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When replying please quote

Reference : EUR/NAT 14-0175.MET (KEC/HOI)

7 March 2014

Subject : **VOLKAM14 Exercise (4 & 5 March 2014, Moscow, Russian Federation)**

Dear Mr Neradko,

1. I am pleased to express my gratitude to your support in conducting a successful volcanic ash exercise called VOLKAM14 that simulated an eruption of a volcano named Bezymianny in Kamchatka from 4 to 5 March 2014. The leadership you provided assisted in meeting all objectives of this exercise.

2. In particular, I am pleased to know that tactical re-routes simulated by airlines to avoid the simulated volcanic ash cloud were submitted to the Main Air Traffic Management Centre (MATMC) Moscow and those requesting reroutes that would have used Russian Federation airspace were approved. The contingency re-route between the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and Fukuoka Oceanic Flight Information Regions (FIR) as per the Letter of Agreement for this Exercise between the Russian Federation and Japan was utilized by many simulated re-routes. Procedures detailing coordination between these two FIRs were successful. This proved that such a contingency arrangement in a real volcanic ash event, or other weather hazards, would be useful to the airlines.

3. Another positive outcome of this exercise was the fact that simulated special air-reports on volcanic ash provided by airlines were successfully communicated to the appropriate Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre and SADIS. This involved coordination between airlines, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky Area Control Centre and Yelizovo Meteorological Watch Office. The correct routing of special air-reports on volcanic ash in real events will prove useful in providing the most accurate information on volcanic ash and useful in airlines in formulating safety risk assessments. This demonstration has already been shared with other States conducting similar exercises as a model example of how special air-reports on volcanic ash are disseminated in accordance to ICAO provisions.

4. The Exercise Leader, Alexey Buevich, Head of Strategic Planning, Main ATM Center of Russia State ATM Corporation, prepared and conducted the Exercise in an efficient and professional manner and I would like to express my gratitude to his work. In addition, support from Federal Air Transport Agency and Roshydromet with the assistance from Elena Glukhovskaya, Adviser, and Naryshkina Yuliya, Chief of Meteorologist Department of ATM, enabled the successful creation and routing of SIGMET and special air-reports on volcanic ash messages. My gratitude to Elena Glukhovskaya and Naryshkina Yuliya as well as all those who have contributed to this successful exercise.

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Mr Alexander Neradko
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5. I look forward to continue working with you in the future on preparing and conducting successful volcanic ash exercises in the far Eastern Russian Federation.

Yours sincerely,

Luis Fonseca de Almeida
ICAO Regional Director
Europe and North Atlantic