

United States and Israel Announce Agreement to Enhance Joint Aviation Security

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For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
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Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and Israeli Transport and Road Safety Minister Israel Katz today announced a new agreement to enhance information sharing about civil aviation security incidents and ensure efficient and effective coordination in response to potential acts of terrorism and other aviation-related public safety emergencies.

“The real-time exchange of information with our international partners is critical to our efforts to enhance overall global aviation security,” said Secretary Napolitano. “This agreement will allow the United States and Israel to better coordinate on and respond to potential aviation security incidents to strengthen our mutual safety.”

“MOU implementation will further improve the effectiveness of the cooperation between the respective civil aviation security authorities,” said Minister Katz. “Such International collaboration is of particular importance to ensure effective response to the evolving threat to international aviation.”

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognizes the need for cooperation between the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Security Department of the Israel MOT to manage aviation-related security incidents—establishing designated points of contact for each agency; protocols for notification in the event of an incident; mechanisms to enhance communication; and regular exercises.

The MOU reflects the both nations’ commitment to coordinate mutual security efforts, shown recently by the stationing of DHS law enforcement personnel in Israel for the first time, as well as the Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between DHS and the Israeli Ministry of Public Security signed on Feb. 7, 2007, which enhanced the ability of the U.S. and Israel to share vital information relating to their respective domestic security concerns—including aviation security, emergency planning and response, and homeland security-related research and protocols.

Secretary Napolitano and Mexican Finance Minister Agustín Carstens Sign Bilateral Agreement to Strengthen Security and Facilitate Trade

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and Mexican Minister of Finance and Public Credit Agustín Carstens today signed a Letter of Intent that will strengthen bilateral cooperation between the United States and Mexico. The agreement aims to increase security in both countries and facilitate the flow of legal travel and trade.

“This agreement strengthens the partnership between the United States and Mexico to bolster our shared security,” said Secretary Napolitano. “Through coordinated enforcement and improved communication, we can work together to combat violence along the border while supporting tourism and trade.”

“This is another important step for the longstanding relationship and collaboration between our customs agencies,” said Secretary Carstens. “The more we work together, the better the service and security we provide to our peoples and economies.”

The agreement builds upon an unprecedented level of collaboration between the two nations and provides a roadmap for critical bi-national initiatives between the U.S. and Mexico. Specifically, the agreement seeks to strengthen border enforcement by creating a framework for establishing bi-national Port Security Management Committees, developing a joint implementation plan for cooperative capacity building, and increasing trade facilitation between the two nations through increased information sharing and a harmonized customs clearance process.

The Letter of Intent expresses a mutual desire between DHS and the Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit to continue and expand their relationship through the Declaration of Principles and Bilateral Strategic Plan. In June 2007, DHS and the Ministry signed a Declaration of Principles to strengthen bilateral cooperation, and promote further engagement, including a Bilateral Strategic Plan between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Mexico Customs.

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Morning Roundup - July 1st

Wednesday, July 1st Morning Roundup - Featured News and Public Events

From the [AFP](#), on the agreement signed yesterday between the U.S. and Portugal:

The United States and Portugal signed Tuesday a bilateral agreement to cooperate in the battle against terrorism and organised crime during a visit by Washington's homeland security chief.

"We have signed an important agreement on the prevention and fight against terrorism and organised crime," Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado said in a news conference alongside US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

Napolitano said the agreement allows the two countries to share information to stop serious crimes. "The agreement we signed today will help us to achieve this goal," she said.