

NEW DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



*Mr Robert Kruger,
Retired
Deputy Regional Director*



*Mr George Firican,
New
Deputy Regional Director*

Paris (France), 31 May 2007 - Mr Robert Kruger retired after having served as Deputy Regional Director of the European and North Atlantic Office since 1999.

Robert graduated as an electronics engineer from the Department of Civil Aviation Airways Engineering Training College in Australia in 1965 and worked in several positions in the CAA of Australia until he joined ICAO in 1993 as Regional Officer, Communications in the Bangkok Office before being transferred to Paris in 1996.

As Deputy Regional Director, Robert also served as Leader of the Technical Team and as Secretary of the Programme Coordinating Group (COG) of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG), and he liaised with and represented the Paris Office in several other international fora.

Robert was also instrumental in establishing an operational plan and the associated key performance indicators for the Paris Office, thus ensuring maximum efficiency within the budgetary limits.

The sincere thanks of all the colleagues go to Robert for his assistance and support, and we wish him a happy retirement.

On 1 June 2007, Mr George Firican assumed the duties of Deputy Regional Director. George is well known to all in his former capacity as Regional Officer, ANS Implementation.

George graduated from the Polytechnics University of Bucharest in 1981 with a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering and since then was involved in various activities and projects covering flight operations, research and development, aviation marketing, air navigation services, regulatory matters and international cooperation and coordination.

From 1981 until 1995 George held several positions in TAROM (the Romanian national air carrier) as Aircraft Performance Engineer, Chief of the Flight Engineering Office, Chief of the Flight Operations Division, and Deputy Chief Navigator. During the same period, he served as associated professor assistant with the Polytechnics University of Bucharest, Aeronautical Engineering chair, in charge of teaching air navigation principles and systems and leading several academic and/or research projects.

In 1983 George obtained an air traffic controller's licence (en-route, radar rating) and in 1984 a licence as flight navigator for long-range aircraft (acquiring over 5000 hours of flight, mainly on Boeing 707). From 1995 to 1998 he held the position of Director of Operations with the Romanian Air Traffic Services (ROMATSA) where he became deeply involved in the planning, development and implementation of the new Romanian air traffic management system and promoting the establishment of the safety and quality systems in ROMATSA.

During 1996-1998 he served as vice-chairman of the ICAO ATS/ATFM Coordinating meetings - FLO and Chairman of FLO East meetings. Since February 1999 George served as Regional Officer, ANS Implementation with the European & North Atlantic Office of ICAO.

We all look forward to working with George in his new capacity as Deputy Regional Director and Leader of the Technical Team, and we promise him our full cooperation and support.