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**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
THE COUNCIL**

EUROPEAN UNION SAFA PROGRAMME

(Text with EEA relevance)

{SWD(2012) 38 final}

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

EUROPEAN UNION SAFA PROGRAMME

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. THE EU SAFA PROGRAMME

1.1. Aviation safety as key priority for the European Union and for its Member States

Aviation safety constitutes a priority for the European Union (EU) and for its Member States. In the light of this objective, a key instrument is the EU Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) programme. This programme requires participating States to conduct ramp inspections on third country aircraft to verify compliance of aircraft, crew and operations with international safety requirements. Ever since its inception in 1996 under the auspices of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the SAFA programme has increasingly proven to be a vanguard in strengthening both European and international aviation safety.

Within the framework of its overall strategy to establish and maintain a high uniform level of civil aviation safety in Europe, the Community adopted on 21 April 2004 Directive 2004/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the safety of third-country aircraft using Community airports¹ (the so-called 'SAFA Directive'). This Directive introduced a legal obligation upon EU Member States to perform ramp inspections upon third country aircraft landing at their airports, where 'third country aircraft' implied an aircraft which is not used or operated under control of a competent authority of an EU Member State; although the Directive does in no way prohibit EU Member States from inspecting aircraft from other EU Member States. EU Member States were given a window of two years for implementing this Directive through the enactment of national legislation.²

In addition and following a decision by the Directors General of ECAC member states, the SAFA programme was transferred under Community competence on 1 January 2007, when responsibility for the management and further development of the programme fell upon the European Commission assisted by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) 768/2006.³

The continued participation of the fifteen non-EU ECAC States, and thus the pan-European dimension of the programme, has been assured through the signature of a Working Arrangement between each of these individual States and EASA. Including the EU-27

¹ OJ L 143, 30.4.2004, p. 76.

² See in particular Report from the Commission on Safety of Third-Country Aircraft using Community Airports dated 24.9.2008. C(2008) 5265 final.

³ OJ L 134, 20.5.2006, p. 16.

therefore, the EU-SAFA programme boasts a total of 42 participating States (*see Appendix A to the accompanying Staff Working Paper of the Commission*)⁴.

1.2. Why this report?

Public confidence in the safety of air transportation is contingent upon access to adequate information regarding the implementation of international safety standards. In this context, Article 6 (2) of Directive 2004/36/EC requires the Commission to publish yearly an aggregated information report available to the public and the industry stakeholders.

This is the fifth annual report covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2010.

1.3. Functioning of the EU SAFA programme

In each SAFA participating State, aircraft (third-country for EU states or foreign for non-EU ECAC states) can be subject to a ramp inspection, chiefly concerned with the aircraft documents and manuals, flight crew licences, the apparent condition of the aircraft and the presence and condition of mandatory cabin safety equipment. The references for these inspections are contained in the Standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annexes 1 (Personnel Licensing), 6 (Operations of Aircraft) and 8 (Airworthiness of Aircraft).

These checks are carried out in accordance with a procedure which is common to all participating States. Their outcome is then the subject of reports which also follow a common format. In the case of significant irregularities, the operator and the appropriate Aviation Authority (State of Operator or Registry) are contacted in order to arrive at corrective measures to be taken not only with regard to the aircraft inspected but also with regard to other aircraft which could be concerned in the case of an irregularity which is of a generic nature. All data from the reports as well as supplementary information are shared and centralised in a computerised database set up and managed by EASA.

The functioning of the EU SAFA programme can be summarised as follows:

- its application by all 42 SAFA participating States;
- the broad dissemination of SAFA ramp inspection results through a centralised database;
- its bottom-up approach: the Programme is built around ramp inspections of aircraft;
- its focused attention primarily on third country aircraft flying to the EU and SAFA participating States (although SAFA inspections may continue to be performed on aircraft from EU Member States);
- its inherent objective of checking for compliance with safety international rules (ICAO Standards).

⁴ SWD(2012) 38

1.4. Major contribution of the EU SAFA programme to aviation safety

Based upon the SAFA inspections, experience shows that these give a general indication of the safety of foreign operators. However, this indication is limited in the sense that no full picture is obtained about the safety of any particular aircraft or operator. This is due to the fact that certain aspects are difficult to assess during an inspection (e.g. crew resource management, full airworthiness status, etc.) owing to the limited time available to perform an inspection and consequently the limited level of detail possible during such an inspection. The value of those indicators will be further enhanced by increasing also the level of harmonisation across the participating States in the performance of SAFA inspections.

