Subject: Update of the Community list of air carriers on which the European Commission has imposed an operating ban.

Dear Sir,

The Air Safety Committee met to examine this issue from 25 to 27 June 2007 in Brussels, whereby the Civil Aviation Authority of the Republic of Moldova made an oral submission to the Committee on 25 June.

On 4 July 2007 the European Commission formally adopted a Regulation amending Regulation 474/2006 EC establishing the list of air carriers which are subject to an operating ban within the Community.

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on Thursday 5 July and will enter into force on Friday 6 July 2007.

By this letter, I wish to inform you that after considering the opinion delivered by the Air Safety Committee, the Commission, taking into account the common criteria in the Annex to EC Regulation 2111/2005, has decided the following:

Mr. Valentin VIZANT
Director General
Civil Aviation Administration of the Republic of Moldova
Airport, MD-2026
Chisinau
Republic of Moldova
(1) Serious safety deficiencies have been identified, by several Member States during ramp inspections performed under the SAFA programme, on the part of Aerodorgroup, Aeroportul International Marculesi, Grixona, Jet Line International, Jetstream, and Tiramavia certified in the Republic of Moldova. The repetition of these inspection findings shows systemic safety deficiencies.

(2) Following the invitation of the civil aviation authority of the Republic of Moldova, a team of European experts conducted a fact-finding mission to Moldova from 4 to 8 June 2007. Its report shows that the Moldovan Civil Aviation Authority has revealed an insufficient ability to implement and enforce the relevant safety standards in accordance with their obligations under the Chicago Convention, as regards the following carriers: Valian International Cargo Charter, Aeronord Group, Grixona, Jet Line International, Jet Stream, Pecotox Air, Aeroportul International Marculesi, and Tiramavia.

(3) In addition, the eight above-mentioned carriers, although holders of an Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) issued by the Republic of Moldova, do not have their principal place of business in the Republic of Moldova, contrary to the requirements of Annex 6 to the Chicago Convention.

(4) The Commission has taken note that the authorities of the Republic of Moldova have withdrawn the Air Operator's Certificates of the above mentioned carriers, which have consequently ceased their activities.

(5) Furthermore, the Commission takes note that the authority of the Republic of Moldova has committed not to issue any further Air Operator's Certificates until satisfactory implementation of the corrective action plan and to consult for such purpose the Commission.

(6) The civil aviation authority of the Republic of Moldova has agreed to submit by the end of September 2007 a comprehensive corrective action plan with a roadmap, aimed at addressing all safety oversight deficiencies identified during the fact-finding mission conducted in the Republic of Moldova by a team of European experts during 4 to 8 June 2007.

(7) In the light of the various measures taken by the competent authority of the Republic of Moldova, and pending the submission of a corrective action plan, the Commission considers that remaining carriers holder of an AOC issued by the Republic of Moldova (Air Moldova, Moldavian Airlines, Tandem Aero and Nobil Air) should not be included in the Community list. The Commission should monitor the safety situation of these carriers.

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For this purpose, Member States intend to ensure further verification of effective compliance with the relevant safety standards through systematic ramp inspection of the aircraft operated by these carriers.

In this sense, I would be grateful if you could inform all airlines which are at present certified in Moldova of the above in order that they may act accordingly.

Please address all correspondence on this matter to me with a copy by Fax to +322 296 70 82 or by E-mail to the following address: Federico.Grandini@cc.europa.eu.

Whilst thanking you in advance, I remain.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Calleja Crespo

Cc.  
H.E. the Ambassador of Moldova
Mr Cesare DE MONTIS, Head of Delegation, Kishinev
Mr Paolo BERIZZI, Head of section, EC Delegation, Kishinev
Ms Hilde HARDEMAN, Head of Unit E2 – DG RELEX