



Press Release

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**PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY FOR TOURISM AND BUREAU FOR AIR
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION**

The Bureau for Air Accident Investigation (BAAI) has signed a Letter of Intent on Cooperation with the Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile (BEA), France

The purpose of the Letter of Intent between the two parties is that both countries cooperate and assist in the field of civil aircraft accident and incident investigation, training and sharing of information and expertise.

Through this agreement, the BAAI will benefit from the BEA's ample expertise in civil aviation. Both parties have agreed to exchange expertise in relation to the methods and techniques involved in conducting civil aviation safety investigations. BAAI and BEA have also agreed to assist each other in civil aviation accidents or incidents in which each of them has a particular interest. Another area agreed upon is communication, which involves the publication of reports and communication directly related with the families of the victims and the media.

BAAI Chief Inspector Captain Frank Zammit expressed his satisfaction at the results obtained in this agreement with the BEA. He further stated that he is "positive that this agreement will serve as an added tool to improve Malta's profile in the aviation industry".

The Tourism Minister Edward Zammit Lewis said that he is pleased with the efforts made by the BAAI to continue achieving positive results for Malta's aviation industry. "This is what Malta needs to continue strengthening its high profile at an international level. Hard work pays off, and the BAAI is proof of this", said Minister Zammit Lewis.

The Minister also expressed gratitude towards BEA which will be providing free of charge and where practicable and within its facilities, the service of its investigators, flight recorder read-out and analysis expertise.

Rémi Jouty, Director of the BEA, also believes that the signature of the cooperation agreement sends a positive signal. Considering the development of Malta's aviation industry, both BEA and BAAI will benefit from the reinforced cooperation between Malta and France for the prevention of accident.