European air space crisis as a result of the volcanic eruption of EYJAFJALLA.
2. The Ministers have agreed to reinforce a coordinated European response in respect to the crisis, through the European Commission and Eurocontrol, that fully guarantees the safety that permits the different Member States to open their air space.
3. The Ministers are satisfied with the decision taken this morning by Eurocontrol, which permits the progressive and coordinated opening of European Air Space, based on the existing technical studies and the incoming data available. Three types of zones are included in this decision, depending on their degree of contamination.
 - The first of these zones is located in the central nucleus of the emissions and will also maintain a full restriction of operations, given that it is impossible to guarantee its safety.
 - The second of these zones is one which will in principle not impede air traffic operations being carried out, even though there are still amounts of ash. This zone will need to be confirmed and the decisions about the operations will be taken in a coordinated manner by the authorities of the Member States.
 - The third zone is not affected by the ash, resulting in no restrictions of any type to the operations.

4. As long as the air traffic in Europe is not totally open, the Ministers have agreed to ask the Commission to contribute to a smooth coordination that allows the mobility of European citizens through other modes of transport.

 5. The Ministers recognize the necessity that all Member States need to guarantee the full operation of alternative modes of transport to ease the effect of this crisis.
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