

CHAPTER 4.8 – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HINDSIGHT

48.1 – Reorganizing French Legislative Plan of Action for Handling Incidents

In the course of investigations into possible incidents related to the scenarios the Investigation explored, the Commission realised the obvious limits of the present system of the benefit of hindsight, both nationally and internationally.

Especially when investigating the French legislative Plan of Action for handling incidents, the Commission holds that present organization and funds do not allow efficient operation.

Consequently, the Commission recommends:

– that the French legislative Plan of Action and procedures for handling incidents should be re-vamped in order to allow more efficient use of the benefit of hindsight for aviation safety needs, especially for incidents of an operational nature.

48.2 – System for systematic analysis of Flight Data Recordings

In the course of its investigations into possible incidents related to the scenarios that the Investigation explored, the Commission realized that only systematic analysis systems for recorded flight data would be able to detect any anomalies in the progress of the flight that were not apparent to the crew, and be able to provide those involved in an investigation with sufficiently precise and in-depth information that would make possible a full understanding of the incident. The Commission did however note that this result would only be possible with two provisos, that any significant anomaly would be the object of an operational analysis, and that the system would not be closed to all but the company concerned.

Consequently, the Commission recommends:

– that with regard to Operators of public air transport at both the national and the international level, the Civil Aviation Authorities should employ a plan of action to:

- expand the practice of having the Operators use systematic analysis for recorded flight data;**

- systematise a more thorough analysis of any significant anomalies thus detected, especially on the operational level, using a specialist department of the Operator;
- communicate the results of these analyses to the supervising authorities, the manufacturers and other Operators, while giving particular respect to the constraints of confidentiality of information and of anonymity.