



"[air navigation control, [i] 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

New EASA Basic Regulation voted at TRAN Committee of European Parliament: ATCEUC denounces attacks on workers' rights.

The Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament (TRAN) voted on the 10th of November on the amendments to the revision of the "Basic Regulation" setting the new framework and new competencies of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Some of the amendments voted on the introduction of minimum services are direct attacks on the rights of workers in air traffic management and are completely unacceptable for ATCEUC.

ATCEUC would like to underline that the right to strike is not an EU competency, as stated in article 153 of the TFEU. As a consequence, these amendments of the EASA Basic Regulation are in opposition with the fundamental laws of the Union and ATCEUC asks the MEPs to remove them from this proposal when voting for the final approval.

Secondly, the compulsory introduction of minimum services is not a safety issues. EASA does not have any responsibility on it. Unlike the Federal Aviation Authority in the United States, EASA is not the overall regulator in the EU.

We would like to stress that strikes and/or industrial actions are always the expression of social difficulties, e.g. the negative impact of the SES Performance Scheme, and problematic social dialogue. The Parliament should be aware that the underlying reasons of recent strikes were not only

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salaries or terms and conditions, but also issues purely affecting the safety of passengers linked to staff shortage, pension age or lack of investment.

Last but not least, Europe is a place of democracy, where the right to strike is one of the fundamental European trade unions' rights and as such, it belongs to a modern society. ATCEUC cannot understand why some of the members of the TRAN Committee of the European Parliament decided to attack this right of European workers.

ATCEUC would like to thank the members of the TRAN Committee who were opposed to these amendments and calls now all the Members of the European Parliament to reject them.

ATCEUC will continue to defend the respect of the fundamental rights of the 14 000 air traffic controllers it represents.

As **Martin Schulz**, the President of the European Parliament, stressed: "This Parliament is the heart of democracy at the EU level. The European Parliament will always be on the side of the people, working to improve the daily lives of hundreds of millions Europeans. The European Parliament will work in a dignified and fair manner based on respect and non-discrimination." ATCEUC believes in those words, and now is the time for the European Parliament to prove M. Schulz right.

ATCEUC represents 33 Unions and is the voice of more than 14'000 ATCOs across Europe.

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