



*European Federation of Airline Dispatchers Associations*

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Member of IFALDA

Dear Members,

On behalf the EUFALDA board I would like to welcome everyone to our community. All of us are facing the worst financial crisis since 1929. Our industry is suffering severely under the consequences: incurred losses, grounding of aircrafts and cutbacks already took place and more may still be ahead of us. Nobody knows when we bottom out the trough.

But let us overcome. EUFALDA was able to give choices for job seekers in the past and we will do so in the future. The upcoming IFALDA AGM 2009 in Amsterdam will be an opportunity to check everybody's status and to discuss the steps to be taken on how to endure. EUFALDA's AGM last year in Munich was a great success and had one of the best participation as far as I know.

I am pleased to announce Jakub Chmelik from CSA as the new treasurer. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Albert Rieger has stepped down from his responsibilities as president. We would like to thank Albert for all of his efforts and dedication he gave over the past eight years to our profession and the federation. Albert's input was integral to the success of our organization. We appreciate his loyalty and fortitude.

As your new president one of my goals was to establish better communication with the European Aviation Safety Agency – EASA. So far we were successful! On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Jan Hoehne, Vice-President EUFALDA, and I visited EASA in Cologne. We followed an invitation from Daniela Defossar. They listened to us, they talked to us. The opportunity developed just as we desired. We were able to present our recommendations that we collected over the past years. The focus was on accidents in Europe which compromised safety and could have been avoided with a better dispatch system. We invited EASA to the IFALDA AGM in Amsterdam and hopefully can invite them at our AGM.

Concerning our AGM: The event was planned in co-operation with WSI ([www.wsi.com](http://www.wsi.com)) in Birmingham who also fell victim to the financial crisis. WSI had to step back and regrets to do so. Instead we are planning to hold the AGM event at the brand new Lufthansa Training & Conference Centre in Seeheim, south of Frankfurt. It just re-opened in March 2009. I apologize for offering Germany "again", however it was the easiest "plan B" at such a short notice. An old friend of EUFALDA, Hein Rüter, offered to organize the meeting. Seeheim ([www.lh-seeheim.de](http://www.lh-seeheim.de)) is ideal with all the modern and new facilities. Details will be published on our website at [www.eufalda.org](http://www.eufalda.org) as soon as they become available.

European Federation of Airline Dispatcher's Associations

Matthias Dürbeck – President

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Another great development to report is with the German association GALDA. GALDA will restructure the training for flight dispatchers and asked for support from EUFALDA. A letter to the European Commission from us to underwrite GALDA's way was sent in February 2009.

In April we performed an Audit on EUFALDA's books. In May we will join IFALDA's conference. In June the EASA/FAA Safety Conference will take place in Athens. We will reply and comment to NPAs within EASA and organize our AGM.

Plenty of work ahead!

Thanks to the volunteers in and outside the board of EUFALDA.

Sincerely,

Matthias Dürbeck  
President EUFALDA