



"[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

ATCEUC mobilizes against the new Single European Sky

14,000 air traffic controllers in Europe expected to join the action on October 10th

For the first time in more than ten years the Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination (ATCEUC) calls its 14,000 members to join a pan-European action day on the 10th of October 2013 against the European Commission's (EC) attempt to deregulate every profession that ensures the safety of passengers in the skies.

Less than five years have passed since the adoption of Single European Sky II (SES2) and despite its overambitious targets have not yet been reached, the EC is trying to change again the legislative framework for aviation in Europe by setting even more unrealistic targets. It is now called SES2+ and, together with the related Reference Period 2 targets (RP2), it demands a tenfold increase of flight safety by 2020, while at the same time it is drastically reducing the cost of Air Traffic Management (ATM) and related services by 50%.

This contradiction constitutes a real danger for the future of safe and efficient ATM, where any change has to be studied carefully and agreed with all stakeholders, in order to ensure that safety is not jeopardized. It has to be clear that ATCEUC is not against improving performance with feasible targets. We participated in social dialogue meetings on SES2+ and RP2 and we submitted our views in this regard. However, the EC chose to ignore every suggestion submitted by the stakeholders, which included European Union member states. It seems that, for the EC, social dialogue is just a smoke screen that

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serves no other purpose than to give the false impression of a consultation procedure.

The real objectives of SES2+ and RP2 are clear: to liberalize the provision of Air Navigation Services, to deregulate the working conditions of thousands of staff in ATM and eventually to put this essential public interest service in the hands of a few wealthy individuals and companies that have been lobbying to this effect.

ATCEUC cannot accept this. On **October 10th**, air traffic controllers in 28 European countries will show their opposition to SES2+ and RP2.

Eventually these plans will be brought before the European Parliament. ATCEUC calls on each and every Member of the European Parliament to reject them for the sake of flight safety and to ensure a viable and safe future for European ATM. To do otherwise will simply ignore the interests of the people, workers and passengers.

ATCEUC Executive Board

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