

EU pressing for “Single European Sky”

The European Union is reviving ambitious plans to unite Europe’s patchwork of air traffic control systems into a single airspace, which Brussels says will increase capacity, cut costs and reduce delays



Plan merges existing air traffic control areas into nine **functional airspace blocks (FABs)** as precursor to single airspace

Existing area FAB

Denmark-Sweden FAB

UK-Ireland FAB

FABEC: France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland

SW FAB
Portugal, Spain

Blue Med FAB: Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus

NEFAB
Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway

Baltic FAB
Poland, Lithuania

FABCE
Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia

Danube FAB
Bulgaria, Romania

► **2000: Single European Sky (SES)** plan first launched by EU in response to severe flight delays in Europe

► **2009: SES II** legislation calls for FAB implementation by December 2012, but member states miss deadline

► **June 2013: SES II+** proposals aim to speed up implementation, with fines for member states that fail to meet targets

► Unions fear plan will threaten jobs and safety, prompting strikes by air traffic controllers in France and other countries

► EU says SES will triple airspace capacity, save €5 billion (\$6.5 billion) per year and reduce pollution by 10 percent