A full assessment of a particular aircraft or operator can only be obtained through the continuous oversight by the responsible national civil aviation authority (State of Operator or State of Registry). In this manner, the information gained through the EU SAFA programme is useful:

- Primarily as a pre-emptive tool helping to identify potential negative safety trends whereby a numerous and/or recurring number of findings concerning a particular operator, is a very good indicator of potential structural weaknesses both with regard to the quality control management of that operator as well as the level of safety oversight exercised by the responsible national civil aviation authorities of the state where that operator is certified;
- More directly, SAFA inspections may contribute in real-time to the safe operation of the particular aircraft which has just been inspected, prompting the inspecting authorities to ensure that corrective actions are taken immediately prior to any further operations.

Additionally, since the coming into force of Regulation (EC) No 2111/2005⁵ establishing a list of carriers which are banned from flying into the EU, SAFA inspections have acquired an increased importance as one of the criteria considered by the Commission in taking its decisions on the inclusion of carriers in the Community safety list.

1.5. Progress of the programme during 2010

The Commission services together with EASA are continuously monitoring the functioning of the current SAFA programme with a view to identifying any room for further improvement particularly (i) with regards to the way inspections are carried out, (ii) with regards to the manner information obtained during inspections is thereafter collected and analysed and finally (iii) with the view to involve third countries in the SAFA system and thus facilitate the improvement of civil aviation safety throughout Europe.

In particular, a new development during 2010 was the agreement for the introduction (as of 2011) of a number of inspection points to be reached on a voluntary basis by each SAFA state. These national inspection points are calculated taking into account the diversity and volume of foreign traffic. Inspections are also valued differently pursuant to the compliance of various criteria which are directly linked to the enhancement of safety (prioritised inspection, distance from the head office, time of the inspection).

⁵ OJ L 344, 27.12.2005, p. 15

A number of initiatives started in 2007 also continued in 2010. These are the preparation by EASA of a database quality review of the reports of the participating States. Conducted on a four-monthly basis this EASA analysis attempts to identify as early as possible potentially negative safety concerns and trends in order that they may be addressed in a timely manner before becoming a threat to international aviation safety. During 2010, the Commission continued to use the conclusions of these reports to prepare its decisions on the inclusion of air carriers in the European safety list under Regulation (EC) No 2111/2005.

In addition, during the year 2010 and pursuant to the request of the Commission, EASA continued its negotiations with various aviation authorities of countries around the world with the view of enlarging the participation in the EU SAFA system.

Given the collective nature of the EU SAFA Programme, it is therefore extremely important that all SAFA inspections are done in a standardised manner in all SAFA Participating States. In 2010 EASA has pursued its Standardisation Programme in line with Commission Regulation (EC) No 736/2006. In particular, 24 audits were performed in: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, FYROM, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Finally, as tasked under Commission Directive 2008/49/EC⁶, EASA continued with the review of the second set of detailed Guidance Material on Ramp Inspection Procedures which were published in 2009.

1.6. Introduction of a risk-based approach. Prioritisation of inspections

Commission Regulation (EC) No 351/2008⁷ introduces the concept of prioritisation of SAFA inspection from a pan-European perspective. Participating States are required to prioritise a portion of their ramp inspections on certain operators. The prioritisation list is compiled by the Commission pursuant to information transmitted by EASA following the analysis of SAFA database, or stemming from the meetings of the Air Safety Committee or finally information received from the Member States.

In addition, operators which are listed in Annex B of the Community list of banned air carriers (established under Regulation (EC) No 2111/2005) as well as the other operators certified in the same state as any operator featuring concurrently on the Community list are also subject to prioritised inspections.

The prioritisation list is constantly updated and the SAFA database under the responsibility of EASA allows all Participant States to obtain a pan-European perspective on the whole prioritisation process. The European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL) further supports this concept of prioritisation by means of its European Air Traffic Management tool which provides participating States with real time information on the flight planning situation of prioritised operators.

During 2010, out of a total 11,703 SAFA inspections, 2,215 (18.9%) were conducted on operators indicated in the prioritisation list.

⁶ OJ L 109, 19.4.2008, p. 17.

⁷ OJ L 109, 19.4.2008, p. 7.

2. THE SAFA CENTRALISED DATABASE

The SAFA centralised Database has been managed by EASA since December 2006, when it was transferred from the Central Joint Aviation Authorities (CJAA) in the Netherlands to EASA in Cologne, Germany.

Data contained in the database is considered confidential. The database can be accessed by all National Aviation Authorities of participating States via the (secured) internet..

In 2010, a new functionality was implemented allowing the aviation authorities of third countries to access on-line the EASA-SAFA database, restricted to reports on operators licensed in the respective country. At the end of 2010, 10 third-country aviation authorities were using this functionality. In addition, read-only access is provided to the European Commission and ICAO.

3. AREAS OF INSPECTION

According to the 'SAFA Directive', aircrafts suspected of non-compliance with international safety standards (based on e.g. regular analysis of the database by EASA) have to be inspected by the Member States. Furthermore the SAFA ramp inspections may be carried out using a spot-check procedure. It might be decided to focus the inspection according to certain criteria, as listed below. Such decision is based on recommendations issued by the European Commission or national policies and priorities..

