**Captain Cristina PREDA appointed as Flight Operations Director at DAN AIR – The First Woman in Europe to Hold This Position in an Airline**

Captain Cristina PREDA has become the Flight Operations Director at DAN AIR, marking a historic milestone as the first woman in Europe to hold such a role in an airline. Her appointment is particularly significant, as no airline in South America, Australia, Asia, or Africa currently has a woman in this position.

With thousands of hours of experience in complex commercial aircraft, Cristina PREDA, now DAN AIR’s Flight Operations Director, will oversee all aspects of air operations, ensuring the highest standards of safety and security. In this role, she will represent DAN AIR in front of the national and international aviation authorities, making it the second-highest operational position within the company.

With extensive experience flying both Boeing and Airbus aircraft, Cristina graduated from the Romanian Aviation Academy and has forged her path with determination and perseverance. She previously worked with a well-known Romanian airline and a Nordic company, flying passenger and cargo flights, and joined the DAN AIR nearly two years ago.

In addition to scheduled flights in Europe and charters on other continents, Cristina has also led special repatriation missions for citizens in conflict zones such as Lebanon and Israel. Notably, she is the only female Captain who has operated flights in these affected areas since the conflict began.

“*Cristina’s nomination for Flight Operations Director was a natural choice due to her high popularity within our company. She brings a nice and positive atmosphere to both in flight and at the office while ensuring the highest standards of safety and security. Her managerial skills became evident when we worked together in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, where she excelled at her duties. Being a fluent in French speaker, she successfully established an effective communication channel between DAN AIR and AIR CÔTE D’IVOIRE, the Ivorian national airline. In Abidjan, Cristina ensured that every crew member received the necessary information, significantly reducing the stress of performing flights on a continent with limited navigation equipment and air traffic services. She also demonstrated courage during the evacuation flights out of Beirut. She was the first Captain to volunteer for these difficult flights, undeterred by the inherent risks. Notably, her co-pilot was also a woman - our brave colleague, Andreea PENCA, who willingly undertook these challenging missions*” stated Matt Ian DAVID, the CEO of DAN AIR.

**The Role of Flight Operations Director in an Airline**

The Flight Operations Director holds the second-highest operational position with key responsibilities as:

* Overseeing and managing all flight operations activities to ensure compliance with the applicable national and international regulations, and any associated standards and recommended practices.
* Participating on the company's Safety Review Board where procedures and standards in flight operations are developed, evaluating potential risks, and coordinating the crew members.
* Representing the company’s interests in flight operations before clients and national and international oversight institutions.
* Promoting a safety culture within flight operations through training and awareness initiatives.

“*In aviation, especially at the command of passenger jet, women are no longer a rarity, although their numbers remain low. Women pilots have proven that gender equality in aviation is not only applied but encouraged. Any woman who wishes to excel and possesses management or leadership skills can have a remarkable career, contributing to the industry’s growth - whether in operations, management, business, or within the aviation authorities. Receiving this position comes with great responsibility, not only to my colleagues but especially towards our passengers. My job is to uphold the highest standards of compliance and safety, which is very demanding. I hope to inspire not only women to follow their dreams but everyone to pursue a profession they are passionate about and to embrace leadership opportunities when they come.*”, s*aid Cristina PREDA, newly appointed Flight Operations Director at DAN AIR.*

**About DAN AIR**

Founded in 2017 by Captain Dan IUHAS under the name Just Us Air, DAN AIR is a 100% Romanian airline. Initially, the airline operated exclusively ACMI flights (Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance, Insurance) for well-known international airlines such as Jazeera Airways, Transavia, TUI, Arik, SundAir, Air Moldova, Air Baltic, Air Serbia, Wizz Air, Air Côte d’Ivoire, Tus Air, Fly Lili, Bees, FlyOne, and Anima Wings. The airline later rebranded to DAN AIR and began operating scheduled flights under its own brand, with flights starting on June 15, 2023, from Brașov-Ghimbav International Airport.

Starting December 11, 2023, DAN AIR exclusively operates flights from “George Enescu” International Airport in Bacău to destinations including **Brussels, London, Dublin, Dortmund, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Turin, and Bologna.**