



"[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

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ATCEUC Statement of Solidarity with the French Air Traffic Management Community

The Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination (ATCEUC) expresses its deepest solidarity with all colleagues affected by the devastating wildfires currently impacting South-West France.

Our thoughts are with the Air Traffic Controllers, Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEPs), technical specialists, administrative staff, operational managers and all aviation professionals working at Bordeaux ACC (CRNA South-West), Mérignac Tower and Approach, Biscarrosse Tower, CESNAC, SIA (Aeronautical Information Service), and all other affected operational units.

For several days, our colleagues have continued to fulfil their public service mission while facing exceptionally difficult circumstances. Many have had to evacuate their homes or protect their families from the advancing wildfires, yet continued to ensure the safe provision of essential air traffic services despite working under the threat of the fires and in operational environments affected by smoke and toxic fumes.

Despite these extraordinary challenges, the professionalism, resilience and dedication demonstrated by the French ATM community have been remarkable.

The commitment of the French ATM community made it possible to maintain essential air traffic services during one of the busiest periods of the year, ensuring the continuity of European connectivity despite exceptionally difficult circumstances. At the same time, colleagues provided vital support to the aerial firefighting operations, with Mérignac Airport serving as a major operational base for Canadairs and other firefighting aircraft. Behind the scenes, ATSEP, technicians, together with operational teams, worked tirelessly to safeguard critical communication infrastructure, including the Saint-Jean-d'Ilac transmission and reception sites, identify technical solutions and minimise, to the greatest extent possible, the impact of the wildfires on air traffic operations.

ATCEUC is immensely proud of the courage, dedication and professionalism demonstrated by every member of the French ATM community during this unprecedented crisis. The entire European Air Traffic Management community stands with you, supports you and extends its deepest respect to you, your families.

Our thoughts are with you.

Jean-Denis Larrère
ATCEUC President

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 (ATSEP) throughout Europe.

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