

Budapest, 12. August 2015

HungaroControl: record traffic in the air

Hungarian air traffic controllers handled a record number of aircraft

In July 2015 the air traffic controllers of HungaroControl handled 100,856 aircraft, beating all previously measured records. New traffic records emerged in transit traffic, while the number of flights arriving and departing from Budapest also reached the highest figures since November 2011. On 26 July 2015 the air traffic controllers of the Hungarian control centre handled a record number of 3,644 flights in one day.

Air traffic statistics also grew significantly in the summer of 2015 in the airspaces managed by the air traffic controllers of HungaroControl. In July in total 74,558 aircraft flew across the Hungarian airspace, which figure is almost 11 percent higher than the number registered in the same month of the previous year. Since 11 July an increasing number of aircraft flew across Hungary (2,624 on 11 July, 2,646 on 18 July, 2,663 on 25 July, 2,689 on 1 August and 2,722 on 8 August). On 26 July 2015 a daily record figure emerged with 3,644 flights.

The traffic increase observed in the previous months also continued in the upper airspace over Kosovo. In July 2015 in total 9,599 aircraft flew across the KFOR Sector, which figure reflects a 27.48 percent increase compared the similar month of the previous year, and was the highest monthly figure since the re-opening of the five transit routes. On 4 July 392 flights crossed the airspace over the Balkan country in one day, remotely controlled from the Budapest centre, which was also a record figure.

The cause behind this traffic increase goes beyond the seasonal effects: the growth was primarily the result of the restructuring of the aviation routes due to the Ukrainian events in 2014, as well as the remote services provided in the upper airspace over Kosovo, which have been functioning smoothly for more than one year. The third cause behind the increase is the introduction of the Hungarian Free Route airspace (HUFRA), which enabled airplanes to use the airspace freely, without any restrictions.

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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 (1 January 2022) 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 regional, Central European air navigation knowledge centre in joint effort with its partners.

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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