



## Occurrence reporting system for civil aviation Statement by FOCA Director General

Under the terms of the Swiss-EU bilateral agreement on air traffic, Switzerland has transposed Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation<sup>1</sup> into its own national legislation. This regulation requires the FOCA, as the competent supervisory authority, to use the information made available to it to improve safety and not to take action against persons for the incidents referred to in the reports.

The FOCA's Just Culture policy has remained in place since the Just Culture reporting system was first introduced in Switzerland in 2007. The Just Culture is intended to enable all aviation operators to openly report safety-related incidents. Therefore, the FOCA does not take any criminal or administrative action against persons who report incidents to the FOCA through the reporting system (EU portal). This principle applies as long as flight safety has not been seriously compromised through wilful misconduct or serious lack of professional diligence.<sup>2</sup>

The FOCA is confident that the Just Culture policy is the right approach to improving aviation safety - it is the only way to learn from systemic weaknesses. The FOCA helps the aviation industry to implement Just Culture principles and expects all stakeholders to act accordingly. In particular, no disciplinary action should be taken against employees who report incidents to their employer.

Christian Hegner

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<sup>1</sup>Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation, amending Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Directive 2003/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulations (EC) No 1321/2007 and (EC) No 1330/2007

<sup>2</sup>Whereas paragraph 37 of Regulation (EU) No 376/2014