



*"[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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## Sarajevo 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Final Communiqué

The new European Parliament and the forthcoming appointment of the new European Commission could not have come at a more critical time for Air Traffic Management. Air Traffic Controllers in many EU member states and all around Europe will face an imminent deterioration of the safety and quality of the service they provide to airlines and to millions of passengers. The reason is the outgoing European Commission's Single European Sky 2 Plus package.

The so-called SES2+ aims at reducing air navigation service providers costs and to lay the foundation for a deregulated market, while at the same time it unrealistically expects that safety and performance will increase. We must stress again that this is a reckless experiment that will undermine the safety and stability of the ATM system in Europe and consequently passenger and public safety as well.

Cost reduction must not come at any cost, and this will be again the case in SESAR if Air Traffic Controllers are required to provide service to aircraft in multiple aerodromes at the same time in the context of Remote Towers, or if the European Aviation Safety Agency establishes a provision where air traffic control may be provided by personnel without the required qualifications.

ATCEUC welcomes the confirmation of the new Commissioner-Designate for Transport and Space Maroš Šefčovič in the hope that he will work with stakeholders to get the Single European Sky back on track, making the ATM system more efficient and environmentally friendly, without jeopardizing safety. During the past years European social dialogue has suffered or was completely ignored. We expect that the new Transport Commissioner will change this as well.

The support of the new European Parliament will also be essential in this effort. We should once again put the safety of European public above all other considerations. The tragic loss of life on board the shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 must be a reminder to everyone that safety must never be compromised.

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