There are five areas on which the inspections are focused:

- (1) Specific State of Operator (checking operators from a particular State);
- (2) Specific aircraft type;
- (3) Specific nature of operations (scheduled, non-scheduled, cargo, etc.);
- (4) Specific third country operator;
- (5) Specific aircraft identified by its individual registration mark.

Appendices B, C and D to the accompanying Staff Working Paper of the Commission⁸ list the states of operator, aircraft types and operators inspected during the year 2010.

The smooth operation of the programme can also be illustrated by Table1, which aggregates the information in the Appendices and provides an overview of activities during 2010.

⁸ SWD(2012) 38

Table 1: Operation of the SAFA programme during 2010

Number of inspections carried out	11,703
Aircrafts inspected	6,200 aircraft registrations
Operators inspected	more than 1,076
State of Operator inspected	130 states and territories
Aircraft type inspected	219 different aircraft types and variants

The SAFA Directive, whilst mandating the performance of ramp inspections on third country aircraft, also recognises the right of Member States to inspect aircraft operated by operators certified in another Member State. In 2011, a little over half of the total number of SAFA inspections were carried out on EU operators. It must be noted though that the number of landings of EU operators (in other European states) is approximately 4 times higher compared with the number of landings of third country operators in European states.

Table 2: Inspections on EU and non-EU operators

	Inspections on EU Operators	Inspections on non-EU Operators
2010	5,990	5,713
Percentage	51.2%	48.8%

Out of 11,703 inspections, 9,798 (83.4%) were performed by EU member states (see Attachment A). 48.8% (5,713) were performed on operators licensed in third countries while the remainder 51.2% (5,990) were conducted on EU operators. These figures highlight in particular the wide coverage of the EU SAFA programme and its non-discriminatory application on EU and non-EU operators.

4. MAIN RESULTS OF THE SAFA INSPECTIONS

4.1. Inspection findings in general

During any SAFA inspection, a checklist, comprising a total of 54 different inspection items, is used by the SAFA inspector to examine the compliance of the aircraft with international rules (ICAO standards). These inspections may reveal a number of findings (usually called "deviations from ICAO Standards"). Table 3 provides an overview of the number of total findings (F) compared to the total number of inspections (I) and the inspected items (II). However, in the majority of cases, not all items are checked during an inspection because the time between the arrival of the aircraft and its departure is not sufficient to perform a complete inspection. Therefore, the relationship between the total number of findings and the total number of inspected items might give a better understanding rather than a ratio based merely on the number of inspections.

Table 3: Overview on SAFA findings and SAFA inspected items

	Period
	01 January 2010 – 31 December 2010
Total Inspections (I)	11,703
Total Inspected Items (II)	437,519
Total Findings (F)	11,019
Average no. of Inspected Items during an Inspection	37.39
Findings/Inspections (F/I)	0.942
Findings/Inspected Items (F/II)	0.0252

4.2. Inspection findings and their categories

Not only the absolute number of inspection findings needs to be considered, but also their “severity”. To this end, three categories of findings have been defined. A “Category 1” finding is called a minor finding; “Category 2” is a significant finding and “Category 3” a major finding. The terms “minor”, “significant” and “major” relate to the level of deviation from the ICAO Standard. The prime purpose of categorising the findings is to classify the compliance with a standard and the severity of non-compliance with this standard.

The inspections and the categories of findings are summarised in the table below:

Table 4: SAFA findings per category

Year	No. inspections (I)	No. findings (F)				Ratio of findings (Fcat./I)			
		Cat. 1 (minor)	Cat. 2 (significant)	Cat. 3 (major)	total	F cat.1 / I	F cat.2 / I	F cat.3 / I	F total / I
2010	11,703	3,424	4,719	2,876	11,019	0.293	0.403	0.246	0.942
		31%	42.8%	26.1%	100.00%				

4.3. Historical overview

It is worth presenting a historical overview of the evolution since 1996 of the above referred figures.

Table 5: Overview of the evolution of SAFA findings

Year	Total
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	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	1996-2009
Total Inspections (I)	75	1,748	2,767	2,833	2,394	2,706	3,234	3,413	4,568	5,457	7,458	8,594	10,337	11,349	11,703	66,933
Total Inspected Items (II)	1,675	31,413	88,400	95,524	80,454	82,935	93,681	100,014	148,850	181,440	260,524	300,035	358,046	408,217	437,519	2,231,208
Total Findings (F)	212	1,951	2,573	2,631	2,587	2,851	3,064	3,242	6,799	8,492	12,481	12,073	11,298	9,688	11,019	79,942
Findings/Inspections (F/I)	2.8267	1.1161	0.9299	0.9287	1.0806	1.0536	0.9474	0.9499	1.4884	1.5562	1.6704	1.405	1.093	0.854	0.942	1.194
Findings/Inspected Items (F/II)	0.127	0.062	0.029	0.028	0.032	0.034	0.033	0.032	0.046	0.047	0.048	0.040	0.032	0.024	0.025	0.036

