



“By entrusting this project to Certipost, we have been able to save a lot of time and money,” says Jean-Louis Tastenhoye, IT Security Officer at EUROCONTROL CFMU (Central Flow Management Unit).

## **EUROCONTROL uses Certipost PKI Services to secure electronic communications**

The Central Flow Management Unit (CFMU) of air traffic agency EUROCONTROL is the nerve centre of European air navigation. In order to protect its electronic data exchange with dozens of airlines and control towers, EUROCONTROL makes use of Public Key Infrastructure services (PKI) provided by Certipost.

### **needs of EUROCONTROL CFMU**

With an average of 25,000 flights a day, the European airspace is one of the busiest in the world. EUROCONTROL CFMU’s role is to ensure the optimal balance between air traffic safety and capacity in Europe. “We gather and coordinate the flight plans of all airlines taking off from, landing in or overflying Europe,” says Jean-Louis Tastenhoye, IT Security Officer at EUROCONTROL CFMU.

To this effect, the CFMU and its airline partners are increasingly making use of a Web Services environment which enables the IT systems to exchange data directly via the Internet, without intervention of an operator. “In order to safely set up this automated procedure, we needed a trustworthy mechanism for authenticating the communicating systems”, Tastenhoye continues. “We opted for Certipost’s PKI services.”

### **security by data encryption**

As a certification service provider with many years experience, Certipost offers the technical know-how, the consultancy and the practical support for setting up a reliable PKI or Public Key Infrastructure. A PKI is a hierarchical system of digital certificates, Certification Authorities (CA) and Registration Authorities (RA) which use public key cryptography in order to check the validity of each party involved in an electronic transaction. Thanks to this system, the authorised personnel within the CFMU, called Local Registration Authority Officers (LRAO), can themselves issue and deliver certificates to airlines or other partners, and manage the life cycle of those certificates.



## ABOUT EUROCONTROL

EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management system. The organisation currently has 38 member states. EUROCONTROL is headquartered in Haren, near Brussels National Airport.

### procedure

The procedure is based on lightweight certificates, which do not require face-to-face registration and can therefore simply be delivered by e-mail. It goes without saying that each request for access to the CFMU services is first carefully examined. After that, the LRAO registers the partner's details in the system, creates the certificate and sends it by e-mail. Next, a controlled procedure for introducing and activating the certificate takes place between the partner and the CFMU's Technical Support Department.

### collaboration with Certipost

In order to guarantee maximum security, Certipost has created a separate 'primary' especially for EUROCONTROL. "You could compare it to a separate domain name", Tastenhoye explains. "Only certificates created under this primary have access to the CFMU Web Services. Certipost has also taken on the training of our LRAOs. In short, by entrusting this project to Certipost, we have been able to save a lot of time and money."



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