



Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination



Brussels, 3 November 2016

To the Members of the European Parliament TRAN Committee

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Revision of the EASA Basic Regulation – minimum services in air traffic management

The undersigned associations – representing all the Air Traffic Management Professional Staff and Pilots Organisations – noticed that the issue of ‘minimum services’ in the provision of Air Traffic Management through Europe has recently come back to the forefront.

We hereby express our strong opposition about the proposed introduction of this issue in the revision of the EASA Basic Regulation through the amendments **AM 339, 814, 905 and 1072**. Europe is a place of democracy where the right of strike is one of the fundamental European trade union rights and as such, it belongs to modern society. It is well known that the right of strike is not an EU competence as stated in article 153 of the TFEU.

The right to strike is an essential part of being able to negotiate between employer and employees. Removing parts of the consequences of a strike will undo the balance between employer and employees, clearly in favour of the employer. Therefore we are of the opinion that this issue has to be dealt at national level, including minimum service requirements. In addition, this topic is not a safety issue and EASA should not have any responsibility on it. Unlike the Federal Aviation Authority in the United States, EASA is not the overall regulator in the EU.

Last but not least, strikes and/or industrial actions are always the expression of social difficulties, e.g. the negative impact of the SES Performance Scheme, and problematic social dialogue. The undersigned associations strongly believe that efforts have to be made to find adequate solutions, at national level, between the concerned parties.

We therefore recommend the TRAN Committee members to reflect our proposals and **reject the proposed amendments**.

Yours sincerely,

Volker Dick, *Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination (ATCEUC)*

Philip von Schoppenthau, *European Cockpit Association (ECA)*

François Ballestero, *European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)*

Fernando Lopes, *International Federation of Aeronautical Information Management Associations (IFAIMA)*

Tom Laursen, *International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA)*

Costas Christoforou, *International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA)*