



"[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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58th ATCEUC Committee Meeting Final Communiqué

It is with great pleasure that ATCEUC held its 58th Committee Meeting in Tirana, Albania, during 4-6 May 2022.

Not a long time has passed since our last meeting in Malaga, and it was time for ATCEUC members to come to Albania in order to meet with our colleagues and their lawyers after last year's events. The case in appeal of the three ATCOs that were prosecuted on false charges ended successfully. However, ATCEUC remains focused on the next steps to fully reinstate our colleagues in their rights and positions. ATCEUC remains dedicated to this task, fully conscious, that the easiest solution lies in dialogue and mutual understanding. At times where nearly everywhere in Europe social dialogue has been put into a corner, the member unions of ATCEUC have proven during their updates on their national situations that unity is key in difficult times.

In Denmark, the management seems to confirm its inability to properly lead the ANSP but a new CEO will be nominated shortly. In Croatia, the management wanted to terminate the contract of the president of the union. After six months of hard struggle of CATCU involving the media, the Ministry of Transport, ATCEUC etc..., the management decided to step back and accepted to return to a normal social dialogue. In North Macedonia, MATCU after many times of attempted dialogue realized that management failed to keep the ATCOs in safe working conditions. The union decided to call a strike that was kept silent by the management. In the end, ATCOs had led a successful action and the ANSP decided to open discussions. Finally, our eyes are turned to Poland, where the newly appointed CEO of PANSa has two months to reach an agreement. After two years of absence of social dialogue with the former CEO, it seems that the willingness and unity of ATM personnel gathered in ZZKRL have proven to be the pillars on which the organization together with the staff can return to provide the highest safety standards.

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Despite ATCEUC's repeated efforts to invite to the Committee Meeting the Delegation of the European Union in Albania, in the end they simply declined. It is sad that, in times where the extended European aviation community needs strong bonds, we witness that the Delegation of the European Union in Albania failed to show ATCEUC proper consideration and willingness to work together.

It appears that the current two-fold crisis is being used by our managers to deteriorate our members' working conditions. This was not done before to this extent and ATCEUC witnesses a spread of this kind of behaviour, trying to take advantage of the situation while air traffic was down to levels never reached before. All of these actions are damaging the core of ATM: SAFETY.

Today, the network has reached 85% of traffic levels compared to 2019, and the different forecasts, either short-term, medium-term or long-term, show that traffic numbers will exceed the 2019 figures by Summer 2022.

ATCEUC reminds everyone that ATM systems are part of a critical infrastructure that has to be maintained whether there is traffic or not. Even though it is the responsibility of the States, as an extension of sovereignty into the airspace, to ensure the integrity and safety of the system, ANSPs, the European Commission and EASA are part of this common duty too. Solidarity and unity by all stakeholders are mandatory to maintain the highest level of safety in the interest of all citizens.

Tirana, 06 May 2022