

BeCA's 20th Anniversary

*A review of 20 years
supporting the pilot profession*



1998

18 March

250+ members vote for the creation of the Belgian Cockpit Association (BCA), resulting from the merge between ABPNL and BFCA.
Jean de Looze is appointed President

May

First Cockpit Flash in BCA's history

May

Opening of the Jobseeker Working Group & Accident/Incident Hotline

October

BCA becomes BeCA (conflict with Belgian Courier Association)

22 September

A Nigerian refugee, Semira Adamu, dies during a repatriation attempt at EBBR

Summer

Black summer for aviation. Series of accidents & incidents.
Dramatic shortage of pilots.
Airlines play with legal limits

BeCA is becoming a real partner for airlines.

Behrouz Shahabpour appointed President.

Jan Heylen hired as Secretary General.

First fiscal days organised.

Number of members reaches 1000.

Big victory for BeCA on forced repatriation.

Pierre Ghyoot hired as Secretary General.

BeCA has become an unavoidable partner.

Leo D'Hondt appointed President.

BeCA plans to open a Pilot Advisory Group.

Deal with Air Belgium.

ECA celebrates its 10th birthday and is recognised as Social Partner.

Challenging year for BeCA and its members.

New B737s in City Bird.

New category: flight instructors.

ECA strives for common rules on FTL.

Opening of a Care Team: self-help group for people facing hard times and financial difficulties.

Last BeCA General Assembly that reaches the quorum. Attended by many victims of Sabena bankruptcy.

First meeting in BeCA about rumors of merging between Virgin and SNBA.

1st day of action organised by ECA calling for harmonised FTL, based on science.

1st Hotline training sessions.

Guy Dessaer appointed President.

ECA contributes to the European Action Plan for the Prevention of Runway Incursions (EAPPRI).

1999

Debates at Sabena on seniority & career plans.

TNT Airways is born.

New JAR licences come into force.

Ministerial law on forced passengers.

Problems of foreign pilots & unfair competition.

Virgin Express transfers some of its operations on an Irish AOC.

2000

Crediting of study periods for pension.

1st EU agreement in air transport on working time.

Decree on European licences - no more acceptance, validation or recognition needed.

Air France Concorde crashes in Gonesse.

Air Belgium ceases operations.

2001

Ryanair opens its first base in continental Europe in Charleroi.

EASA is created.

FTL discussions at EU.

EC proposal for a transatlantic common aviation area.

9/11: Big crisis. Aviation will never be the same again.

Citybird & Sabena go bankrupt.

Thomas Cook Airlines Belgium is born.

2002

SN Brussels Airlines is created, based on former Sabena subsidiary DAT.

Start of Birdy: re-launching long-haul operations for SNBA with 3 A330s.

Launch of operations of VG Airlines in May.

End of VG Airlines operations in Nov.

JAR-MED comes into force.

Increased pax & bags controls at airport.

2003

First proposal for EU-OPS FTL.

Reinforced cockpit doors to be installed (ICAO).

Commission opens negotiations with US.

Progressive transition from JAA to EASA.

Last flight of the Concorde.

EAT A300 hit by missile in Baghdad.

ECA plans to create a Ryanair European Pilot Association.

Alain Vanalderweireldt appointed President.

ECA/BeCA welcome Subparts O & Q as 1st step towards harmonisation but still much to improve.

BeCA very active on implementation of FDM in airlines.

BeCA participates in Plan Anciaux to ensure compliance with ICAO.

ECA and the JAA are cooperating on MPL.

BeCA very active in EBBR.

ECA becomes the European regional body of IFALPA.

BeCA participates in Vermeersch Commission II.

BeCA member leads the SESAR project under ECA.

'No flexibility' action by EAT/DHL flight crews.

Drafting of Cir-OPS 07 on FTL ongoing. BeCA sends a list of 10 recommendations.

BeCA becomes member of the Flight Safety Foundation.

BeCA successfully blocks Cir-OPS 07 on FTL (Subpart Q).

2004

Sobelair goes bankrupt.

TUI Airlines Belgium is born.

EU OPS Subpart Q on FTL in discussion.

Integration of Birdy into SNBA.

DHL announces move of main operational base to Leipzig in 2008.

Council agrees on Subparts O & Q.

2005

FDM introduced in Belgium (ICAO).

Plan Anciaux on cross/tailwind limits.

1st flight of the A380.

Series of unexplained accidents (Tuninter, Helios Airways and West Caribbean).

ICAO announces fast-track procedure on MPL.

2006

TUI Airlines Belgium becomes Jetairfly.

ICAO raises the max age of crews to 65.

EASA mandate extended to ATM & airports.

SESAR project contract signed.

EU-OPS Subpart Q on FTL comes into force. To be implemented by 16 July 2008.

Ban of liquids in hand luggage.

2007

Misuse of FDM data for disciplinary measures. Just Culture not yet understood by airlines.

Merge of SN Brussels Airlines & VEX to create Brussels Airlines.

Implementation of ICAO English Language Proficiency Requirement.

Creation of a new Belgian Airline: Cargo B.

2008

Pilots are leaving abroad because of heavy rosters, lack of career perspectives...

