



**ECA**  
Piloting Safety

**Press Release**



## **"NO" to the massive firing of Colombian pilots, "NO" to corporate bullying**

Brussels, 5 Mar 2018

The **European Pilots' Association (ECA)** – representing over 38.000 pilots from 37 European countries – firmly condemns the mass firing of pilots and the opening of disciplinary proceedings against pilots of the Colombian Civil Airmen's Association ("ACDAC") by the Colombian air operator AVIANCA. ECA calls on AVIANCA to immediately cease disciplinary proceedings and reinstate the dismissed pilots and calls on the Colombian government to ensure full compliance with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Conventions as well as the OECD Corporate Governance principles.

The company's goal with its exemplary and disproportionate sanctions is to intimidate the pilot community and thereby prevent any future attempts to defend labour rights. Disciplinary proceedings and dismissals constitute a serious violation of the fundamental rights of Colombian pilots to defend their interests and obtain just and satisfactory working conditions.

The restrictions in Colombia on the pilots' right to strike are contrary to the international commitments of the Colombian Government as a signatory state to Convention 87 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) which includes the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining and strike action. The ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association has denied that aircrews can be excluded from the scope of this Convention. The opening

of disciplinary proceedings and the dismissal of pilots constitutes an illegal and disproportionate restriction of pilots' rights.

AVIANCA's attitude against pilots ignores the principles of Corporate Governance of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an organization to which Colombia has applied for membership. According to this organization, companies must recognise the interests of their employees to ensure the success of their companies. If Colombia and its companies want to join the OECD, they must demonstrate that they apply the principles of good governance respecting the fundamental rights of ACDA pilots.

For these reasons, ECA conveys to its colleagues in Colombia all its support and solidarity and urges the Colombian government and Avianca to redress the violation of the fundamental rights of its pilots, suspending disciplinary proceedings, readmitting the dismissed pilots and starting as soon as possible new meetings to obtain a decent work agreement.

**[Spanish version here](#)**

**For further information, please contact:**

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