



**National Air Traffic Controllers Association**  
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To: NATCA National Executive Board (NEB)

Re: IFATCA Professional Legal Committee (PLC)  
Capetown, South Africa Meeting Summary  
Deidre Hatchard, Denver TRACON (D01)

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) Professional Legal Committee (PLC) met in Capetown, South Africa from August 29 to August 30, 2015.

In attendance for meeting:

- Alfred Vlasek, PLC Chair (Austria)
- Eric Risdon, EVP Professional (Switzerland)
- Peter Van Rooyen (South Africa)
- Jean-Francois Lepage (JF), LO ICAO ANC
- Susanna Lloreda (Spain)
- David, Tim Whitehead (New Zealand)
- Frank Sasse (Germany)
- Nicola Gallo (Italy)
- Sten Verpalen (The Netherlands)
- Katie Mason (United Kingdom)
- David Perks (Australia)
- Deidre Hatchard (United States)
- Corresponding Members
  - Rosemary Kyalo (Kenya)
  - Moses Nhachi (Zimbabwe)
  - Emmanuel Oluwasean (Nigeria)

Working Papers and discussion:

- Aging ATCOs –
  - Does anyone have programs for Ageing ATCOs? New Zealand does; after 15 years you can move down to a slower facility.
  - Swiss – Mandatory retirement @ age 56. Australia- more about performance than age.
  - Spain – trying to implement a competency test.

- Germany – after age 50, give back one sector and then can no longer work night shifts.
  - Mr. Verpalen – two different ways to approach the paper, perhaps both ways, Competency & Rostering. Would prefer policy from this paper.
- Mental Illness in Aviation –
  - Likely an Information paper.
  - Mr. Risdon – add Mental Fitness and maybe change title? Illness bad/health good. The committee needs to be aware of audience. Reading material.
  - Mr. Perks questioned who is this paper for?
    - Responses – information for ATCOs; demystify, destigmatize, encourage ATCOs to seek help.
    - Mr. Perks we may be able to get policy from this.
    - Mr. Nhachi – trauma, traumatic situations, counselling services.
    - Mr. Gallo – include Just Culture, self-evaluations.
  - How can we face mental conditions?
    - Add ways to manage.
    - Mr. Perks asked about the ATCO being unfit for duty.
- Monitor Frequency vs. Contact Frequency
  - Ms. Mason – uses monitor when aircraft go into range.
  - Mr. Gallo – is this a professional issue? Response – yes, but it also might be technical as well.
  - Mr. Vlasek – using monitor, no way to ensure pilot is on new frequency.
  - Mr. Nhachi – risks associated with this technique. Mr. Gallo – read ICAO definition.
  - Mr. Lepage added PANS ATM definition (same). Mr. Van Rooyen – monitor shall not be used for transfer of control.
- Using ATS Surveillance for advisory service only.
  - Mr. Gallo – flight information?
  - Mr. Vlasek – requirements for surveillance radar; technical requirements;
    - Background – use of surveillance radar in advisory area (giving information);
    - FIS (flight information service) & FIC (flight information center). Information seems quite clear on rules and responsibilities using surveillance radar. Information paper.
- *Patrik Peters, IFATCA President, has joined the meeting.*

- Separation between Units without procedural agreement –
  - This topic was introduced by Israel, but it's not just their problem.
  - Cyprus has the problem as well as others.
  - The committee is reviewing the draft recommendations.
  - Mr. Peters – “Policies should be in place to ....”
  - Mr. Perks – used the recommended policy to encourage/guide ANSPs where no policy is currently in place.
- The Role (and Responsibility) of the Controller in Charge – *Moran Henig, Israel, joined the meeting via Skype*
  - Mr. Risdon – rare in Switzerland and only on the night shifts; they pick the most senior controller to staff CIC.
  - Mr. Perks – In Australia, Operational Command Authority is looking at the roles of the Controller in Charge.
  - Mr. Vlasek – In Austria, they go up (positions above a supervisor) if a supervisor is unable to take the shift.
  - Mr. Gallo – in Italy they do not list tasks that should be performed.
  - Ms. Henig – if the supervisor is not there, the CIC immediately takes over.
  - Ms. Hatchard – in the U.S., the CIC has the same authority and responsibility as a supervisor except for discipline.
- Educational Issues on Distraction –
  - What areas have no cell phones in the work place?
  - What areas are enforced?
  - Some facilities have a device which deactivates cell phones once inside the area doors.
- Harmonization in the Field of ATM Training –
  - This will probably be a summary of the issues.
- Class E Airspace –
  - The committee will have an informational paper on this issue.
  - Mr. Gallo – why can't we have ICAO change the airspace?
  - Mr. Lepage – isn't airspace E limited (not many of them around)?
  - Ms. Hatchard - Denver TRACON has one – no problems there.
  - Mr. Perks – in Australia, they want to be careful calling Class E Airspace higher risk as there is no proof.
- Cognitive Processes –
  - Mr. Verpalen presented a power point on the contents of the paper thus far.

- Remote Towers, Multi Sector Planning, and possibly aging effect on ATCOs could be tied into this paper.
- Mr. Vlasek began some discussion on remote towers in Germany.
- Mr. Gallo brought up issues when dealing with remote towers where providing for more than one airfield – orientation (which way is north), emergency responses could be delayed when trying to orient oneself, thinking too much about simple things makes it more complex.
- Review of Automation Policy –
  - Mr. Perks – issues with existing policy.
  - Mr. Gallo- no definition of automation, maybe a policy document on automation?
  - Mr. Vlasek – who is the audience for policy, what do we want to say with it?
  - Mr. Gallo – could take document to meetings.
  - Mr. Risdon – create a policy document for all of our policies?
  - Mr. Gallo – no, just for automation.
  - Mr. Vlasek – focus just on the paper. If, at Conference we discuss and it's decided upon to create a policy, combine with TOC to create one.
- Training for OJTI –
  - Reviewed existing policy.
  - Review (so far) indicates drafting new policy or amending existing policy not necessary.
  - Mr. Perks - Proposal to add framework for OJTI Competency & Knowledge Requirements.
  - Mr. Risdon and Mr. Vlasek – perhaps IFATCA policy drafted in 1979 needs to be amended to be stronger.
  - Ms. Mason – They utilize brief, monitor, debrief policy for all trainees.

Next PLC Meeting in New Zealand, November 26-28. (Amended to November 26-27 at the conclusion of the Capetown meeting.)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Deidre Hatchard, Denver TRACON (D01)  
NATCA's Representative to the IFATCA PLC