

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT FOR COOPERATION IN AIRSPACE DEVELOPMENT

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, LATVIA, NORWAY AND SWEDEN

Having regard to:

- the goals of the Single European Sky initiative, which implies de-fragmenting the European airspace, reducing delays, increasing safety standards and flight efficiency to reduce the aviation environmental footprint and reducing costs related to service provision;
- the European Commission White Paper 2011: "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area" – while respecting the different international obligations of each State; and

Recognizing:

- the on-going formalised cooperation between the North European Functional Airspace Block (NEFAB) and the Danish-Swedish FAB at National Supervisory Authority (NSA) and Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) level, and
- the call from Vice-President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas, for a binding political commitment by the States participating in the Danish-Swedish FAB and NEFAB respectively,

the Ministers responsible for transport of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden confirm their commitment for a continued cooperation in enhancing the functionality in their airspace.

The Ministers are committed to closer cooperation at FAB level between NEFAB and the Danish-Swedish FAB. The aim is a possible future consolidation of the two FABs when a comparable level of ambition regarding the achievements to be realised through a FAB cooperation is reached, inter alia harmonisation of operational concepts, performance of the ANSPs and related cost-efficiency.

As a first step, the six States commit themselves to undertake necessary actions to ensure implementing the Free Route Airspace concept, above FL 285, in the entire airspace of NEFAB and Danish-Swedish FAB by the end of year 2015.

The enhanced cooperation will be facilitated and monitored by a network of representatives at Ministerial level from each of the signing states.

Furthermore, the Ministers are committed to encourage their air navigation service providers in NEFAB and the Danish-Swedish FAB to cooperate in achieving synergies and economies of scale related to the provision of Air Traffic Services across national borders between the NEFAB States and Denmark/Sweden.

ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORT FROM DENMARK,
ESTONIA, FINLAND, LATVIA, NORWAY AND SWEDEN

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