



## EUROPEAN UNION

### Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

#### EU LIFTS AIR BAN ON THE PHILIPPINES

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Today the European Commission has updated the EU Air Safety List, the list of airlines that are subject to an operating ban or operational restrictions within the European Union. All airlines certified in the Philippines, banned since 2010, have been released from the List and are therefore allowed to operate in the European airspace.

**Violeta Bulc**, EU Commissioner for Transport, said: "After 5 years of hard work, we are finally able to release the airlines certified in the Philippines from the European Air Safety List. The Philippines is an important country with a sizeable and rapidly growing aviation sector. Today's result can serve as an example for other countries which have difficulty to match their safety oversight capabilities with the growth of their industry."

The evaluation of the EU Air Safety Assessment Team assisted the Philippines in identifying areas for improvement and corrective measures necessary to ensure effective oversight over its registered carriers. The airlines under observation too were able to improve its operations, airworthiness and establish mechanism after receiving comments from the Assessment Team.

**Lubomir Frebort**, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines, said: "We warmly congratulate this achievement of the Philippines through its Civil Aviation Authority (CAAP). The Philippines covered a lot of ground since the first inspection visit in 2009. Within this period of time, the Philippines was able to get full lifting from the ban due to CAAP's openness to improve its oversight functions, complemented by readiness of Philippine air carriers to enhance their own safety and operations standards. Aviation is among the key factors of economic growth both in the EU and in the Philippines. It brings our countries and people closer together, and strengthens our economic, cultural and social relationships across the globe."

The removal of the Philippines from the List was based on the findings of the EU Air Safety Assessment visit to the country held from 16 to 24 April 2015, and the conclusions of the EU Air Safety Committee meeting held in Brussels on 9 to 10 June, 2015. European aviation safety experts assessed the continuing progress made by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines with regard to its safety oversight of the Philippine aviation industry and also the safety situation of Philippine-registered airlines, except Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific, which were granted exceptions from the Air Safety list in 2013 and 2014 respectively.