Table 6: Annual Number of SAFA inspections since 1996

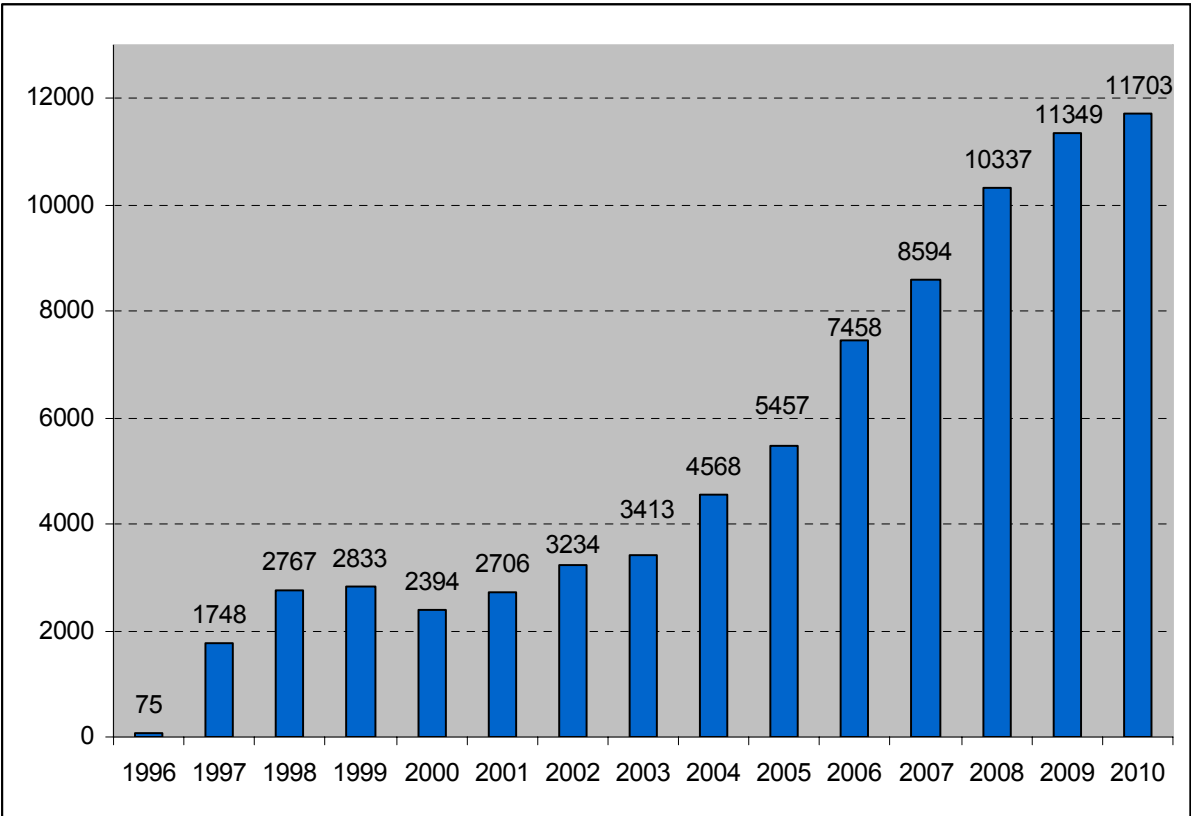
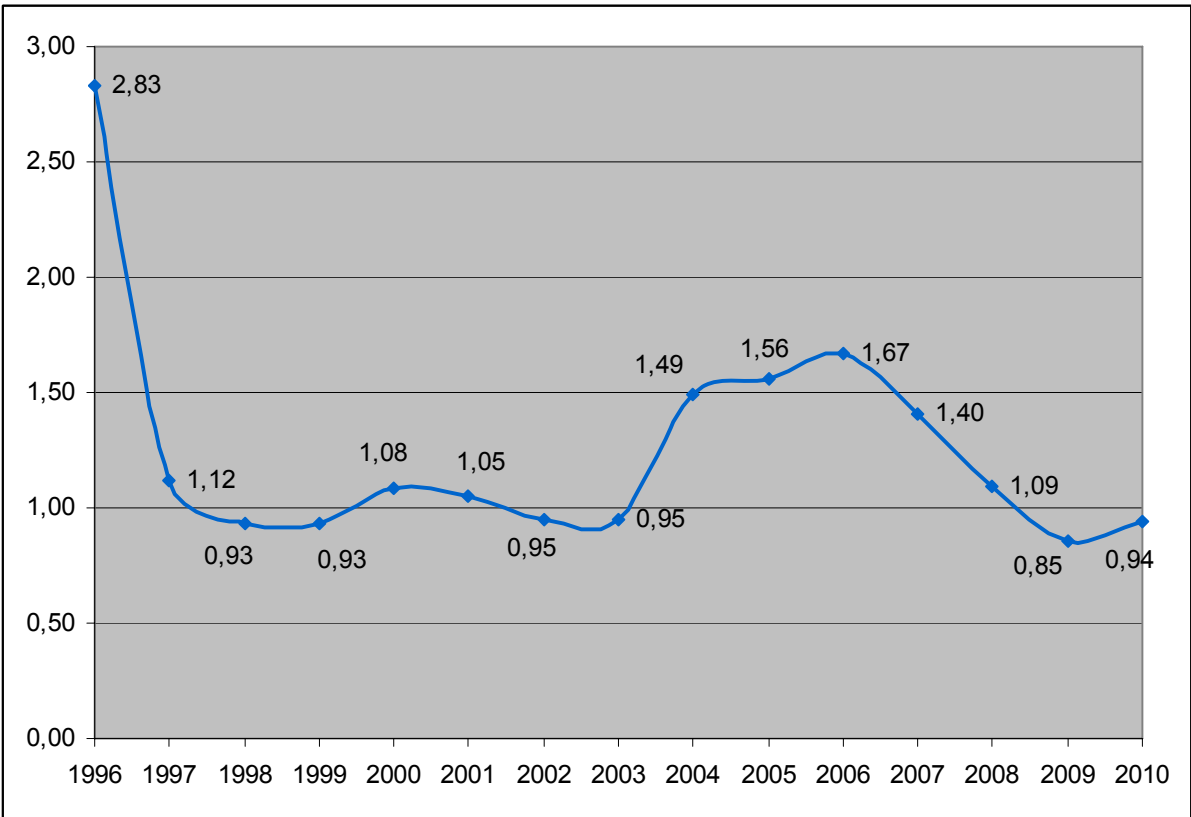


