



*"[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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ATCEUC COMMITTEE MEETING AUTUMN 2016

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

30TH September 2016

On 28-30 September 2016 ATCEUC held its 50th Committee Meeting in Prishtina and discussed the problems and challenges facing air traffic controllers around Europe today.

The biggest problem undermining our commitment to work safely and without external diversions is the escalating attack by some airlines against Air Navigation Service Providers and air traffic controllers in particular. This aggressive public relations campaign aims directly at reducing even further the cost of ANSPs and at restricting the right of ATCOs to strike. It is time for the Commission to understand the real problems and to solve them instead of blowing the issue out of all proportion. This huge attack by the Commission in the name of the airlines is making ATM the scapegoat for the airlines' delays when they themselves are the biggest contributor to the primary delay.

The European Commission through the Performance Regulation and other initiatives was eager to follow the airline industry recommendations. The Performance Review Body stepped in to help by defining a strategic plan that increases financial pressure to ANSPs. The effects are becoming visible. The number of ATCOs is reducing despite the obvious lack of these professionals around Europe and technical failures are increasing due to insufficient maintenance and absence of investment in new equipment.

ATCEUC has always been available to discuss with everyone in the aviation industry about the actions needed to maintain the high quality of service of the ATM system. Revitalized investment, adequate budgets to maintain the existing systems, highly qualified and continuously trained air traffic controllers, we believe that these elements are the pillar of a sustainable future of the ATM industry.

By choosing to attack the fundamental right of ATM workers to strike instead of discussing the real problems with those affected, the airline industry is becoming confrontational and counterproductive. Dialogue and cooperation is the way forward and we urge the airlines that are currently attacking ATCOs to reconsider their strategy.

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On another matter, ATCEUC fully supports the continuing effort for the creation of a state owned corporatized ANSP in Greece and is ready to offer any support required, in order to improve the overall situation on the South-East axis.

We welcome our new member from Ukraine, the ATCTUA, that was accepted unanimously during the Committee Meeting, raising the total number of unions in ATCEUC to 33.

Volker Dick
ATCEUC President