



OPEN REPORTING IN CIVIL AVIATION

*ASSESSMENT OF THE EESC'S PROSPECTIVE
ROLE IN DESIGNING A 'EUROPEAN
JUST CULTURE CHARTER' - SUMMARY*



European Economic and Social Committee

Open reporting in civil aviation - assessment of the EESC's prospective in designing a "European Just Culture Charter"

Abstract

Investigation of causes of aviation accidents and incidents is of key importance for finding solutions that improve safety of aviation and provides assurance to passengers for an uneventful flight. Nobody should be immune from the law. The use of these findings for determining whether criminally reproachable behaviour is involved forms part of the administration of justice; a function which is an integral part of any society that respects the rule of law. The issues related to this apparent conflict between these two important functions and approaches towards reconciling or at least balancing these activities form the basis for this study. It introduces the notion of Just Culture, describes experiences with its application in Europe and the prospects and conditions for providing a solution in creating a balance between the interests of safety and the administration of Justice. Such a balance could be found through the creation of a Just Culture Charter through the good offices of the EESC that could generate a number of policies, commitments and undertakings from the signatories to such a charter. The study sets out the conditions for and the possibilities of such an initiative and provides a blueprint for a possible charter document.



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