Table 7: Average number of findings per inspection (1996-2010)



As shown in Table 7 and after decreasing for three consecutive years, the average Findings/Inspection ratio increased by 13% in 2010. This increase appears to be a direct consequence of the legislative instruments adopted in 2008 (namely the Commission Regulation 351/2008/EC on the prioritisation of ramp inspections and Commission Directive 2008/49/EC introducing more detailed procedural elements), the publication by EASA of a very comprehensive Guidance Material and its application by the participating states as well as the launching by EASA of a SAFA Standardisation programme. All these measures have contributed to better inspections being carried out in the 42 SAFA Participating States.

4.4. Inspection findings on a regional basis

Tables 8, 9 and 10 below show that although the average number of findings (per inspection) increased in 2010, the five-year trend is decreasing for all geographic regions.

From these tables, it is possible to note that:

- Operators from States in the EU, ECAC and Oceania have fewer findings per inspection than average.
- Although in 2009 the average for African operators showed the greatest improvement this trend was reversed in 2010 when figures show the greatest increase for the average ratio of African operators.

Table 8: inspection findings on a regional basis

Region	No. of States inspected	No. of Operat. inspected	Inspect. (I)	No. of findings (F)				Ratio of findings (Fcat./I)			
				Cat. 1 (minor)	Cat. 2 (signif.)	Cat. 3 (major)	Total	F cat.1/I	F cat.2/I	F cat.3/I	F total/I
EU ⁹	27	521	5990	1296	1984	1193	4473	0.22	0.33	0.20	0.75
EUROPE (ECAC) ¹⁰	44	662	7776	1865	2675	1603	6143	0.24	0.34	0.21	0.79
Russian Federation, Belarus & Central Asia ¹¹	6	88	1002	474	484	233	1191	0.47	0.48	0.23	1.19
North America ¹²	3	97	610	207	188	178	573	0.34	0.31	0.29	0.94

⁹ EU - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

¹⁰ Europe (ECAC) - Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

¹¹ Russian Federation, Belarus and Central Asia - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

¹² North America (NA) - Bermuda, Canada, United States of America.