Introduction of the concept of split duty.

Kalitta Air accident during aborted takeoff in EBBR.

Belgian airlines decide to legally challenge BCAA CIR-OPS 07 on FTL.

Creation of BeCA Air Safety Committee.

A first attempt to phase out the pilot pension system is stopped by BeCA.

5 Oct.: FTL Action day.

Concerns raised on the future reg. on Accident Investigation.

BeCA convinces the BCAA that the law on language proficiency is not in line with European regulations.

Campaign towards pilots for the implementation of Just Culture.

BeCA / Belgocontrol football championship. BeCA wins!

1st BeCA recruitment campaign.

BeCA organises sessions to prepare further actions on pilot pension.

Demonstration in Luxembourg at the EU transport Ministers meeting on FTL.

ECA launches its "Dead Tired" campaign on pilot fatigue, aimed at changing the FTL legislation.

All Belgian crews go on strike and call for a special crew pension system.

BeCA saves the "droits acquis/verworven rechten" lost when the crew pension system was abolished.

BeCA gives essential information for the TNT / UPS file.

Ryanair pilots' group is set up.

VAT on pilot studies: legal case introduced. Decision in our favor.

Plans to draft new European norms on Cabin Air Quality. BeCA will participate.

1st strike since Sabena bankruptcy, against Brussels Airlines "Beyond 2012" plan.

2009

Colgan Air accident. Fatigue is recognised as contributory factor.

Scientific study on FTL confirms our standpoint.

Pension system under attack.

45% of Brussels Airlines sold to Lufthansa.

1st flight of the B787.

AF447 flight crash.

2010

The Icelandic volcano Eyjafjöll erupts and causes serious disruptions.

New royal decree on language proficiency.

Strong push from the state to eliminate the pilot pension system.

EASA publishes inadequate Pilot Fatigue Rules.

2011

The minister of Pensions cancels the crew special pension system.

Report on AF447 identifies 2 factors: icing on Pitot tubes & poor pilots' management. Upset Recovery Techniques are today part of the pilots' initial & recurrent training.

New EU rules on Social Security: social security to be paid in country of home base.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme implemented.

2012

European Commission blocks tentative takeover of TNT by UPS.

1st flight of the A350.
1st flight of Bombardier CSeries aircraft.
Traffic rights granted by BCAA to Ethiopian Airlines.

MEPs adopt the proposed rules on FTL.

2013

Noise at EBBR: thanks to BeCA, max TW component for RWY 25 back to 7 knots.

New CLA at Thomas Cook.

1st EU-wide survey on atypical forms of employment.

Serious deficiencies at BCAA. BeCA calls for a neutral and independent BCAA.

ECA FTL calculator is out, thanks to BeCA's FTL expert.

BeCA's Safety Survey: BeCA approaches airlines to work on weaknesses.

BeCA calls for proper investigation at Belgocontrol.

Concerns about 4-eye rules are raised.

A CLA is signed to ensure all TNT pilots' jobs are protected.

1st representatives in the Jetairfly works council are elected.

BeCA's green paper on pension is published.

BeCA organises a workshop to discuss the implementation of a Pilot Support Program in Belgium.

2 BeCA members become IFALPA accredited accident investigators.

40 pilots gather in Liège to denounce FedEx's illegal operations in Europe.

BeCA calls all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures at Belgocontrol.

An incredible movement of unity of Ryanair pilots starts.

2014

MH370 disappears.
New EU posted workers' directive.

MH17 shot down by Russian missile.

ICAO task force on risks to civil aviation arising from conflict zones.

SMS & FRMS become mandatory under EU Reg. 965/2012.

2015

Germanwings 9525 flight crashes in the French Alps. The "four-eye" rule is implemented.

FedEx announces plans to take over TNT Airways.

Blackout at Belgocontrol.

New regulation 376/2014 on occurrence reporting.

2016

EASA amends the 4-eye rule.

Technical failure at Belgocontrol: closure of Belgian airspace.

EASA Reg. on FTL.

Terrorist attack at EBBR.

VLM goes bankrupt.

TNT becomes ASLB.

Jetairfly becomes TUIFly Belgium.

EASA recommends implementation of PSP.

Air Belgium is born.

2017

Lufthansa buys the remaining 55% of Brussels Airlines.

New failure at Belgocontrol.

Ryanair cancels thousands of flights due to crew shortage.

Integration of Thomas Cook Airlines Belgium into Brussels Airlines.

Last flight of Brussels Airlines's Avro.

Best safety record ever in commercial aviation.

2018

January

New BeCA Constitution and bylaws are adopted

2018 - ...

BeCA is an unavoidable partner in all aviation matters in Belgium, thanks to our large expertise

January

Talks with Ryanair management start

Summer

1st strikes ever in Ryanair's history

26 July

1st CLA in TUIFly Belgium history is signed

3 June

First flight of Air Belgium

20 July

New failure at Belgocontrol leading to a "Clear the sky" procedure.

25 July

EASA publishes new rules on mental fitness of air crew

September

Belgian & EU politicians urge Ryanair to meet our demands





Belgian Cockpit Association

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