

**LE FIGARO**  
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**Rovetto: “We mustn’t overdramatize the situation”**

GILBERT ROVETTO, Air France Executive Vice President Flight Operations, has announced that he will meet with pilot unions on 4 November to alleviate the tension and to work on flight safety.

**LE FIGARO: Do you regret the letter from the management which provoked such a hostile reaction from the pilots?**

Gilbert Rovetto: I didn’t actually write this letter, but take full responsibility for it and I can understand that it offended them in the way it was written. The purpose of the letter was to remind the pilots of a certain number of safety procedures which they must apply, but this has nothing to do with the AF 447 crash. Since the tragedy last June, everyone has been on tenterhooks. It is very difficult to cope with the fact that the black boxes have not been found and that we don’t know what happened. Air France is having difficulty resigning itself to the situation, so I believe this kind of exchange is healthy.

**The unions accuse you of not being reactive enough since the AF 447 crash.**

It’s not true to say we haven’t done anything. We have organized simulator courses for our pilots. We have also implemented an external safety review. But all this takes time. Before the situation took a turn for the worse this weekend, I was thinking of suggesting to the union leaders that we set up a monitoring committee for the external safety review. We will be meeting up on 4 November to talk about these issues. My immediate concern is to calm down and get back to work.

**Should we be worried about the recent reports of incidents?**

No. Since 31 March, I have been in charge of flight safety. I can assure you that Air France does not cut corners where flight safety is concerned. Safety is our prime concern at all times. When mistakes are made, they are taken into account. An instructor pilot who pulled up at too a low altitude has had to resign as instructor. It is not fair to say that there is no criticism or coercive measure at Air France. Of course there are, as is the case in any airline. What I want now is for this issue to be calmly discussed inside the Company.

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