



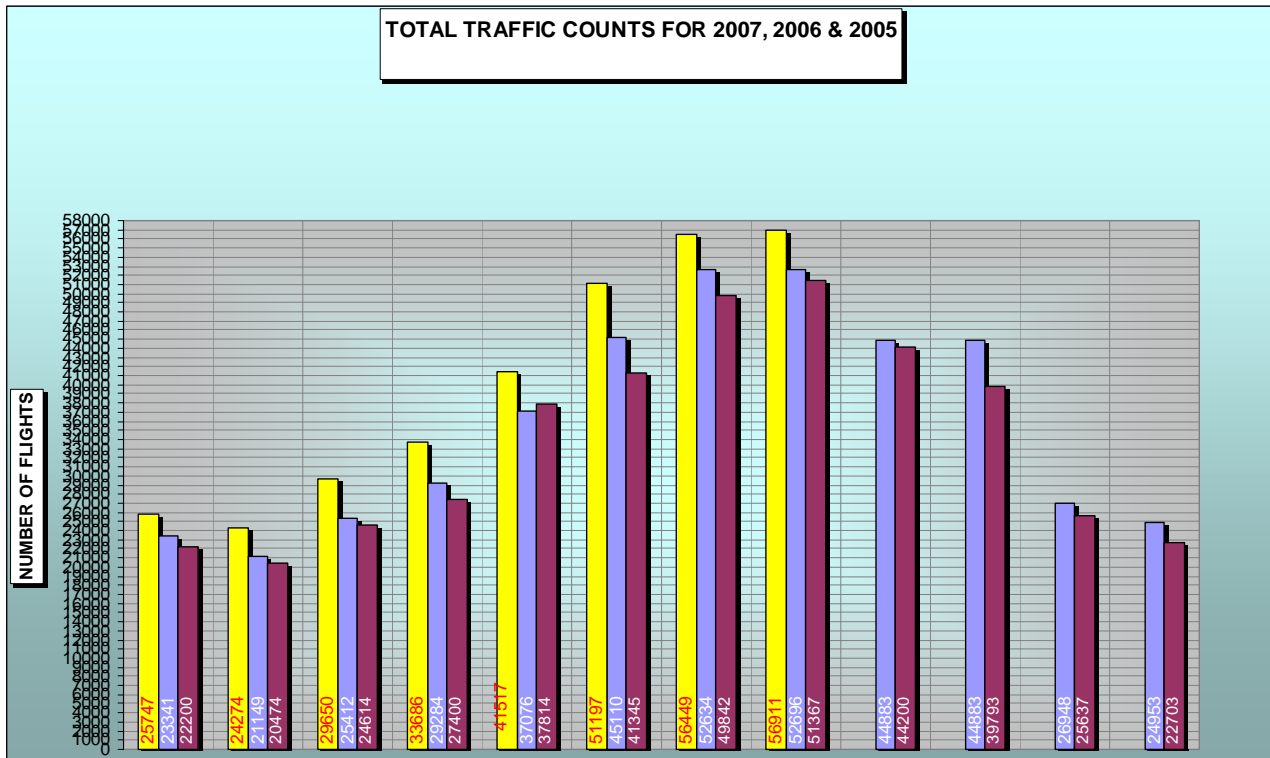
"[air navigation control, [...]] is a task involving the exercise of public authority and is not of an economic nature, since that activity constitutes a service in the public interest which is intended to protect both the users of air transport and the populations affected by aircraft flying over them".
(Extract of decision C.364/92 of the European Court of Justice).

BATCU report

19th – 20th October '2007, Berlin

Air Traffic Statistics

Traffic figures for 2005, 2006 and 2007:



MONTH	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
2007	25747	24274	29650	33686	41517	51197	56449	56911					319431
2006	23341	21149	25412	29284	37076	45110	52634	52696	44883	44883	26948	24953	428369
2007/2006	10.3%	14.8%	16.7%	15.0%	12.0%	13.5%	7.2%	8.0%	-100.0%	00.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-25.4%
2005	22200	20474	24614	27400	37814	41345	49842	51367	44200	39793	25637	22703	407389

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 BATCU (Bulgaria) - CATCU (Croatia) - GATCA (Greece) - GdF (Germany) - GLCCA (Luxembourg) - ITUATC (Serbia)
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 SINCTA (Portugal) - SNCTA (France) - SSKL (Slovenia) - TUEM (Eurocontrol) - USCA (Spain) - ZZKRL (Poland)

Technical Aspects

The first version of the new SATCAS system was put into operation in January 2005. The transfer was done without any big problem but we still have some software bugs.

The Site Acceptance Tests on version V2 has finished and we are expecting the results. The system (Version V2) has to be ready until January next year. It has to be fully operative in January next year.

English courses

We had some refreshment courses in Bulgaria and starting from this year we are focusing on English Language Courses in order to be able to achieve ICAO Level 4.

On 14th September started a procedure of choosing an English Language University in England. Our professional organization BULATCA and our union BATCU will be involved in this process. Related to this we still have no information from the management about the way and the deadline of ATCOs licencing, although the clear position of IFATCA for meeting the ICAO requirements until march 2008.

Social Environment

Until 14th February next year all the sectors from Varna ACC have to be moved in the new Common National Air Traffic Control Centre in Sofia and have to be fully operating. January next year 30 controllers from Varna ACC have to be educated at the new SATCAS system.

Regarding the moving of controllers in Sofia ACC we expect to appear some social problems. We are skeptic about the meeting of the deadline for implementation of the SATCAS system, which can cause difficulties of transferring the staff.

An Operational and Technical Plan for the transferring of the control was developed by the management, but the social programme is still not ready and it leads to serious uncertainties and stress among the ATCOs.

Privatization

No privatization is expected in the near future for the ATM services in Bulgaria.

BUL – ROM FAB

We are working together with Romania for the establishment of a FAB in the area, realizing the idea for virtual centre and for optimization of our airspace structure. We created a FAB Working Group.

BULATSA and ROMATSA discussed the proposed version of the Draft Study Agreement between the two organizations which is a preliminary agreement (Study Agreement) for the execution of a contract with a consultant for the procurement of a study regarding the establishment of a FAB covering the airspace of the Republic of Bulgaria and the airspace of Romania. This study must start in the following months.

The parties agreed to contract an independent consultant to make a research of the effectiveness of our FAB.

BULATSA and ROMATSA agreed to proceed in two stages for future Sofia – Bucharest contingency plan:

- Signature of a Letter of Intent between BULATSA and ROMATSA regarding the development of necessary documentation for future “Common contingency plan for en-route air traffic services”;
- Consultation at a governmental level for obtaining official endorsement.

SEEFABA

BULATSA also participate the meetings of the SEEFABA working groups, but BATCU / BULATCA are not fully involved in this process.

After the 1st social forum held in Sofia, was decided that the Management Committee will accept one participant from the unions involved in the SEEFABA project with an observer status at the Management Committee meetings.

Our organization will continue to support the BUL-ROM FAB and to work actively for its future development. We'll stand our position against SEEFABA in the way as it is now, with lack of information about developing the project.

EB

We started discussions with the management about the suspension of the ATCO's licence due to medical reasons, developing of the social programme for the ATCOs moving in Sofia and the choosing of an University where will be held the English language courses.

STAFF

In October will be held two selections for student controllers, first one for staff inside BULATSA and the second one for people with aviation specialization who doesn't have rating. Both categories ATCOs will pass FEAST.

We expect about 16 student ATCOs to start education in our training centre in October.