

Ministers' Roundtable: Volcanic Ash and Other Crises

JOINT STATEMENT

The participants of the Ministers' Roundtable at the International Transport Forum's Annual Summit on 3 May, 2012, acknowledged that crises always present unforeseeable challenges, but agreed, that the responsible bodies at national and international levels should prepare for a broad range of scenarios in advance by taking effective crisis management measures, including:

- ensuring an effective communications strategy is in place to keep the public informed throughout the crisis;
- giving priority to the safety of air transport at all times;
- ensuring communication and coordinated action of the bodies involved in crisis management [such as the Europe-wide coordination by the European Aviation Crises Coordination Cell (EACCC)];
- ensuring up-to-date contact details are available for the responsible persons in all public and private bodies involved in transport (modes of transport concerned, institutions and industry representatives);
- maintaining a dialogue between policymakers and industry representatives (aviation industry – air carriers, air navigation service providers, manufacturers and airports - and other modes of transport);
- developing and providing contingency plans in the event of a failure of a transport mode.
- that national government explore mechanisms by which travel visas may be extended on a *force majeure* basis when crises occur;
- ensuring a joint international approach in case of future disruptions or other incidents;
- considering the development of binding international standards to provide efficient crisis management.

The representatives of government and industry agree to take the abovementioned aspects into account in continuing the work launched. This will ensure a more coordinated approach in the future.

3 May 2012

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Susan KURLAND, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transport, USA

Sergei ARISTOV, Secretary of State, Deputy Minister of Transport, Russia

Jean-Pierre LOUBINOUX, Director General, International Union of Railways (UIC)

Lars Erik BARTNES, State Secretary for Transport and Communications, Norway

Klaus-Peter SIEGLOCH, President, Federal Association of the German Transport Industry

Gerry BROWNLEE, Minister of Transport, New Zealand

Andreas SCHEUER, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transport, Germany

Angela GITTENS, Director General, Airports Council International

Leo VARADKAR, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Ireland