

**Report of the President and Chief Executive officer****Present by Helena Sjöström Falk, PCX****SUMMARY**

The work of the IFATCA PCX from April 2024 until March 2025

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. This report covers the work of the President from April 2024 to March 2025.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1. The Federation is generally in a good state. Both financially and organizationally.

2.2. My first year as PCX has gone by incredibly fast. Although I had already served in the role of Deputy President for five years when I was elected PCX, there is still a big difference in being PCX. I am proud and humbled by the confidence the Federation and its members has put in me.

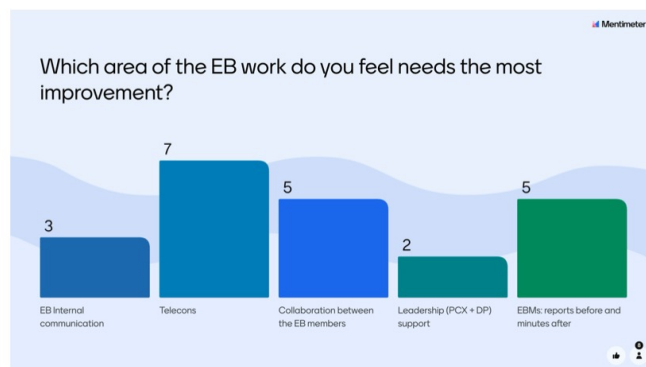
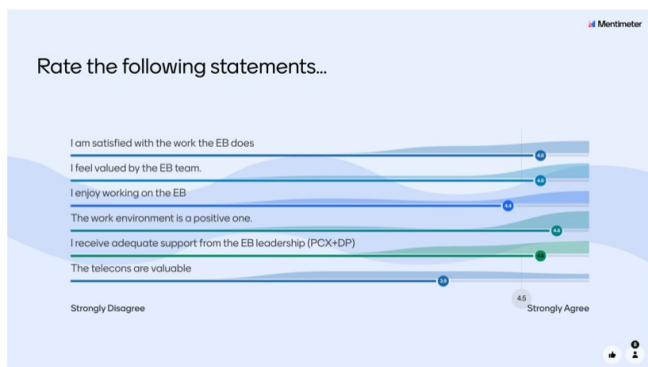
**3. EB WORK**

3.1. This work would not be possible without my fantastic colleagues on the Executive Board, EB, and I thank them sincerely for all their tireless work at all hours, for always being positive and for always putting the good of the Federation first.

3.2. The EB has an open, respectful and honest dialogue in between board members. This is something we are very proud of, and it is also something that greatly benefits the Federation, since the EB becomes more effective and productive when it is working well together.

3.3. The good working climate the current EB has, does not come automatically and it is something that I think about always.

- 3.4. The Deputy President, DP and I have an excellent cooperation, and we fill in for each other when necessary. I wish to thank Jean Francois Lepage for his work as DP, a role which is very time consuming with a lot of areas to cover. JF has done a great first year!
- 3.5. The EB had its first meeting of the working year (from conference to conference) in Panama City in September 2024. We then set these goals:
- **Make IFATCA the Gold Standard in all things Air Traffic Control**
  - **Improve EB organization, work smarter**
  - **Strengthen our cooperation with union/labor organizations**
  - **Empower the Regions**
- 3.6. By magazine articles, speaking assignments, media interviews by the EB; by using the new platform Open Project; by being efficient at our meetings and telecons and by the contacts we have had with ITF, I feel we are moving in the right direction regarding these goals.
- 3.7. The EB also decided at the Panama meeting, to work on a three-year theme series on staff shortages. For 2024-2025 (starting from Conference in Singapore), the theme is **Invest in People, the Future of ATM**. For 2025-2026 (starting from Conference in Abu Dhabi) the theme is **Recruitment and Training, the Flightplan for our Future**. The theme 2026-2027 will focus on staff retention.
- 3.8. The EB meets bi-weekly. We have recently moved the meeting to Wednesdays on request from EB members, and we are now using the new platform Open Project, where we use the model of “reverse minutes”. This helps us to prepare for the meetings beforehand and makes them more efficient. PCX has chaired most of the telecons. Time difference is a great challenge with EB members spread out from Texas, USA to Melbourne, Australia.
- 3.9. There are constantly issues and crises coming up around the globe, which force us to be quite reactive. We put out the fires as they flame up but there is rarely enough time for much of the proactive work, which is something that would be desired.
- 3.10. At the EB meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa in February 2025, we did a survey of how the members of the EB rate their work. The results were generally very good, but there are always things that can be improved, particularly telecons. Below are the answers to two of the questions in the survey.



