



IFATCA ERM 2004

22-24 OCTOBER BUCHAREST

For a couple of days, Bucharest will gather air traffic controllers from all over Europe in what shall be IFATCA 21st annual European Regional Meeting. It is a thrill that Romania is hosting such an international event for the first time and all due to the efforts and contribution of all the Romanian Air Traffic Controllers.

It is important that we support our points of view and therefore make our contribution to the ATM development around the world. As we all know, this chance has been given to us by IFATCA participating in ICAO, EUROPEAN COMMISSION and EUROCONTROL Conferences, in meetings and working groups.

Every day IFATCA representatives point out our stand on each hot item analyzed at an international level and succeed in making a difference as this stand is taken into account before any final decision taken by the members of the European Parliament or European Commission, Eurocontrol Directors or working group leaders. It is a fact that controllers' acceptance is needed for a proper implementation of any change in order to make things right.

Controllers such as Marc Baumgartner, Nicos Lyrakides, Patrick Roose, Bert Rutenberg, Dave Grace, Massen, Chris Stock, P Domogalla, Catherina de Dekker and many others have led the associations they are members of to one of the highest involvement level on both national and international programs. The results are obvious: we can influence the major decisions at the national and European level.

As we all know, new concepts and programs are developing, such as SES, Data Link, European License, Safety Policy and Safety Nets, System Interoperability Requirements, Regional and Subregional plans and a few more. And what is more important is that we have the people to think about these.

The constantly increasing number of flights has been a real challenge for all of us, but we did manage to cope with the traffic demand safely and efficiently.

As an organization we are proud to be part of the „Making Decisions Bodies” while as controllers we are proud to handle the daily traffic, to solve conflicts, to give the best support to the air crews and to be part of the big air traffic controllers family. Let's not forget that we are continuously preparing ourselves for using the new technology, new rules, new airspace organization, new situations to handle as no day is similar to other even if the traffic pattern is almost the same. We consider change normal and deal with it by using our individual resources. In order to do our job accordingly all we need is Knowledge, Skills, Teamwork and Technical Support.

Here, in Bucharest, at the 21st IFATCA ERM, we would like to debate on all the issues discussed by our representatives in the European Aviation Bodies but we would also like to talk about us, about the air traffic controllers and their problems. Are we doing our best in the operational rooms in order to maintain the traffic safe and keep our jobs in the near future? Is there anything else we have to look for our profession or for our organization? Is the organization of European system the best possible? Are we using our limited resources efficiently? Could be IFATCA a more proactive organization?

And finally, do not forget that Bucharest can be an amazing city for those interested in discovering the taste of an original culture born between East and West gathering features from both... See everything, taste both the day life and the night life, try everything, take the whole picture at home and consider coming back!

George Călina
President Organizing Committee