

INTERIM STATEMENT
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
HELICOPTER BELL 505 REGISTRATION MARK VN-8650
ON 05th APRIL, 2023

On 05th April 2023, the helicopter Bell 505 with Registration Mark VN-8650 lost contact during a tourist flight and crashed in the sea near Hon Dep Island, Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province. All occupants (01 pilot and 04 passengers) died in the crash. The helicopter was destroyed. Aircraft Accident Investigation Committee has been established by Vietnamese Prime Minister i.a.w Dec. No 599/QD-TTg dated May 30th 2023.

After first salvage, Aircraft Accident Investigation Committee has decided to conduct the second salvage to looking for the tail rotor hub and tail rotor blades, which were missing during the first salvage right after the accident.

On 17th and 18th August 2023, the "Aircraft Accident Investigation Committee" and especially the "Team in charge of rescue, and debris collection at the accident scene" coordinated with other authorities to organize a second salvage to looking for the tail rotor hub and tail rotor blades, however, the search ended without finding the component.

On 14th November 2023, based on the analysis and evaluation of information, debris and data from the Garmin 1000H MFD device, the preliminary investigation report was issued by the CAAV in Official Dispatch No. 79/CHK -TCATB in order to provide factual information collected about the condition and context leading to the accident.

In February 2024, after receiving the EECU and Vision 1000 devices of the VN-8650 helicopter sent by the CAAV, the BEA (Bureau of Enquiry and Analysis for Civil Aviation Safety of France) carried out decoded the Vision 1000 device and downloaded image data (video) from part of the internal memory of this device.

Since 7th March 2024, the BEA and the Engine Manufacturer (SAFRAN) have coordinated to evaluate the condition of the helicopter engine's EECU (DECU) equipment, and are in the process of decoding and analyzing data. The results of data analysis will be reviewed by the CAAV and the final investigation report will be drafted immediately after receiving reports from BEA and SAFRAN.

Completion of this investigation is dependent upon receipt of the outstanding reports.

Hanoi, 04th April, 2024