



ATCEUC and ETF Statement on Fundamental Review of EUROCONTROL Agency's activities by Deloitte

On the initiative of its Director General Mr Eamonn Brennan, EUROCONTROL commissioned a "fundamental review" of the Agency's activities. The contract was awarded to Deloitte in September 2020 and a final report was published at the end of January.

Both ETF and ATCEUC agree that despite its ambitions, the review and its 17 recommendations appear nothing more than a collection of incoherent statements, without any in-depth analysis of their effectiveness, their impact or their cost. It is extremely surprising that Deloitte considered this report fit for publication: for one, it clearly goes well beyond the terms of reference, to the point of suggesting significant institutional changes to the Agency's setup – something that was explicitly excluded from the scope of the review.

Charles - André Quesnel, Chair of the ETF ATM Committee, added: *"The review makes vague, completely unsubstantiated projections of cost savings while clearly risking disruptions to service delivery of Maastricht UAC, Europe's only cross-border ATC centre, and other essential services of the Agency such as training and research and development. Some recommendations will substantially increase the costs for the airspace users and Member States, as Mr Brennan appears to be prepared to drastically change the core mission of the Agency as an independent and neutral entity at the service of both the States and the airspace users."*

Volker Dick, President of ATCEUC, noted: *"While the report is concerning in itself, we are extremely disturbed by the methodology, or more precisely the lack thereof, that Deloitte used. All stakeholders were asked different questions, and we have the distinct impression that staff representatives were only included to give an impression of objectivity. None of the questions we were asked, and certainly none of the answers, are reflected in the report."*

Mr Dick continued: *"The study is nothing more than a very obvious attempt from Mr Brennan to hollow-out the EUROCONTROL Agency and to push more things towards privatized subsidiaries of the larger ANSPs. The distress this review has caused within the Agency and beyond – the study recommends a privatized Maastricht UAC takes over the Karlsruhe airspace – is considerable. Many of our members have expressed anxiety and concerns for their immediate future. In a safety-critical, operational environment and during a global health crisis of unseen proportions, it shows a complete lack of managerial responsibility for the well-being of the Agency's staff!"*

Perhaps less obvious, but not less concerning is that the report also undermines the Single European Sky by advocating even more fragmentation and competition, which has shown time and again to be in contradiction to the European ideal of harmonization and optimisation.

ETF already raised to EUROCONTROL Director General as well as the president of the EUROCONTROL Provisional Council the concern that despite being a major social partner in the ATM field, the consultant did not take the opportunity to include us in the stakeholder consultation.

Mr Quesnel also noted: *“ETF represents a huge number of staff that would be badly impacted by the proposed way forward for EUROCONTROL. The EUROCONTROL Agency is a well-known and recognised organisation for its expertise. Reducing the scope or the working conditions of Eurocontrol staff will ultimately lead to a decreased ATM performance in Europe.”*

ATCEUC and the ETF call on the 41 Member States of the Agency to strongly reject the entire report and its unsubstantiated recommendations. We further call on the States to call the Director General of EUROCONTROL to order, as he has clearly overstepped his mandate and has acted against their interests.

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