



*"[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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Press Release

ATCEUC: "Swiss Superior Court decision is a step ahead for the safety of European Aviation"

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ATCEUC is pleased with the decision taken last Friday by the Superior Court of the Canton of Zurich, to acquit the Swiss Air Traffic Controller charged with "disrupting the public traffic" at Zurich Airport due to an incident that occurred in August 2012.

*"This judgement, reversing the first-instance ruling, confirms that when an air traffic controller acts correctly, without crossing the line separating the usual professional behavior from an unacceptable one, she/he shouldn't be charged but encouraged for providing essential safety-related information which ultimately increases the aviation safety score" **says Volker Dick, President of ATCEUC.***

*"ATCEUC", **Volker Dick continues,** "together with the other ATM Social Partners, has always been working to promote Just Culture in the European Aviation ecosystem and we were deeply frustrated by the first-instance ruling. Last week's decision can be a fundamental step in implementing the "Just Culture" principles in the Swiss Legal System and in all other European States".*

*"We really appreciate the high-level cooperation between Skyguide, the Swiss air navigation service provider, and the national ATCOs' Unions in handling the situation since the beginning of the legal procedure. Not only the involved ATCO, but also the whole community of Swiss Air Traffic Controllers and ATM Professionals have been supported. It allows them to continue to provide their essential service with the usual high performance level, safety and punctuality to the European aviation" **concludes Jean-Denis Larrere, Vice President of ATCEUC.***

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ATCEUC, on behalf of the European ATCOs and ATSEPs, will continue its work with the European Commission and all the involved European aviation stakeholders to foster a quick and sustainable implementation of the "Just Culture" principles in all the different National Legislative systems, in the interest of the whole European population.

END OF PRESS RELEASE

Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination (ATCEUC) was created in 1989 and is currently composed of 34 professional and autonomous trade unions representing more than 14000 Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) and Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEPs) throughout Europe. ATCEUC is part of the "European Union Sectoral Social Dialogue - Civil Aviation" in the air traffic management field and it is recognised as a full member of the ICB. ATCEUC with its experts participates in every work group where the voice of its Members can and have to be expressed: SESAR JU, TSG, EGHD, EASA STeB, EASC, ASPReT, ATM Partners and other workshops or programmes within the framework of EUROCONTROL and the European Commission.