

- Regulation (EU) 2023/1771

B Application of EU accident investigation rules

Relevant requirements

Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation and repealing Directive 94/56/EC.

Transposition and Conformity

The Republic of North Macedonia has transposed the Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 by means of 'Aviation Act of 22.01.2024', 'Regulation on principles governing the accident, serious incidents, incident and occurrences investigation of civil and state aircraft, their reporting, as well as the form, contents, and keeping records and the issuing and revocation of the official ID of the investigators of 27.03.2023' and 'Decision for establishment of Committee for investigation of aviation accidents and serious incidents of 23.04.2018'. The amendment to the aforementioned Regulation introduced by the Article 135 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 has been noted and process for amending the national regulation has been started.

Implementation

The assessment showed almost full effective implementation. Regarding the implementation status of Article 8.1 of Regulation (EU) 996/2010 on participation of national civil aviation authorities in safety investigations, it was noted that the provisions are not fully covered by the national requirements. An action for an amendment was taken during the visit. Regarding the article 12 of Regulation (EU) 996/2010 on coordination of investigations, it was noted that while the co-operation with the judicial authorities works well in practice, the procedures would still to be formalised. An action was already taken to enter into a formal agreement.

Assessment

Republic of North Macedonia has effectively implemented all relevant requirements for the completion of the Phase 1. The minor exceptions mentioned above were rectified either on-site or before the visit and evidence was provided. The Aircraft Accident and Investigation Committee (AAIIC), which is a separate and independent authority, reporting directly to the Government, has developed robust procedures as well as entered into bilateral agreements with the most important national stakeholders. These agreements provide for co-operation of national authorities which is crucial for an authority of this size.

Compared to the previous assessment visit, notable development was observed in general with regard to the allocation of sufficient resources to the responsible authority enabling it to be fully functional in carrying out its duties.