



"[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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55th ATCEUC Committee Meeting Final Communiqué

ATCEUC commenced its General Assembly in Belgrade as the performance targets for the next reference period were made official. The new RP3 regulation IR 317/2019 was finalised, following many months of consultation and detailed input by staff organisations. ATCEUC deeply regrets the missed opportunity to have a different approach this time. Lack of flexibility, the top down approach and one size fits all solution remain unchanged and will only cause the same difficulties for the ATM sector as it has throughout RP1 and RP2.

Investment by ANSPs in staff and technology is undermined by last Mondays' decision of the Single Sky Committee. Even modest cost increases would have allowed us at least to reverse the trend. The capacity of the system to absorb future growth and deal with new challenges would have been assured but now even this resilience is endangered.

ATCEUC would like to express deep scepticism that the EC capacity targets could be considered realistic. Current 1.8 minutes average delay per flight is only the logical result of a series of disastrous decisions which cannot be easily or quickly reversed. The recruitment of new Air Traffic Controllers is the only realistic starting point on the road to a sustainable solution to the issue of delays.

The delicate judicial situation in Switzerland, where Air Traffic Controllers are being prosecuted for honest mistakes made during work, without any

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harm to people or property, is of great concern for the aviation community. Such threats will only undermine the integrity of European safety culture as controllers may not report irregularities anymore the way they have in the past.

We welcome the first ATSEP ATCEUC Committee Meeting which also took place in Belgrade and congratulate the GdF ATSEP representative who was elected as a new member of the ATCEUC Executive Board. Finally, we would like to welcome LATCA, Lithuanian Air Traffic Control Association, as the 34th Member Union and ZZKLW from Poland as a new Observer.

Belgrade, Serbia, 5th April 2019