

EURO 2008: major repercussions for skyguide and its services

Geneva, June 6, 2008. EURO 2008 can kick off: air traffic to, from and over co-host country Switzerland will be safely and efficiently handled throughout the upcoming European Football Championships. Skyguide will be working closely with all its Swiss aviation partners to ensure the safety of the airspace it administers and provide the additional capacity required during the EURO 2008 tournament, which runs from June 7 to 29. "Managing our air traffic safely and efficiently is, as always, our paramount priority," says Urs Ryf, Head of Operations at skyguide. "We won't just be handling higher traffic volumes; we'll also be consistently applying the additional restrictions imposed," he continues. "And I hope the excitement of the matches themselves will be adequate compensation for any pilots who are affected by the restrictions we need to maintain for the air police services. It's Switzerland's image that's in play here, too; and smooth and seamless air traffic management as well as the safe course of the matches are an integral part of that."

Skyguide and EURO 2008 in figures

Aviation publications for pilots, airlines, airports and flight preparations

- 8-page AIP Supplement 005/2008 (in English) for commercial aviation, published on April 12, 2008
- 23-page VFR Manual Supplement 007/2008 (in German, French, English and Italian) for visual flight rules users, published on May 22, 2008
- comprehensive package sent to 65 airports and aerodromes in Switzerland with full details not only about skyguide's airspace but also for Basel (which is handled by French ATC) and Austria
- information online at www.skyguide.ch and www.homebriefing.com
- information for around 80 airport and aerodrome self-briefing terminals
- various information events for airspace users.

Air traffic management

- around 10% more air traffic controllers (28 persons, or full staffing) to be deployed daily throughout EURO 2008 to strengthen shifts and handle extended operating hours
- 88-page Operating Concept
- 40 pages of work instructions for air traffic controllers in four different versions for Geneva, Bern, Zurich and military aerodromes

- some CHF 1.5 million extra revenue expected to be generated by around 2 000 additional flights.

The skyguide EURO 2008 project team

- 1 500 working days or 12 000 working hours for preparation work, especially for the project team:
 - o devising operating procedures
 - o publishing work instructions
 - o informing pilots and airlines via aviation publications
- 12-person skyguide project team led by Remo Weiersmüller
- work begun in May 2007
- around 50 coordination and information meetings with partners from the Swiss Air Force, the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA), airports, Eurocontrol and Slot Coordination Switzerland
- CHF 2.2 million project costs budgeted for skyguide alone.

Planning: the key to efficient air traffic management

Optimum safety and the smoothest possible unfolding of the tournament are of paramount importance. And working with its partners, the Swiss Air Force and the FOCA, skyguide is playing its part, too, in ensuring the event's success and adding to Switzerland's reputation as co-host nation. Skyguide's mission for EURO 2008 is:

- to ensure the safety of all the air traffic in its care
- to provide the capacities and services required to handle the additional traffic expected and prevent this having any adverse impact on regular traffic flows, and
- to support the air police in their work and actions, and coordinate with all relevant bodies.

Among the additional actions planned for safety reasons for the tournament period, flight movements will be restricted for a radius of up to 50 kilometres around the stadiums in Basel, Bern, Geneva and Zurich immediately before, during and after the matches staged there. The airlines and pilots have been informed of this via the relevant aviation publications.

EURO 2008 will also generate around 2 000 additional flights to Switzerland during the tournament period. Some of these will be operated after the matches during the night ban, to enable spectators and teams to take their return flights on the same evening. The Swiss Federal Council has issued a corresponding ordinance, and skyguide has rostered the personnel required to handle these additional movements.

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services within Swiss airspace and in the airspace of certain adjoining regions in neighbouring countries. The company guides the civil and military aircraft entrusted to its care – almost 3 400 flights a day or over 1.23 million a year – through some of the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Skyguide is a non-profit limited company which has its head office in Geneva. The majority of its shares are held by the Swiss Confederation. The company generates annual operating revenue of over CHF 369 million and employs some 1 400 people at 14 locations in Switzerland.
