



ACARE

Advisory Council for

Aeronautics Research in Europe

PRESS RELEASE

ACARE calls for a new vision for European Aeronautics and Air Transport ‘Towards 2050’.

Berlin, 10 June - The Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE) has called for a new vision for European Aeronautics and Air Transport to be established at the highest level in Europe.

ACARE believes that its new report, entitled ‘Beyond Vision 2020 (Towards 2050)’ and available at www.acare4europe.org, will act as a catalyst for high-level policy makers to build such a vision.

The report emphasises how aviation has dramatically transformed society over the past 100 years and how the efficient and fast transportation of people and goods provides economic and social benefits throughout the world. It acknowledges that the growth of air traffic over the past 50 years will continue in the future, particularly in the growing markets of the Far East.

It considers that the Aeronautics and Air Transport sector is a key strategic economic domain for Europe – providing about 2.6 million indirect jobs and contributing around Euro 240 billion to gross domestic product attributable to air transport related activities.

In 2000, the ‘European Vision for Aeronautics and Air Transport in 2020’ was launched to meet the needs of society, while maintaining European global leadership in aeronautics. This vision led to the formation of the Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE) to define a strategic research agenda and make the vision a reality.

ACARE has shown the combined strength of working together across the whole community of industry, research establishments, universities, governments, regulatory authorities, and the European Commission. This collaborative framework, which is already delivering important initiatives and benefits for air transport, needs to be maintained to help develop an even more successful future Aeronautics and Air Transport System in Europe.

Since 2000, society’s perception of Air Transport has changed and in the future ‘Towards 2050’, aviation is likely to face even more radical challenges - with some arising from its own success.

Environment : Climate change is a major societal and political issue and is becoming more so, with emissions related regulation expected to become more prevalent over time. In the future, aviation must improve its environmental performance and keep its total climate effects at sustainable levels.

Reducing disturbance around airports is also a challenge with the need to ensure that air quality around airports remains acceptable. Aviation will have to deal with energy availability in the coming decades to continue as an important development factor in future societies.



Environmental trade-offs, including those between emissions and noise, will have to be balanced to find optimised solutions for the Air Transport System.

Financial pressure : The world economy has recently suffered a deep downturn. GDP growth rates in 2009 have been the lowest since the Second World War. The scale of the challenge is such that securing financing for vital new programmes and technologies will be a major issue for the future, especially as capital markets will in all likelihood remain tight in the medium term.

Increasing and volatile oil prices will shape the economy of the future and exert tremendous pressures on the industry, challenging existing airline business models.

A changing world : The role of Air Transport has never been more important to society, and it is vital that aviation is prepared to meet the challenges of a changing world. With changing demographics and increased urbanisation, society towards 2050 will need more long range transport to connect markets and people.

Some travel needs may disappear because of teleconferencing and virtual access to knowledge, but Information and Communication Technology development will add to the opportunities for interaction and ultimately contribute to transport demand.

Competitiveness : The European Air Transport sector must continuously innovate to remain globally competitive against strong competition from North America as well as emerging economies. Our air transport industry will only be able to meet future challenges with a strong commitment to the vigorous evolution of current technologies as well as achievement of new breakthrough technologies.

The report concludes that a new vision 'Towards 2050' is essential and must be established to set a strategic direction for European Aeronautics and Air Transport to meet the future needs of society.

The success of ACARE stems from the work it has done to define the Strategic Research Agendas that have to date supported the goals of Vision 2020.

ACARE now believes that the time is right for a high-level 'Group of Personalities' to come together and use the information from the report 'Beyond Vision 2020 (Towards 2050)' to develop a new vision for European Aeronautics and Air Transport.

Alexandre Dossat, ASD PR and Communications Manager

Tel: +32 2 775 81 33; e-mail: alexandre.dossat@asd-europe.org

Note to Editors

Launched in June 2001, the **Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE)** comprises 46 members including representation from the Member States, the European Commission and stakeholders, including manufacturing industry, airlines, airports, service providers, regulators, the research establishments and academia.

The main ACARE vehicle is the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) designed to offer a common reference to all European Air Transport stakeholders for planning research programmes in line with the Vision 2020 and the challenges it identifies: Quality & Affordability, the Environment, Safety, the Efficiency of the Air Transport System and Security. For further information: www.acare4europe.org