



Amsterdam, 5 December 2016

Ladies and Gentleman, honored guests.

My name is Rob van Eekeren, President of the World Birdstrike Association and chairman of the board.

The WBA is aiming to achieve a cost effective reduction of the wildlife strike risk, which is written as the most important rule in the WBA Constitution Act. As you all know, cost effectively reducing the wildlife strike risk is easier said than done. Three key words: Cost-effective, Reduction and Risk.

EASA safety Risk management describes ALARP, As Low As Reasonably Practicable, as " Showing that the safety risk is ALARP means that any further risk reduction is either impracticable or grossly outweighed by the cost."

Risk is a function of likelihood and severity. Authorities require to produce bird strike reports; Some do, others don't. Reporting essentially addresses the likelihood by; 1 How many bird strikes, 2 where did it occur and 3 when. Sometimes the report goes one step further in identifying the species. If so, the species are known, where, and when; but only addresses one side of the risk: the likelihood.

The other side is gaining insight in the severity of an accident or incident. Or in other words: How much damage occurred. Or even worse: What is the risk of passengers to loose their lives. A bird strike is almost every time fatal to the bird and by providence a very few humans lost their lives as a result of

a bird / wildlife strike. That is good, however will it stay as such with the expected changes in environment, bird/wildlife populations, climate, human population and traffic demand? The severity aspect of the future risk is less clear. Although airlines should have all the data, these are not easy accessible to make a global map of the wildlife strike risk. The world wide risk to passengers and operators is not really quantified at the moment. If you do not quantify the risk, how is it than possible to bring the risk to the lowest acceptable level? How can ALARP be achieved?

Can the WBA by itself reduce the bird strike risk to ALARP? The answer is a clear NO. That can only be done when all relevant stakeholders would work together. Who are these stakeholders and how could they work together? What are the individual areas of interest, what are the joined areas of interest and what are possible subjects of conflict? What are the advantages and what are the challenges? This conference has Working Together as the main theme. You will not only be informed but you will also be able to discuss all ins and outs in small working groups.

The seven conference topics are

1. International regulations and oversight
2. Ecology, Sustainability and biology
3. Detection and monitoring
4. Dispersions, protection and prevention
5. Stakeholders
6. Risk assessment, management and SMS
7. Aerodrome and aircraft operations.

The first three days are mainly intended for series of 15 minutes (SHARP) presentations on these seven conference topics. Thursday and Friday will allow you to work together in small working groups and discuss innovations and find mutual solutions. That could form the basis for the WBA Global Action Plan on the reduction of the wildlife strike risk.

Two other exciting new developments are part of this conference. One is the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with Birdlife International and IFALPA. The other one is that the Joined Aviation Authorities Training Organization will provide a Bird/Wildlife Strike Prevention Level I course on Thursday and Friday. A voluntarily exam is part of the course and when passed the JAA TO provides a certification of accomplishment. Over 50 aviation authorities recognize the JAA TO.

Last but not least it is intended that we as conference agree on a joint conference statement. That statement will be forwarded to ICAO at the appropriate level before their bird/wildlife conference in 2017. It would be great if the working groups and GAP would also have some concrete results ready by then.

Therefore: The ambition level is high: No time to loose, we have work to do, let's start!

May I wish you a very fruitful conference!