



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EASA contracts Foundation for regional safety oversight symposium**

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The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) contracted the AviAssist Foundation to assist in the organisation of a symposium on Regional Aviation Safety Agencies (RASAs) that will take place from 13-15 July in Livingstone, Zambia. The three day event, organised by EASA and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and hosted by the Zambian Department of Civil Aviation, aims to share experiences in and obstacles to regional approaches in Africa and other regions. The event will promote the concept of RASA as a solution to some of the safety oversight challenges faced in parts of Africa.

”It is a privilege for the AviAssist Foundation to work with EASA and AFCAC on promoting regional solutions” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “Realistically, the level of aviation activity in many African countries is (yet) too low to generate the funds necessary to support effective and sustainable national safety oversight systems. Regional organisations, bringing together a workable number of states, offer the most economical way to pool resources for effective oversight. But there seems to be little progress in oversight cooperation in East and Southern Africa, other than the East African Community (EAC). The AviAssist Foundation wants to work with EASA and AFCAC on the involvement of critical aviation outsiders in the possible positive effects of the establishment of regional organisations. It is crucial to get this issue on the political agenda of African governments, not just on the agenda of civil aviation departments. The challenge will be to find a genuine, common cause to drive regional co-operation. In Europe in the 1970’s, this drive was the desire to set up a large aeroplanes industry that could compete with US aircraft manufacturers. That needed a more efficient certification process. This led to the birth of the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) that will come to a close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. The JAA has shown the way to pan-European co-operation in the field of aviation safety and is leaving a great heritage to European aviation. That heritage is now being completely taken over by the EASA. Some countries in Africa may want to come together on safety oversight as possibly the only way of ensuring that safety oversight gets to an internationally acceptable level”.

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**AviAssist Foundation** is an independent, non-governmental organisation, 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)