

"[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).

## 40<sup>th</sup> ATCEUC Meeting Lisbon Final communiqué

ATCEUC held its autumn meeting in Lisbon, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

**Safety first...but later** seems to be the motto of Europe when discussions on performance are held. Not only is safety barely mentioned for the 2012-2014 period, but there are now high chances that no safety measure will be made until...2019! States must overcome their own reluctance and release safety related figures. The European institutions and more specifically the Performance Review Body must create and impose metrics safety related data such as the number of runway incursions or the loss of minimum separation between aircrafts.

From a more general point of view, it is already clear that individual providers working on their own find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to meet the European targets they have been assigned. How long will Europe go on ignoring the institutional questions that undermine the accomplishment of higher performance levels?

ATCEUC totally opposes EASA proposition that ATM services should ensure the separation of aircraft with obstacles or with any airborne hazards. That proposition is not in line with ICAO SARP Annex 11 and gives controllers responsibilities they do not have the means to exercise.

ATCEUC welcomes the creation of the SESAR International Validation Team (IVT). The SESAR project must have a strong operational drive. The creation of that team is a clear step in that direction. ATCEUC members will therefore participate actively to ensure the success of the IVT.

Finally, in these very difficult times many of us are living, it is more than ever essential that we, controllers, stand united in Europe. ATCEUC is extremely preoccupied by the situation of controllers in Greece, Spain, Portugal and Belgium. And remains determined to assist them in any possible way they could need.

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