Latin America & the Caribbean ¹³	21	32	165	81	94	78	253	0.49	0.57	0.47	1.53
Middle East and North Africa ¹⁴	17	101	1422	543	824	497	1864	0.38	0.58	0.35	1.31
Africa ¹⁵	19	39	311	84	215	149	448	0.27	0.69	0.48	1.44
Asia ¹⁶	17	46	377	165	231	130	526	0.44	0.61	0.34	1.40
Oceania ¹⁷	3	11	40	5	8	8	21	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.53
Average/all States								0.29	0.40	0.25	0.94

¹³ Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC) – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

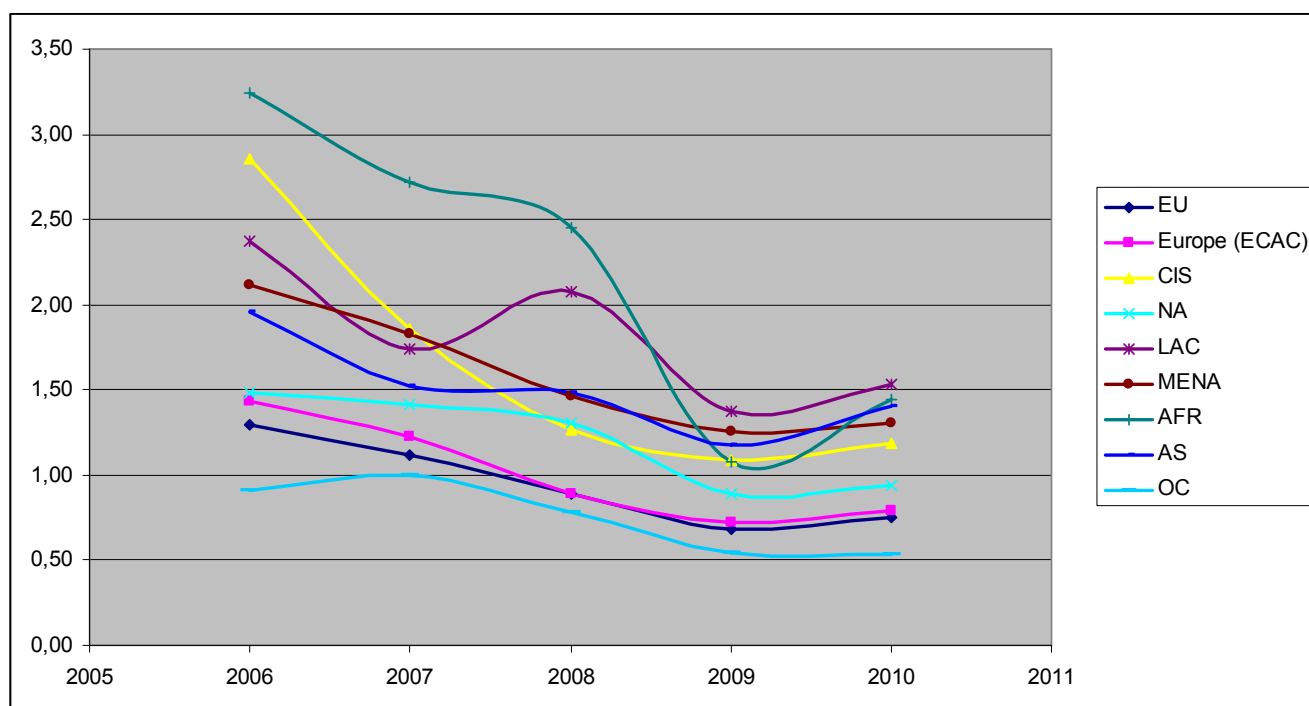
¹⁴ Middle East and North Africa (MENA)- Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

¹⁵ Africa (AFR) - Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

¹⁶ Asia (AS) - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.

¹⁷ Oceania (OC) - Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Table 9: Evolution of inspections findings on a regional basis



When comparing the SAFA results of EU operators with those of non-EU operators once can note that the overall average F/I is significantly lower (by 35%). Table 10 presents more in detail these results.

Table 10: Comparison between EU, ECAC and the rest of the world

Region	No. of States inspected	No. of Operat. inspected	Inspect. (I)	No. of findings (F)				Ratio of findings (Fcat./I)			
				Cat. 1 (minor)	Cat. 2 (signif.)	Cat. 3 (major)	Total	F cat.1/I	F cat.2/I	F cat.3/I	F total/I
EU	27	521	5990	1296	1984	1193	4473	0.22	0.33	0.2	0.75
Rest of EUROPE (non-EU ECAC States)	17	141	1786	569	691	410	1670	0.32	0.39	0.23	0.94

4.5. Distribution by ICAO regions

While the tables under heading 4.4 presented the results of SAFA inspections in 2010 on the basis of commonly understood geographical regions, this section presents the same data on 2010 inspections aggregated by regions as are defined by ICAO, where the grouping differs from above and therefore yields different results. These differences do not impact on the conclusions drawn in this report. From the tables 11 and 12 it is therefore possible to note that:

- Operators from States belonging to the EUR¹⁸ and ESAF¹⁹ region have fewer findings per inspection than average.
- Operators from States belonging to the MID²⁰, SAM²¹, WACAF²², NACC²³, APAC²⁴ have more findings per inspection than average.
- The ratio Findings/Inspections shows an increase for almost all regions. The only exception is the SAM region, which however still has a higher than average ratio. WACAF region remains, by a consistent margin, the region with the highest average.

