



"[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).

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Aix-en-Provence, 10th February 2010

Dear Sirs,

ATCEUC would like to express its highest concerns regarding the various attacks affecting the Greek air traffic controllers due the austerity measures announced by the Greek Government. Not only, will these decisions have terrible consequences for the overall European ATC network but they will surely not solve the inherent problems that the Greek ATC system is being confronted with.

ATCEUC has repeatedly denounced the inefficiency of the Greek Civil Aviation system and the lack of compliance with the EU regulations and therefore warn you that these measures are nothing less than political posturing. Indeed, non financial means comes from the national budget but from the collection of overflight or route charge fees which are levied to finance the ATC services.

Air Traffic Controllers have generated year after year revenues that, instead of being used to improve and modernize the infrastructures, have been diluted into obscure directions and used for questionable purposes. Despite regular attempts by GATCA to bring in expertise and to move towards a more efficient, productive and therefore financially viable system, the Greek administration has maintained its first priority in preserving its total lack of financial transparency.

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This situation has enabled the highly questionable financing of activities and positions not related to Air Traffic Services and has brought the Greek ANSP down to an obsolete infrastructure, with a lack of training facilities and courses, lengthy procurement processes...not complying at all with European regulations.

The Greek ATM system has been in need of a deep and thorough reorganization for many years. Air Traffic Controllers are highly valued asset that ensures a safe and successful contribution towards the generation of the extra revenues much needed by Greece via Tourism and business.

However, after all the warnings and offers to communicate and even solve this situation, the attitude of the Greek government does not leave any other possibility than to show to all the airspace users (and to the European authorities) where and how their taxes have been wasted.

ATCEUC will not accept that the Greek State – even in this severe financial crisis situation - could make such an uninformed and dishonest decision to reduce the income of the Air Traffic Controllers. ATCEUC and its member union GATCA will not be fooled by this unrealistic and unacceptable situation especially in a European Union member country.

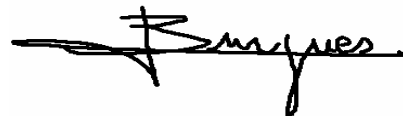
By the present letter we confirm that any attempt aiming at reducing the income of the air traffic controllers would immediately lead to a motivation crisis and social instability, leading to a loss of these revenues –which are urgently needed to modernize and invest. Therefore, to avoid a further deterioration and deep division for all involved, we would urge you to withdraw immediately all measures affecting the air traffic controllers' income.

A non response to this letter will be regarded as a refusal. ATCEUC will then forward this letter to AO's users and the appropriate European Commission authorities.

Waiting for your positive reply and still yours faithfully.



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