

"[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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During its last Committee Meeting, held in Malta on the 3rd and 4th of October, ATCEUC was given assurances that, together with the PRB, the European Commission was willing to really discuss the safety issues and our views on its unrealistic cost efficiency targets.

Having this in mind, all 28 unions member of ATCEUC decided unanimously to postpone the Action Day scheduled for the 10th of October. By doing so, ATCEUC and the European ATCOs showed their commitment to contribute for a reasonable proposal and gave a new opportunity to the European Commission to engage in an effective social dialogue and to take due account of our concerns and proposals

However, the EC chose to bring all stakeholders around the same table driving what could have been an effective dialogue into anarchy where the original figures were not even challenged This was intentional with the single purpose of keeping the EC/PRB original proposal for Reference Period 2 (RP2) Targets.

Furthermore, staff organizations have been calling for long time for a clear study on the interdependencies between targets but nothing new has been presented. Although staff organizations have been requesting clear measurable indicators and targets on safety for several years now, nothing concrete has been done. The result is that the EC hasn't taken into account any of the ATCEUC proposals in any of the areas.

This clearly indicates that the EC has never committed to having a real discussion or reviewing its position. The entire process has been a smoking screen with the aim to mislead the Member States representatives for the next Single Sky Committee (SSC) meeting. Nothing was achieved in this process and the responsibility lays on the EC side and not on ATCEUC.

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The next SSC is a fundamental opportunity for the Member States to show their disappointment with this process and with the desire of the EC, in its last legislative proposal, to leave the States out of the decision process for the future.

If the EC will continue to force most of the stakeholders to accept its proposal without leading a real and open dialogue, ATCEUC will be forced to recall all members for an Action Day from January.

ATCEUC represents 28 unions and it's the voice of 14000 ATCOs across Europe.

Volker Dick ATCEUC President