



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **European Commission contracts Foundation for safety support Zambia**

**Hoofddorp, Netherlands, 28 May, 2009 —**

The Delegation of the European Commission (EC) in Zambia has contracted the AviAssist Foundation to kick-start EC support to aviation safety improvements in Zambia.

The program will be funded under the European Development Fund (EDF). The EDF is the main instrument providing European Union aid for development cooperation with amongst others African countries. It finances programs contributing to the economic development of the recipient countries. This EDF funding comes from the EDF focal sector of regional integration & transport Infrastructure. The contract will lead to the definition of the key questions to be inquired from sector stakeholders during a full identification study, ensuring a focus on priority issues.

“The Foundation is pleased to work hand in hand with the Delegation of the European Commission in Zambia to improve aviation safety. As a result of the non-profit status of the Foundation, it can perform contracts like this under most international tendering thresholds. This makes it possible for the European Commission to act swiftly because a direct contract is then possible” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “This contract underlines a constructive approach by the European Union (EU) to complement the signal function of the EU blacklisting. Safety is a critical factor to let aviation play its role as a crucial contributor to the development of Zambia. The AviAssist Foundation looks forward to working with other EC delegations in Africa within the EDF framework. It is a valuable instrument to facilitate safety improvements needed to harvest bigger benefits from tourism and business that rely on aviation. For Zambia, the objective is to build capacity on regulatory and operational issues in the specific areas of air safety, security and traffic management. The EC and the Foundation are keen to try and ensure that the capacity building happens in close co-ordination with the national industry. Other initiatives around the world have proved that such a balanced approach of industry and government interests is central to the success of institutional safety improvements”.

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**AviAssist Foundation** is an independent, non-governmental organization, providing safety support to African countries and companies. It aims to replicate safety successes from elsewhere on the African continent and beyond. As the regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it identifies threats to aviation safety, analyzes the problems and works on practical solutions to them. It does so in close coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization, stakeholders and other safety support providers. More information at [www.aviassist.org](http://www.aviassist.org)