



Occurrence reporting in civil aviation Statement by the Director General of the FOCA

Switzerland has adopted regulation (UE) No 376/2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation¹ under the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on Air Transport. The said regulation requires the FOCA as the responsible authority, to use the information available to improve safety and not to prosecute people for reporting incidents.

Since the introduction of the reporting system in 2007, the FOCA has maintained a “Just Culture”. The commitment to “Just Culture” aims to encourage all aviation stakeholders to report openly about safety related events. The reporter does not experience any prejudice based on the information they have reported to the FOCA, in line with the reporting requirements. This principle applies, as far as no willful misconduct or serious lack of professional duty of care is evident, whereby aviation safety has been seriously compromised.²

As part of this culture, the FOCA will take the necessary measures to ensure the confidentiality of the information received and to protect the personal data of the reporter. Safety relevant data that is obtained through the analysis of the confidential reports, shall where necessary, be forwarded anonymized, in so far, that the data is used for the improvement of aviation safety.

The EU and the FOCA also require the aviation industry to implement a “Just Culture”. Employees who report events, should therefore, not be discriminated against by their employer.

Christian Hegner

Bern, 1st of May 2016

¹Regulation (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

²Cover Regulation, paragraph 37 of Regulation (EU) No 376/2014