Agreement that will leverage synergies to enhance aviation safety, improve air traffic management and better the aviation user experience was created last month.

In the presence of the European Commission, the European GNSS Agency (GSA) and EUROCONTROL signed a new cooperation agreement towards the end of September. The objective of the agreement is to jointly contribute to the implementation of European Union GNSS policies as they apply to the field of aviation.

As Europe’s skies and major airports become increasingly congested, there is need for Air Traffic Management (ATM) technologies to evolve from ground-based infrastructures to more advanced systems based on new technologies. EUROCONTROL and the GSA have a shared objective in developing and exploiting European GNSS technology to improve accessibility, efficiency and safety to European operators, pilots and airports.

To accomplish this objective, the agreement focuses on a range of activities, including:

- Definition of aviation user requirements for EGNOS* and Galileo.
- Introduction of European GNSS services for aviation within the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) area.
- Coordination in aviation research and development.
- Aviation-specific GNSS performance monitoring.
- Promotion of European GNSS aviation activities at the international level.

Commented Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General of DG Enterprise and Industry at the European Commission: “This is another example of European Commission support of the aviation sector. I am confident that a strong cooperation between the GSA and EUROCONTROL will benefit aviation, the European GNSS Programmes and indeed European citizens.”
Added says GSA Executive Director, Carlo des Dorides. “The full deployment of GNSS offers unprecedented opportunities to further improve air traffic management safety and capacity, while reducing costs at pan-European level. EUROCONTROL’s activities in this field will complement those of the GSA to ensure that the development and implementation of satellite-based navigation provides an optimal solution for European airspace users.”

To conclude Frank Brenner, Director General of EUROCONTROL, said: “EUROCONTROL and the GSA share a common objective – the secure and safe implementation of European satellite navigation policies in the aviation sector. The enhanced cooperation between our two organisations means that EUROCONTROL will now bring its unequalled capacity to understand, coordinate and represent the needs of the civil and military airspace users to the promotion and development of GNSS.”

*EGNOS, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service, is Europe’s first venture into satellite navigation and has been providing a certified safety service for aviation users since 2010. EGNOS is owned by the European Union and, since 1 January 2014, the GSA is responsible for its exploitation, ensuring service provision, operations, maintenance and evolution.

**About EUROCONTROL**
EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system that fully copes with the growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, reducing costs and respecting the environment. EUROCONTROL has 40 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Picture caption**
*Mr Frank Brenner, Director General of EUROCONTROL and Mr Carlo des Dorides, Executive Director of the European GNSS Agency (GSA) sign a new cooperation agreement.*

*Photo: © EUROCONTROL.*