#### 4. IN PERSON MEETINGS

- 4.1. I was invited to and attended the Nordic Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark September 11-13, 2024. The meeting was extremely well organized by our Danish Member Association DATCA, and it was good to reconnect with my home region and hear their views on how the Federation's work is going.
- 4.2. I was also invited to NATCA's Communicating for Safety, CFS, in Las Vegas, USA Sept 16-18. It was a fantastic event with so many good speakers, workshops and interactions. A very impressive couple of days!
- 4.3. The Executive Board met in Panama City, Panama Sept 19-21. The Panamanian Association were excellent hosts, and we had a very fruitful and enjoyable meeting. The EB set the goals for the EB work for the next years (point 3.5).
- 4.4. After the Executive Board Meeting, DP, EVPAMA and I had a meeting with the DG of the Panamanian ANSP. It seemed that he enjoyed our meeting and that the Panamanian MA thought it went very well too. Hopes are that they will now be more involved in what seems like a re-structure and modernization of the ANSP. We were also able to visit the ACC and talk to some of the local controllers. A much-appreciated visit!
- 4.5. On Oct 15-17 I was invited to and attended the Americas Regional Meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. The meeting arrangements were amazing, much thanks to EVP AMA and her team and of course the host Member Association TTATCA. It was the most well attended AMA meeting ever and I enjoyed lots of good interaction with our MAs and attendees there. After the meeting I had the chance to visit the control center and TWR in Port of Spain and it was, as always, great to meet with the controllers who were on shift.
- 4.6. The EB met for the second time this working year in Johannesburg, South Africa February 24-27, 2025. We were very generously hosted by our South African Member Association GATCSA. This meeting lasted four days and we went thru every corner of the Federation's work and also the planning for the Conference in Abu Dhabi.



## 5. IFATCA2030+

- 5.1. Throughout the year, I have been meeting with the 2030+ Task Force and following their work in mapping out the suggested way forward for IFATCA: The Blueprint. The Task Force had an in-person-meeting in Geneva January 20-22, 2025, and attended online. During the EB meeting in Johannesburg, we also devoted substantial time to The Blueprint, and we applauded the work of the Task Force chair Julian Ogilvy and the Task Force members for a job well done!
- 5.2. The IFATCA 2030+ Blueprint will be presented to the membership at Conference in Abu Dhabi. After that, the plans for implementation will begin.

## 6. Communications and Industry Partners

- 6.1. The Communications Coordinator Nicola Niriada and I have regular talks, WhatsApp and we enjoy a very good cooperation.
- 6.2. The EB adopted IFATCA's very first Communications Strategy at the Panama Meeting. It is a 10-page document, also called "the little Ginger Book" and it can be found on ifatca.org under Manuals, Documents and Templates.
- 6.3. Our Industry Partner program has grown and become more structured in the last year thanks to the work of the Industry Partner coordinator Philippe Domogala and deputy coordinator Nicola Niriada. Thank you both for all your hard work!

## 7. ILO

- 7.1. After discussions, the EB has decided to renew and improve the cooperation with the International Labor Organization, ILO and also to renew the position of Liaison Officer to the ILO. The ILO work sorts under the Professional umbrella and the next EVP Professional will have this work on their agenda.

## 8. ITF

- 8.1. EVPAMA Patricia Gilbert and I had an electronic meeting with the leadership of ITF on January 17, 2025. We discussed how we could improve our collaboration.
- 8.2. IFATCA is now writing a working paper in cooperation with ITF and IFALPA, for the ICAO assembly in September. The topic is **Workforce Sustainability in the Global Air Transport Industry**.
- 8.3. The collaboration with ITF will also be a topic for the next EVPP.
- 8.4. Collaboration with ILO and ITF is in line with the EB's goal to strengthen our cooperation with union/labor organizations, set in Panama City in September 2024.

## 9. OTHER

- 9.1. EUROCONTROL asked me to write an article for the autumn/winter 2024 edition of their printed magazine Skyway. I did and the article **Digitalization and AI in air traffic control: balancing innovation with the human element** was published in October 2024. <https://www.eurocontrol.int/article/digitalisation-and-ai-air-traffic-control-balancing-innovation-human-element>
- 9.2. As a result of that article (according to Ms. Luna Babusci, Airspace Management Team Leader with the SESAR Deployment Manager) I was invited to be a panelist at the ICNS Conference 2025 in Brussels on April 10, 2025 (ICNS = Integrated Communications Navigation and Surveillance). The topic of the panel is *CNS evolution impact on human role in ATM / Resources, skills and training needs for future CNS professionals*.
- 9.3. On invitation to IFATCA from the BBC News World Service, I participated in the recording of an episode of the BBC podcast "The Conversation" on March 5th. The topic was Women in Air Traffic Control. Date of release is not known at the time of writing this but probably late March/early April.
- 9.4. At the upcoming *Air Space World* in Lisbon, May 2025, IFATCA is invited to speak on two panels, and I am invited to *the Chief Executives and Young Professionals Breakfast*, "an event aimed at fostering collaboration and professional development within our industry".

## 10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1. My first year as president and chief executive officer of IFATCA has come to an end. This is something I certainly did not imagine when I attended my first IFATCA European regional meeting in Rhodos, Greece 2006. I am very proud and happy to be a part of the great work we all do together.

- 10.2. I wish to thank my home MA, the Swedish Air Traffic Controllers' Association, SATCA and to SATCA President Sofia Lundgren for their unwavering support and friendship.
- 10.3. I retired from my position as Watch Supervisor at ESOS, Stockholm Air Traffic Control Center on November 30, 2024. Over my 37 years of employment with LFV, I have received a lot of support for my work in SATCA and IFATCA from the company, for which I am grateful. Now I have even more time for IFATCA.
- 10.4. Lastly, I want to thank my husband Pierre for his understanding of how important this work is to me and that it often keeps me busy and absent.

## **11. RECOMMENDATION**

- 11.1. It is recommended that this report is accepted as information.

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