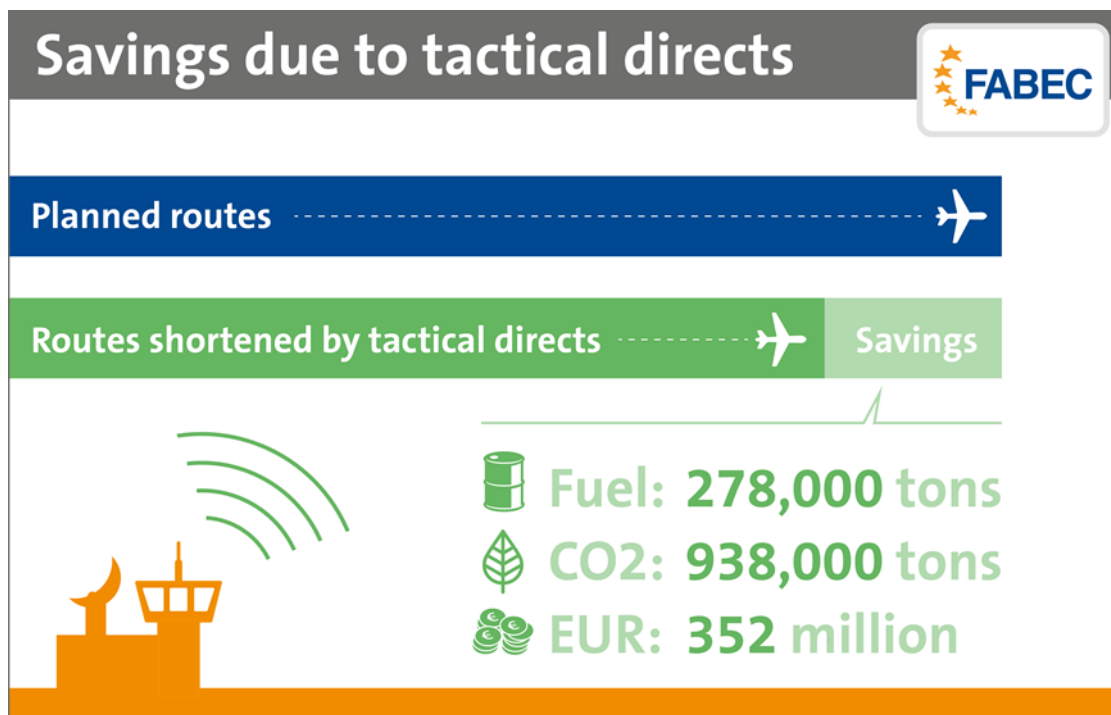


Operations

Direct routings offered by ATCOs save 352 million euro for airspace users

10th February 2017;- In daily operations, pilots are benefiting from direct routings – known as 'tactical directs' – offered flexibly by air traffic controllers (ATCOs) on the frequency during the actual flight. With these tactical directs, ATCOs are eliminating a source of inefficiency that occurs if individual flight plans do not use the most efficient routing. Overall, in 2016 these tactical directs resulted in an average reduction of 15 kilometres in the distance flown per flight when compared with the routing originally planned, with the average distance flown declining from 528 kilometres to 513 kilometres per flight. The benefit for airspace users can be expressed in the reduction of fuel burned of 278,000 tons, or in monetary terms EUR 352 million. Beside this, air traffic controllers reduced the environmental footprint of aviation by 938,000 tons of CO₂.

“We are glad to provide flexible services to the airspace users,” said Michiel van Dorst, CEO LVNL and FABEC CEO Champion Operations. “The example of tactical directs demonstrates that close collaboration between all partners and at all levels is key to an efficient aviation industry – for the sake of passengers, the European economy and the environment.”





Tactical directs are one of the means of improving the service quality of air navigation services. To manage the high complexity and congestion within their airspace, FABEC air navigation service providers have developed several flexible tools to improve operations to the greatest extent possible, such as conditional routes or seasonal procedures improving flight profiles.

The airspace of the six FABEC States of Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland is one of the busiest and most complex in the world. The majority of major European airports, major civil airways and military training areas are located in this area. FABEC airspace covers 1.7 million km² and handles about 5.8 million flights per year – 55% of European air traffic.

For more information please contact:

Roland Beran, FABEC: +49 171 2139896

Luc Willems, ANA: +352 4798 22010

Nadine Meesen, Belgocontrol: +32 2 206 2023

Kristina Kelek, DFS: +49 6103 707 4161

François Richard-Bôle, DSNA: +33 1 5809 4815

Linda van Dort, LVNL: +31 6 53 24 22 32

Mireille Roman, MUAC: +31 43 366 1352

Vladi Barrosa, Skyguide: +41 22 417 40 08

