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## Aviation Management at TAP Portugal “Shoot the Messenger” Policy Threatens Passenger Safety

AEI welcomes the INAC (Portuguese National Aviation Authority) initiatives in dealing with the recent lapses in safety standards at TAP, the Portuguese National Carrier. In addition INAC’s letter condemning these incidents within TAP is to be applauded and has fully justified the action AEI had to regrettably take.

However we have now received further worrying information which appears to suggest that TAP management is actively pursuing a policy of retribution against individuals believed to have been involved in the reporting of the acknowledged safety lapses.

AEI would therefore like to once again emphasize that airline management has a responsibility to ensure that the behaviour of the company they are managing remains within the law at all times. Furthermore European law is quite specific on the issue of reporting as documented by EC 2003/42.

Article 8, paragraph 4 of EC 2003/42 says that:

**“In accordance with the procedures defined in their national laws and practices, Member States shall ensure that employees who report incidents of which they may have knowledge are not subjected to any prejudice by their employer”.**

Therefore AEI strongly opposes any TAP management driven behaviour which conflicts with EC 2003/42 and calls for it to cease immediately.

Airline management need to be clear about one thing. Aircraft engineers are dedicated safety professionals and take their responsibilities of ensuring only safe aircraft are allowed to fly very, very seriously indeed. They will not allow their professional standards to be compromised by commercialism. In almost all cases of individuals turning to AEI for assistance the airline management had plenty of warnings about safety issues but refused to act.

Exactly this type of scenario has brought about the global economic crisis we are now witnessing. Regulators and senior management were fully aware of the risks they were taking but not honest enough to inform the public or put a stop to it until it was too late.

AEI will do its utmost to prevent this same dishonest behaviour gain ground within aviation. With the ongoing economic downturn already being extensively used as an excuse to cut back AEI has instructed its members to be extra vigilant as far as safety levels are concerned. AEI will not allow safety related reporting to be silenced in order to recover a few extra dollars by placing the unwitting travelling public at additional unnecessary risk . The aviation industry and the public should fully support those individuals who are prepared to risk their job and future in order to ensure that flying remains safe.

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