

## **EUROCONTROL workshop on Free Route Airspace**

It was announced by EUROCONTROL on 8 March at the close of the World ATM Congress in Madrid that its workshop on the latest developments in the implementation of Free Route Airspace (FRA) in Europe will allow aircraft to fly more direct routes, reducing fuel burn and cutting delays.

FRA is most effective when it operates cross-border, with aircraft not constrained by specific crossing points on the borders between countries. Two existing cross-border initiatives in the important south east region of Europe are SAXFRA (Slovenia/Austria) and SEAFRA (Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia). At the workshop, representatives from the five air navigation service providers from these countries signed a memorandum of cooperation aimed at merging SAXFRA and SEAFRA, which will generate even greater benefits for European aviation and is a significant step towards achieving a common European Free Route Airspace by 2022.

EUROCONTROL's Joe Sultana, Director Network Manager, commented: *'This is an excellent example of how cross-border Free Route Airspace progresses in Europe, even in complex airspace. The detailed and innovative work conducted by the five ANSPs in close coordination with the Network Manager makes this initiative a tangible example of how the European ATM network can be optimised.'*

### **Picture caption**

*Representatives from the Network Manager and the five air navigation service providers (Slovenia, Austria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia) at the signing of the new South East Common Sky Initiative memorandum of cooperation.*

*Image kindly provided by EUROCONTROL and its Member Austro Control©.*