It was announced from Brussels on 5 January that Estonia had become EUROCONTROL’s 41st Member State on New Year’s Day.

With the accession of Estonia, EUROCONTROL covers all 28 European Union states. This event reinforces EUROCONTROL’s status as being truly pan-European.

Even before becoming a member state, Estonia actively participated in the network and has contributed to improve Europe’s ATM performance. Over the last six years fifteen airspace design improvement packages have been implemented and two more are planned.

Said Frank Brenner, Director General of EUROCONTROL: “It is with genuine pleasure that I welcome Estonia as our 41st member state. Over the last four years, Estonian air traffic increased by 22%. Estonia continues to rise to this challenge with a very strong performance and very few delays. That is not only appreciated by the airlines and the passengers but also by EUROCONTROL as the Network Manager.”

During the accession ceremony on 26 November 2014 at the Brussels headquarters of EUROCONTROL Mrs Urve Palo, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure of Estonia, said: “The accession of Estonia is a logical consequence of the good collaboration over the past years. Thank you for taking us into the family. We are looking forward to working even closer with you.”

Over the last four years, Estonian air traffic increased by 22%. Overflights provide 75% of the traffic. Tallinn is the dominant airport with more than 90% of local traffic. Kardla, Tartu and Kuressaare share the remaining 10%. The forecast for 2014 shows a 4.6% growth in total traffic.