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Spanair report flawed and incomplete says IFALPA Conference

Paris 7 May: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) meeting at its 67th Annual Conference has issued a statement declaring the Spanish Civil Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation Commission report into the crash of Spanair Flight 5022 in August 2008 fundamentally flawed in its both its findings and process.

IFALPA's primary concern is the failure of the investigation to take into account the striking similarities between this accident and the 1987 crash of a Northwest Airlines MD82. Furthermore since that accident there have been three more cases where an attempt to take off with the aircraft in an incorrect configuration was the key factor.

The Federation has further concerns about the way in which the investigation was carried out. It is apparent that the technical investigation was hampered by a parallel judicial inquiry. This is in contravention of the provisions set out in ICAO Annex 13 which call for the technical investigation to be carried out solely to determine the causes of an accident in order to improve flight safety.

These shortcomings represent a serious threat to air safety. Accordingly, IFALPA calls on the Spanish Civil Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation Commission to address these failures promptly.

Notes to Editors: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations.

See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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