¹⁸ EUR-European and North Atlantic ICAO Region:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (excl. Netherlands Antilles), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom (excl. Cayman Islands, Bermuda), Uzbekistan.

¹⁹ ESAF-Eastern and Southern African ICAO Region:

Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

²⁰ MID-Middle East ICAO Region:

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

²¹ SAM-South American ICAO Region:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

²² WACAF-Western and Central African ICAO Region:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

²³ NACC-Northern American, Central American and Caribbean ICAO Region:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America.

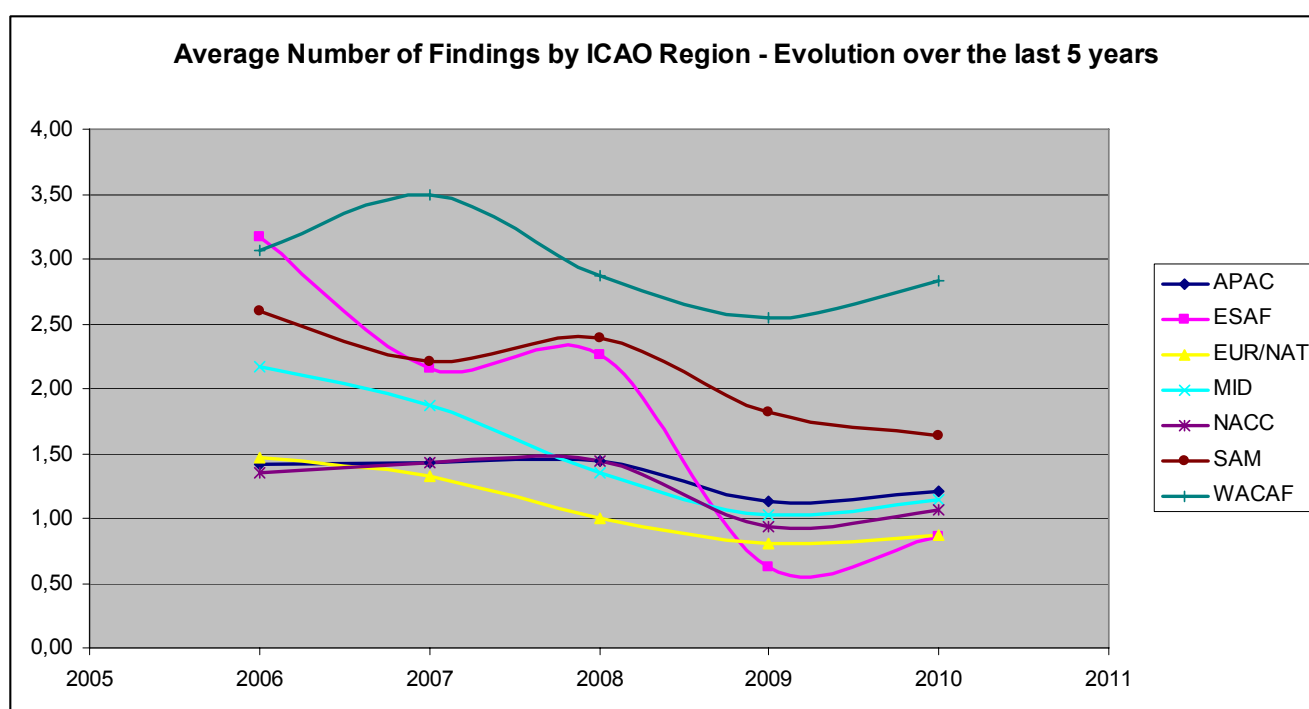
²⁴ APAC-Asian and Pacific ICAO Region:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (incl. Hong Kong and Macao), Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshal Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

Table 11: Inspection findings on a regional basis (ICAO regions)

Region	No. of States inspected	No. of Operat. inspected	Inspect. (I)	No. of findings (F)				Ratio of findings (Fcat./I)			
				Cat. 1 (minor)	Cat. 2 (signif.)	Cat. 3 (major)	Total	F cat.1/I	F cat.2/I	F cat.3/I	F total/I
APAC	18	51	364	154	178	107	439	0.42	0.49	0.29	1.21
ESAF	10	24	219	33	79	75	187	0.15	0.36	0.34	0.85
EUR	57	769	9218	2568	3491	2018	8077	0.28	0.38	0.22	0.88
MID	17	94	1103	342	567	354	1263	0.31	0.51	0.32	1.15
NACC	10	109	637	238	224	215	677	0.37	0.35	0.34	1.06
SAM	10	15	70	38	44	33	115	0.54	0.63	0.47	1.64
WACAF	9	14	92	51	136	74	261	0.55	1.48	0.80	2.84
All States	130	1076	11703	3424	4719	2876	11019	0.29	0.40	0.25	0.94

Table 12: average number of findings by ICAO region – evolution over last 5 years



4.6. Inspection findings related to checklist items

Appendix F to the accompanying Staff Working Paper of the Commission.²⁵ provides the results regarding each individual inspection item (III) which has been inspected. It indicates the number of times a particular inspection item has been checked, the number of findings and the ratio F/III.

