



ECA
Piloting Safety



PRESS RELEASE

Aircrews to walk out for safety

Pilots and cabin crew will hold parallel walkouts and rallies across Europe calling on European politicians to take steps and put passenger safety before the commercial interests of the airlines. Steered by their professional responsibility to safeguard passenger safety and ensure safe flight operations, aircrews are mobilizing for a 'Walkout for Safety' on 22 January 2013.

At a press conference today in Brussels, the European Cockpit Association (ECA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) announced a Europe-wide action day against the Flight Time Limitations (FTL), recently proposed by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

"For years now, aircrews have been waiting for safe rules to counter the dangers of crew fatigue on flight operations", stated Nico Voorbach, ECA President. "[Surveys](#) show that pilots and cabin crew are already struggling with high levels of fatigue, nodding off at the controls of aircraft. Nonetheless, EASA chose to disregard scientific recommendations and put forward a proposal that accepts high levels of aircrew fatigue."

"No progress has been made towards addressing the deep safety concerns of aircrews. This must change", said Francois Ballester, ETF Political Secretary for Aviation. "Otherwise flight safety standards across Europe will go down and crews will be obliged to fly schedules which are outright dangerous and will adversely affect the safety of flight operations. This 'Walkout' will show that we are determined to do whatever it takes to ensure flight safety."

"If the Colgan Air accident showed us something, it's that a tired pilot is a dangerous pilot. EASA's rules fail to address this and this must change today", stated Nico Voorbach.

The 'Walkout for Safety' will be a jointly coordinated by ECA and ETF event which will include numerous actions, possibly up to and including industrial actions.

For further information, please contact:

Nico Voorbach, ECA President, Tel: +32 491 378 982

François Ballester, ETF Political Secretary for Aviation, Tel: +32- 474 91 69 79

www.dead-tired.eu | [YouTube video](#)

[Safety petition](#) (82,000 citizens signed already!)

Note to editors: ECA is the representative body of European pilot associations, representing over 38.000 pilots from across Europe. Website: www.eurocockpit.be.

ETF represents 100,000 aircrews across Europe and more than 2.5 million transport workers from 243 transport unions and 41 European Countries. ETF Website: <http://www.itfglobal.org/etf/index.cfm>