

Beat: Politics

The Spanish Government reaffirms its commitment to the victims of air accidents

7th anniversary of the crash of Spanair

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USPA NEWS - The Spanish Minister of Development, Ana Pastor, Thursday reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the victims of air accidents and their families during the ceremony commemorating the seventh anniversary of the Spanair disaster in the Adolfo Suarez Madrid-Barajas Airport.

Pastor, who also had a memory for the victims of Air Algerie flight crashed in Mali in 2014, operated by Swiftair, and Germanwings accident occurred in the French Alps, highlighted the contribution of the Association of Flight JK5022 affected to drive different national and international actions to improve aviation safety and assistance to the victims of air accidents.

The Minister of Development stressed Spain's leadership internationally in a number of initiatives aimed at improving assistance to the victims of air accidents. In particular, the recommendation of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for Member States to implement a legislative, regulatory and policy framework to ensure, strengthen and coordinate support for victims and families of aircraft accidents.

In that regard, the minister said that Spain will defend in the coming months that this provision be included in the ICAO audit program, to be properly supervised. Pastor also welcomed the establishment of the International Federation of Air Accident Victims and Families, as accident victims will own representation at international level and can participate with its own voice at the next ICAO Assembly in 2016.

Nationally, the minister recalled that this year has launched the Office of Victim Assistance and the Ministry of Development has approved State Safety Programme for Civil Aviation (PESO its Spanish acronym) which aims to focus preventive security and which is based on the participation of all stakeholders. She also recalled, during this term have come "very important" steps articulating the necessary measures to allow victims to have the necessary support. Among the approved measures is the Royal Decree of assistance to victims of civil aviation accidents and their families, Coordination Protocol for victim assistance and the strengthening of the Civil Aviation Accident and Incident Investigation Commission.

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