

France's DSNA successfully introduces free route airspace procedures as part of a coordinated FABEC programme

13 December 2021: On December 2, 2021, FABEC air navigation service provider Direction des Services de la Navigation Aérienne (DSNA) successfully implemented the most recent stage of its Free Route Airspace (FRA) programme, introducing FRA procedures to nearly 50% of its airspace above flight level 195 (6,000 meters).

This is a key milestone to achieving free routing across the entire European airspace and is part of a wider FRA implementation programme agreed between all FABEC ANSPs. This first step is the result of three years of sustained work by DSNA teams and a stakeholder group which includes aircraft operators, the Network Manager, neighbouring ANSPs, the military and computer flight planning service providers (CFSPs).

The FRA France programme will allow aircraft operators to freely choose their route using entry, intermediate and exit points, under the prescribed conditions of use. By choosing to initially retain the existing entry and exit points, DSNA controllers will be able to manage new traffic flows with a high level of safety.

“FRA offers aircraft operators not only increased possibilities for planning their routes, but also a decrease in the average planned route length, contributing to more environmentally-friendly flights,” said Florian Guillermet, DSNA CEO. “This new additional step within the FABEC airspace should reduce the distances of planned routes of around 2 million Nautic Miles (NM), representing a reduction of CO2 emissions of around 40,000 tons per year. An important milestone towards greener aviation!”

FABEC ANSPs are on track to implement FRA in their airspace by 2025, as required by European regulations.

Further information: [Free Route | FABEC](#)

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 over 55% of European air traffic. In 2020, FABEC won the ATM Environment Award for the second consecutive year.

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