



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 30 January 2008
5906/08 (Presse 24)

The Council approves new aviation safety rules and extends the tasks of the European Aviation Safety Agency

The Council approved¹ all the European Parliament's second reading amendments to the proposal for a regulation on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing the European Aviation Safety Agency ([3697/07](#) and [16333/07](#)). The regulation has therefore been adopted.

The regulation establishes new safety standards for air operations, the licensing of flight crew and specific provisions for foreign aircraft used within the Community. These new rules complement the existing aviation safety rules on airworthiness.

The regulation is in particular aimed at extending the remit of the European Aviation Safety Agency that was established under regulation 1592/2002 by which the agency was given certification and rulemaking responsibilities with respect to airworthiness and environmental protection standards.

¹ By written procedure on 30 January 2008.

P R E S S

The new regulation gives to the agency new rulemaking responsibilities in the field of air operations, flight crew licensing, and the oversight of third-country aircraft in the Community. The new certification tasks of the agency are limited to the certification of third country airlines operating in the EU and to approvals of organisations based outside the territory of the member states. These new responsibilities and tasks provide for the highest level of safety oversight. National aviation authorities remain responsible for issuing licences and certifying air operators, in accordance with the new rules.

The European Parliament second reading amendments introduced in particular a system of fines to be imposed by the Commission, acting upon a recommendation of the agency, on holders of certificates and approvals issued by the agency, which do not comply with the existing rules. Thus the sanction system will be more flexible, compared to the direct withdrawal of a certificate.

The regulation repeals directive 91/670/EEC, regulation 1592/2002 and directive 2004/36/EC.

For further information see also [13900/07](#), p. 15.