

The 8th NEFAB Council meeting, held in Helsinki November 25, 2015



The 8th NEFAB Council meeting was held in Helsinki on November 25, 2015. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Transport from the four participating States and Ministries of Defence of Finland and Norway. The Chairs of NEFAB Committees and representatives of the air navigation service providers took also part in the meeting.

There were discussions on the accomplishments and future development of NEFAB. In view of contributing to the Single European Sky, the major milestone NEFRA has just been implemented¹. NEFRA is the North European Free Route Airspace concept which connects NEFAB free route airspace to the free route airspace in Denmark and Sweden. The NEFRA concept will furthermore be the basis for future expansion of free route across nine states, including DK-SE FAB, NEFAB, UK-IE FAB and Iceland.

¹ [NEFAB Press release on 12 November 2015](#)

The Council with particular interest discussed FinEst, a new possible cross-border services project launched by Estonia and Finland. The FinEst pilot project on general cross-border air traffic services within NEFAB is targeting real cross-border operations and thereby will support the NEFAB strategic goal – flight and cost efficiency.

The Council reviewed the NEFAB Strategy Implementation Plan and the airspace policy for NEFAB. Both documents are to be finalised and then approved by written procedure. The Council also addressed further cooperation with neighbours, including the framework of the ministerial network established between NEFAB and DK-SE FAB and within the Borealis Alliance.

Another important topic in the meeting was the outcome of the high level workshop between NEFAB Council members and CEOs of Air Navigation Service Providers held in September in Helsinki. It was agreed that a similar workshop will be arranged before next summer, where also the Director Generals of Civil Aviation are to be invited.