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Homebriefing: safer flights for general aviation

HungaroControl's new online application helps pilots prepare

HungaroControl Hungarian Air Navigation Service's new, free-of-charge, web-based service offers general aviation pilots faster and simpler preparation for safe flights. The Homebriefing system helps pilots submit flight plans from wherever they may be for flights in the airspace below 2900 metres (9500 feet) to HungaroControl's Flight Information Centre. The website collects the most important, regularly updated air navigation and meteorological information. Through the use of this system, flight safety and traffic flow control in the uncontrolled airspace can be improved, airspace infringements can be avoided and in the event of an accident the work of search and rescue services will become easier.

As the submission of flight plans is not obligatory for VFR (visual flight rules) flights in the uncontrolled airspace, currently only 60-70 percent of pilots make use of this opportunity. However, submitting flight plans facilitate communication between pilots and the staff of HungaroControl's Flight Information Centre, and thus flight safety can be improved.

With the help of the Homebriefing system, pilots can prepare and submit their flight plans to the air navigation service provider. The system records previously submitted flight plans, which are retrievable and re-usable. Moreover, the regularly updated air traffic and meteorological information collected on the ais.hungarocontrol.hu website provides further help. This way the information flow between pilots and air traffic control becomes smoother, which in turn improves traffic flow control in Hungary's uncontrolled airspace. Using this system facilitates the tracking down of aircraft in a state of emergency as well.

Following free registration, Homebriefing is easy to access from any device equipped with an Internet browser. From now on, this modern, easy-to-handle and user-friendly online interface will gradually replace the currently used but obsolete fax-and telephone-based system.

The Homebriefing system was developed by the engineers of Austrian company Frequentis AG on commission from HungaroControl in line with international trends and with the requirements specified in the Local Single Sky Implementation Programme (LSSIP) applicable in the member states of EUROCONTROL. The service is run by the technical staff of HungaroControl's flight information centre.

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About HungaroControl

Due to its state-of-the-art technology and cutting-edge developments and services, HungaroControl Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt is one of the most accurate, most efficient and most reliable service providers in international aviation, and an active regional initiator and co-operating partner of the European Union's integration efforts under the Single European Sky.

According to EUROCONTROL's statistical data and forecasts, the number of flights in Europe is 10 million per annum, and in the next 20 years this figure may even double. During the past few years HungaroControl has launched several significant projects to improve its air navigation services, guarantee the safe management of the increasing air traffic, and promote the imminent success of the integration undertaken by the European Union.

Due to its continuous innovation and the application of the results of its research and development, HungaroControl has an outstanding role in Europe in flight safety improvements, capacity increases, reduction of airline costs and increased environmental protection. As a result of combined efforts and on commission from NATO, since 3 April 2014, HungaroControl has been managing civilian air traffic overflights in the upper airspace over Kosovo. In February 2015 HungaroControl was the first to adopt Free Route Airspace use without any limitations in Hungary's entire airspace, well before the deadline set by the European Commission.

In addition to improving its traditional air navigation services and technical and technological background, one of HungaroControl's strategic objectives is the establishment of a Central European air navigation knowledge centre in joint effort with its partners. The 2013 implementation of its new, state-of-the-art air navigation centre enabled HungaroControl to relocate its businesses engaged in innovation in a single place, in the building of a former ANS. The establishment of a knowledge centre is justified by increasing international market demand for research and development, simulation and training to support air navigation, which is partly generated by European integration and the objectives related to the functional airspace blocks. On the initiative of HungaroControl Zrt, the regional air navigation knowledge centre will be set up with the involvement of the Hungarian universities and institutions engaged in aviation sector innovation.

The purpose of HungaroControl's capital investment projects is to enable the Central European Functional Airspace Block (FAB CE), a regional co-operation of seven Central European countries, to provide competitive services and operate at the highest technical and technological standard.

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