Association des Victimes du Syndrome Aérotoxique

PRESS RELEASE

World First: Aerotoxic Syndrome Recognized as an Occupational Disease Following Chronic Exposure

Toulon / Montpellier – February 12, 2026

The **Toulon Judicial Court (France) – Social Division**, in a judgment delivered on **December 19, 2025**, ordered the recognition and coverage under occupational risk legislation of a pathology attributable to chronic exposure to aircraft engine oil fumes.

The **certificate of non-appeal issued on February 5, 2026** renders this decision **final and binding**.

This constitutes the **first final judicial recognition worldwide of aerotoxic syndrome linked to chronic exposure**, in the absence of an identified acute "fume event."

⚖A Historic Judicial Decision

The Court recognized the existence of a **direct and essential link** between the professional activity of an airline pilot and:

> *"Central and peripheral autoimmune neuropathy with demyelinating syndrome."*

Despite two successive unfavorable opinions issued by Regional Committees for the Recognition of Occupational Diseases (CRRMP), the Court held that:

- occupational exposure to **organophosphate compounds derived from engine oils** was established;
- metallic and chemical particles were found in the claimant's body;
- the chronology of symptom onset was consistent with occupational exposure;
- no convincing alternative cause had been demonstrated;
- the absence of an international scientific consensus does not prevent recognition of a causal link in a properly substantiated individual case.

The **Primary Health Insurance Fund (CPAM) of the Var** was ordered to recognize and cover the pathology under occupational disease legislation.

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✈ A Turning Point for Aircrew Health

This ruling comes in a context where “aerotoxic syndrome” does not currently benefit from official nosological recognition by major international health agencies.

The Court nevertheless affirmed that **general scientific uncertainty cannot prevent recognition of occupational harm when a body of precise, consistent, and circumstantial evidence establishes causation**.

France thus becomes the first country to definitively recognize, through a final judicial decision, a chronic pathology linked to repeated exposure to cabin air contaminants.

⚖Significant Legal and Regulatory Impact

This decision:

- paves the way for further individual recognitions;
- establishes an important judicial precedent concerning emerging occupational risks;
- calls upon aviation and health regulatory authorities to reassess current frameworks;
- reignites the debate on cabin air quality and crew protection.

Press Contact

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Full case file and court decision available upon request.