14th November it was reported from The Netherlands that Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) Member CEOs met the European Commission (EC) Vice President Siim Kallas to discuss the best approach for the next evolution of the Single European Sky (SES).

This ambitious EC policy on SES, aiming at ensuring a strong future for air transport in Europe, was recognised by the CEOs. All agreed that Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), Airlines, Member States and the Commission should work in the same direction with their efforts to have a competitive and growing air transport sector, based on performance and innovation.

In his conclusion Vice President Kallas emphasised the need for a pragmatic approach to deliver the SES.

It was agreed that a well-defined Performance Scheme as a driver to effectively change ATM in Europe is necessary, provided that this scheme is an incentive for ANSPs to improve their regulated business and to satisfy customer expectations. It should not jeopardise the effective manageability of ATM provision in a deeply unstable economic environment.

CEOs fully acknowledge that Air Navigation Service Provision needs to change and urge the Commission to take full account of the need for ANSPs to make investments to realise both the infrastructure and the social aspects of this transformation.

It is essential that EU Member States ensure, during their deliberation on the EU Multi-annual financial framework proposal for 2014-2020, that sufficient public funding for SESAR deployment is available to deliver results, based on the previous investment in ATM research and development.

Maurice Georges, the Chairman of the CANSO European CEO Committee, commented, “ANSPs are entrusted by their national authorities to provide service to their customers. The complexity of realising the SES, together with a more business oriented approach to European Air Traffic Management should not be underestimated. Any transition, and specifically one such as the SES, needs full common understanding of the issues and close co-operation of all involved partners. ANSPs underline their strong will to lead their part in this transformation.”
Guenter Martis, CANSO Director European Affairs, added, “Europe is on the way to transform its ATM performance fundamentally. The targets are ambitious and the expectations are high. Commitment and co-operation of all involved is the key to success.”