



International
Civil Aviation
Organization

Organisation
de l'aviation civile
internationale

Organización
de Aviación Civil
Internacional

Международная
организация
гражданской
авиации

منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Ref: AN 7/5 – CNS41541

13 June 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
United States

Dear Mr. Genachowski,

We are writing to you about an issue of grave concern to the international civil aviation community, in connection with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order and Authorization DA 11-133, adopted on 26 January 2011.

As you are aware, the Order granted LightSquared Subsidiary LLC a conditional waiver of FCC rules, enabling the company to use terrestrial-only devices in a band adjacent to that in which the global positioning system (GPS) operates.

Subsequent to the Order being issued, studies have shown that LightSquared transmissions would have a dramatic impact on aviation GPS receivers. Specifically, the conclusion reached by an authoritative aviation industry body (RTCA, Inc.), after an exhaustive technical investigation, is that the proposed LightSquared operation would be incompatible with the current aviation use of GPS.

The safety and efficiency of aviation operations today are already, to a substantial extent, reliant on the invaluable position, navigation and timing service provided by GPS. Ongoing aviation developments, such as those being undertaken in the framework of United States NextGen programme and the European SESAR programme, will place even more emphasis on the central role of GPS and other satellite navigation systems in aviation operations.

Therefore, the potential disruption to aviation use of GPS caused by the LightSquared system would have a far-reaching impact on current and future aviation operations. The impact would not only be limited to the United States. The international aircraft fleet flying into the United States would be directly affected and also similar developments could arise elsewhere and propagate the disruption beyond their borders.

In September 2007, the United States Government reaffirmed its commitment to provide the GPS Standard Positioning Service (SPS) for aviation throughout the world.

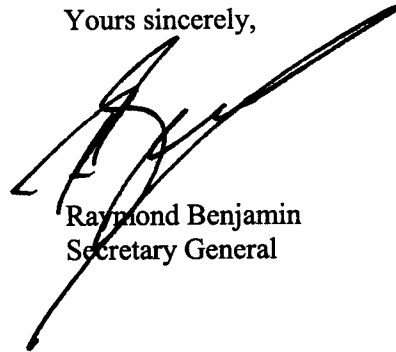
This commitment, first expressed in 1994, was the foundation for the development of key GPS aircraft navigation applications, based on ICAO international standards and procedures, which today support safer and more efficient aviation operations worldwide.

We urge you to ensure that this vital commitment is not unintentionally jeopardized by the introduction of the LightSquared system and the ensuing impact on GPS use by aviation.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto Kobeh González
President of the Council



Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General

cc: Mr. Raymond H. LaHood
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation

Mr. J. Randolph Babbitt
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Representative of the United States
on the Council of ICAO