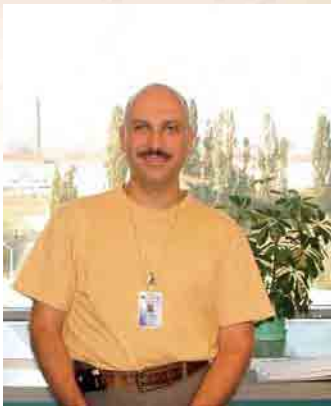


RATCA PARTICIPATION IN IFATCA SES TEAMS



IFATCA International Conference held in Hong Kong triggered a turning point in our association activities, in terms of its proactive participation in the working teams created within the Federation. It was on that occasion that Marc Baumgartner, IFATCA Chief Executive Officer, came up with the proposal to create working teams within IFATCA on SES implementation domains.

In response to EUROCONTROL requests based on its mandates entrusted by the European Commission, IFATCA created such internal working teams aiming to providing macro level consultation channels for the upstreaming participation of the air traffic controllers in the EU area and beyond.

As it is well known, both the European Commission and EUROCONTROL studies have shown that, business-wise, to exclusively implement the SES concept in EU countries would not be cost-efficient and therefore SES would not reach its goal. Hence the approach has been shifted towards SES implementation at Pan-European level.

Because the European Union is an EUROCONTROL member, and

Romania hopes to join the EU in the next wave, our delegation considered the Hong Kong Conference a proper occasion to timely join at least one of IFATCA working teams on SES. Thus, we are currently represented in the Interoperability/Data Transfer Team by Virgil Dinu from Bucharest ACC, who replaced our initially enrolled colleague Cosmin Rotarescu.

Participation in the Working Teams was still an open issue at the Antalya meeting of South-Eastern European countries in May 2004, where, on behalf of our Association, Cristian Radu from Bucharest ACC joined the Airspace Team (FAB, FUA/Airspace Design) and also the Charging Scheme teams. At the „SES Ambassadors” meeting in London, the reconfiguration of the working teams and their denominations as well, as the commitment of co-opted members, led to a situation where RATCA members came to hold even team leader positions. Thus, Cristian Radu is currently the Charging Scheme Team leader, a position previously held by IFATCA CEO Marc Baumgartner, while Tiberiu Dregus from Arad ACC represents RATCA in the Airspace Team (FAB, FUA/Airspace Design).

Each of our representatives involved in IFATCA activities has had a challenging, although rather time-restrained task: The time limits of EUROCONTROL mandates expire by next year, while each workshop or seminar is of utmost importance, requiring our upstreaming participation. Therefore, our representatives had to summon the association team members on very short notice (weeks and sometimes even days) in

order to jointly formulate, on the basis of studied documents, competent opinions on each EUROCONTROL mandate, to be sent to IFATCA and further to EUROCONTROL.

The course of events points towards the inevitable implementation of SES at a pan-European level, and our association wishes to proactively contribute to the future development of the Romanian ATC in the context of ATS globalization. To this effect, we strive to coordinate our efforts towards a consensus with the policies of ROMATSA and the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism for the development of medium and short-term strategies on SES implementation.

A first step forward has already been made in this respect, thanks to Mr. Bogdan Donciu, General Director of ROMATSA, who accepted that a representative of RATCA be included in ROMATSA SES Group, in order to act as a catalyst for a better human resource utilization, and also as a useful consultation-liaison to all ATCOs on SES implementation issues.

We are aware it will take a lot of hard work and commitment in the coming months. However, I am sure that our association has wisely elected its representatives, who will be able to successfully meet the challenges of the future.

Our ultimate objective?

For those who do not know it yet: maintaining Romania among the competitive countries on the air traffic services’ market.

Florentin Chivulescu
CTA ACC Bucharest