Most of the findings were identified with respect to the Aircraft General Condition (C01), the Defect Notification and Rectification (A23), Flight Crew Licences (A20) and General Condition of the Cockpit (A01).

4.7. The top 3 significant and major inspection findings related to checklist items

The inspection checklist consists of four major parts. Part A concerns items to be inspected in the flight deck of the aircraft. Part B of the checklist concerns items to be checked in the (passenger) cabin, and mainly consists of safety equipment. Part C relates to the general technical condition of the aircraft which needs to be verified during a walk around check. Part D checklist items concern the cargo compartment of the aircraft and the cargo carried.

Any general findings not covered by Parts A, B, C or D can be administered under Part E (general) of the checklist.

When considering the findings established during a SAFA inspection, Category 2 (significant) and Category 3 (major) findings require the highest attention when it comes to the need for rectification. For each part of the checklist, the top 3 of Category 2 and 3 findings related to the number of inspections are given in the tables under Appendices D and E to the accompanying Staff Working Paper of the Commission.²⁶

5. ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO RAMP INSPECTIONS

Based on the category, number and nature of the findings, several actions may be taken by national competent authorities.

If the findings indicate that the safety of the aircraft and its occupants is impaired, corrective actions will be required. Normally the aircraft captain will be asked to address the serious deficiencies which are brought to his attention. In rare cases, where inspectors have reason to believe that the aircraft captain does not intend to take the necessary measures on the deficiencies reported to him, they will formally ground the aircraft.

Another type of action is called “corrective actions before flight authorised”. Before the aircraft is allowed to resume its flight, corrective action is required to rectify any deficiencies which have been identified. In other cases, the aircraft may depart under operational restrictions. An example of such a restriction would be the case where there is a deficiency regarding passenger seats.

It is standard practice that the captain of the aircraft which has just been inspected is debriefed about the findings. In addition, Category 2 and Category 3 findings are communicated to the responsible

²⁵ SWD(2012) 38

²⁶ SWD(2012) 38

Aviation Authority and the home base of the operator with the request to take appropriate action to prevent reoccurrence.

In order to achieve best the objectives of the EU SAFA programme, close cooperation with the Civil Aviation Authorities of all those States whose operators and aircraft have been subject of SAFA inspections is imperative. National Civil Aviation Authorities are therefore requested to ensure proper implementation of corrective actions in order to address the reported SAFA findings.

In some cases, when the findings on an aircraft are considered important, individual SAFA participating States may decide to revoke the entry permit of that aircraft. This means that the particular aircraft is no longer allowed to land at airports or fly in the airspace of that State. Such a ban can be lifted if the operator of the aircraft proves that the problems have been properly corrected. Such entry permit repercussions can therefore be, and usually are, of a temporary character.

As regards such bans and their subsequent lifting, those SAFA Participating States which belong also to the EU shall be acting in accordance with the provisions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2111/2005 on the establishment of a Community list of air carriers subject to an operating ban within the Community.

	No. of Inspections	11,703
	No. of Findings	11,019
ACTIONS TAKEN	information to the authority & the operator	4,108
	restriction on aircraft operation	120
	corrective actions before flight authorisation	1,922
	aircraft grounded	12
	immediate operating ban	0*

*not including bans/operational restrictions imposed by the EC pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2111/2005 EC

Pursuant to the requirement set forth by Commission Directive (EC) 2008/49, SAFA participating states monthly send to EASA reports on the follow-up actions taken. This information measures the ability and willingness of operators to rectify the findings identified during SAFA inspections.

6. CONCLUSIONS

During 2010 a record number of inspections has been reached and covered a higher number of operators and inspection items when compared to previous years. This increase appears to be a direct consequence of the legislative instruments adopted in 2008. Furthermore, the figures in this report also show the wide coverage of the EU SAFA programme and its non-discriminatory application on EU and non-EU operators. As a result of these improvements,

the programme has become a better tool to identify potential negative safety trends worldwide, contributing as well as in real-time to the safe operation of the inspected aircraft.

During 2010, efforts were also undertaken to improve the functioning of the EU SAFA programme, in particular through the efficiency of inspections (introduction of a minimum quota of inspections to be carried out on a voluntary basis by SAFA participating States) and the completion of a Standardisation programme.

The results of EASA regular analysis on the reports showing serious safety deficiencies or persistent failure by the carrier to address deficiencies identified by ramp inspections performed under the SAFA programme continued to be used by the Commission for the preparation during 2010 of the Community list of air carriers subject to an operating ban within the Community as provided for under Regulation (EC) No 2111/2005.