

Brussels, 25 July 2018

**To:**  
**Mr Henrik Hololei**  
Director-General  
European Commission  
Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

**Ref.: S0109.18**

**Subject: Joint proposals by the 19 members of the SESAR Deployment Alliance  
for optimising SESAR Deployment Manager role**

Dear Mr. Hololei,

**DG MOVE has been visionary in considering, as early as in 2011, that ATM industry was mature enough to get self-organised and manage the deployment of SESAR under the oversight and with the financial support of the European Union (EU).** Your vision of “industry for industry” materialised in 2014 when 11 Air Navigation Service Providers (building on A6 nucleus), 4 Airlines (the A4) and 24 Airports (through ACI-Europe’s SESAR Deployment Airport Grouping - SDAG) decided to join forces, develop a joint proposal building on a set of few but very strong principles – in particular the equal partnership between Air Navigation Service Providers, Airlines and Airports - to establish the SESAR Deployment Alliance (SDA<sup>1</sup>), that you selected in the role of the SESAR Deployment Manager (SDM) in December 2014.

**Since its establishment, the SDA has been successful in translating the Pilot Common Project (PCP) Implementing Regulation in a Deployment Programme fully supported by the operational stakeholders. This wide buy in translates in projects deploying SESAR under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) framework, now reaching 300 by 85 Implementing Partners in 34 States enabled by 1.4 billion of private investments and 1.1 billion of EU grants. More importantly, the Alliance has completed 72 projects for about 200 million of investments which already deliver actual contribution to Europe’s ATM performance in the range of 30 million euros of benefits just for this year and more than 600 million euros cumulated until 2030.** To these figures need to be added about 10% more projects that are deployed without calling on the CEF funding framework. The total deployment and societal benefits therefore go beyond the figures mentioned above.

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<sup>1</sup> AIR FRANCE, AUSTROCONTROL, BRITISH AIRWAYS, Croatia Control, DFS, DSNA, EASYJET, ENAIRE, ENAV, IAA, LfV, Lufthansa, NATS, NAVIAIR, PANSa, SDAG.

**The past 3 years and a half, Air Navigation Service Providers, Airlines and Airports members of the SDA remained fully committed to their SDM role.** Also, the recent evolution of the SDA as a legal entity – the SDA A.I.S.B.L.<sup>2</sup> - materialises the strong willingness of SDA members to continue in this role in a more sustainable and efficient manner. Finally, with 3 new members joining recently – HungaroControl, ROMATSA and Ryanair – the added value of the SDM is widely acknowledged by the ATM community.

**Based on an open call for proposals, SDA has been designated in SDM role until end of 2020. Therefore, time has come for DG MOVE to prepare for the launch of a new call for proposals to renew the role beyond 2020. The undersigned members of the SDA, are all committed to continue together in the SDM role. Moreover, the subsequent proposals developed in the annex to this letter are supported by all SDA members.** In particular, we are fully aware that the SES framework includes other key stakeholders which are also required to timely turn SESAR into an operational reality. Be assured that **SDA has sound and constructive cooperation with them, in particular with EUROCONTROL and the manufacturing industry**, in order to involve them in support to SDM and accelerate deployment of core SESAR technologies.

**The Board of Directors and the General Manager of the SDA, Mr. Nicolas Warinsko, will be your main interlocutors** throughout the upcoming discussions. Please, consider them as the voice of SDA members on SESAR deployment matters.

Yours sincerely,

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<sup>2</sup> A.I.S.B.L. stands for Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (not for profit international association). The 19 members of SDA AISBL represent more than 70% of Air Traffic across the European union, more than 7 million flights, serving around 850 million passengers per year.

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