

2022-01-01

New Year's greetings from the President of AEI

Dear affiliates, members, and friends of Aircraft Engineers International. First, I want to forward a sincere thank you from the Executive Board to all affiliates and members of AEI for all your support during 2021. Also, thanks to our friends and colleagues in the industry as well as in associations, academia and at the regulators offices. Looking forward to fruitful cooperation with you all in the coming year!

2021 was a year of hope and despair. We have experienced a lot of challenges during the ramp-up of air traffic, but we were looking forward to a situation where the aviation industry would recover, and our members would regain hope for a more secure employment situation. That was before the Omicron version of the virus entered the scene. Let us hope that this forth wave of the pandemic will be gentler than the earlier versions.

The number one topic on our agenda is still the process around the certification (release) of aircraft to service after maintenance. In the EASA system we have found a glimpse of light. This after meetings with national authorities and with EASA. We are now expecting action. We expect to see regulatory changes in order to clarify the need for supervision and coordination of maintenance tasks. It seems like EASA, as well as some of the Member States, already accept the fact that this is already a part of the licensed aircraft engineer's responsibilities. Six years ago, most of this interpretation of the regulation was published as a policy statement by EASA. Despite that, some maintenance organisations choose to ignore the need for proper supervision, hence the need for regulatory clarification. We also expect measures to improve standardisation and enforcement.

In the FAA regulated aviation system and in other national systems we see the same problems. The push to replace licensed staff less qualified staff is hard.

2022 – will it come with a wind of change?

My hope and belief is that, by the end of 2022, we will be able to look back and conclude that our honest and substantiated concerns have been acknowledged by regulators and other stakeholders and that steps have been taken in the right direction.

Later this year we will arrange the 50th AEI Annual Congress! We look forward to inviting you all when we have more information about the venue. Let us make 2022 a very special year for AEI. In co-operation!

Happy New Year!



Ola Blomqvist
President