

Report of the Professional and Legal Committee (PLC) Chair

Presented by Adam Exley

SUMMARY

Report of the activities of the Professional and Legal Committee.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The following is a review of the activities and membership of the IFATCA professional and Legal Committee for the years 2024 – 2025.

2. DISCUSSION**Membership**

- 2.1. The following Member associations were elected into the IFATCA Professional and Legal Committee in Singapore 2024. They were; Italy, The Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Greece, Japan, Jamaica, Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore and Belgium. Israel also had a position as a Special Advisor greatly contributing to the working programme.
- 2.2. PLC also had some very active corresponding Member Associations this year where credit must be given. As a reminder, Corresponding Members do not receive any IFATCA support to attend or contribute so the MA will bear the costs. With this in mind, I would like to thank all the Corresponding Member Associations who actively participated in the lively discussions and thank them for the contributions. In particular I would like to thank the USA who stood down from a full elected member position to allow another MA to participate. I would also like to thank Spain and Iceland for attending the first meeting at their own cost and working with PLC to refine and develop our working papers. I would like to mention Germany for allowing their corresponding member to attend the meeting in Mexico to provide their valuable input on our ATFM licensing paper of which they had a vast amount of knowledge. And lastly, the Dominican Republic allowed their member to attend the meeting in Mexico providing their knowledge on many subjects which help refine and develop our policies.

- 2.3. Many of our PLC members are veterans, if you like, who have been within PLC for many years now however we do have some new faces which bring in lots of new ideas and experiences.
- 2.4. There were papers that extended into the technical realm, as was to be expected, and as such we worked with TOC to create papers with both joint TOC and PLC input.

Meetings

- 2.5. During this working programme, we held two in-person meetings in the following locations
 - 2.5.1. Osaka, Japan 7th – 9th October 2024
 - 2.5.2. Mexico City, Mexico 14th – 16th January 2025
- 2.6. We also convened many online drop-in sessions to allow discussion about the topics and to raise any concerns with the Chair or EVPP.
- 2.7. I would like to thank the Member Associations who hosted our Standing Committee meetings. Their generous support and assistance were instrumental in ensuring the success of our committee meetings. Their hospitality provided an excellent environment for productive discussions and collaboration.
 - 2.7.1. JFATC
 - 2.7.2. COCTAM
 - 2.7.3. ICAO NACC Regional Office

Completed Papers to be Presented at Conference 2025

- 2.8. The following topics will be presented at the annual conference in Abu Dhabi
 - 2.8.1. ATM Systems Interoperability*
 - 2.8.2. Policy Review of ATS 3.20 Environmental Issues in ATM*
 - 2.8.3. Contrail Avoidance Strategies*
 - 2.8.4. Low Capacity and Other Restricted Endorsement Concepts*
 - 2.8.5. System Based Licence Policy Review*
 - 2.8.6. Deactivation of Safety Nets*
 - 2.8.7. ATCO skills with the use of Artificial Intelligence and legal liability
 - 2.8.8. Study of Positive Safety Culture and Just Culture

- 2.8.9. Review of the beaks and staffing policy
- 2.8.10. Attracting New Air Traffic Controllers
- 2.8.11. ATFM Licensing study
- 2.8.12. High Reliability Organisation
- 2.8.13. Contingency Preparedness

** Indicates joint study with TOC*

- 2.9. This is my second year as Chair of the Professional and Legal Committee and what an experience it has been. I have had the privilege to work with a fantastic team, whose expertise has resulted in outstanding working papers. The high level of engagement this year has been remarkable, with many corresponding members actively participating. A true testament to the enthusiasm and commitment within PLC.
- 2.10. The working programme is often packed and has tight deadlines. We must not forget that each member sacrifices their own time to contribute to PLC and IFATCA. Time that would otherwise be spent with friends and family. It is a huge investment but one which is also highly rewarding and I would like to thank each and every member for their work this year.
- 2.11. It is good to see change within the Executive Board which brings back David Perks as the Liaison Officer for ICAO ANC and JF, who does so much for IFATCA, be promoted to Deputy President. David brings with him vast knowledge and from within ICAO and working knowledge of PLC which has been beneficial this year.
- 2.12. The Online Job Card Submission Form worked well following the introduction in Jamaica and produced the basis for our working paper topics this year. Please don't forget to deliver your Job Cards as soon as possible for consideration by the Standing Committees.
- 2.13. On a personal note, I am truly grateful for all that IFATCA has done for the profession and individual Air Traffic Controllers. Having seen the dedication that each and every IFATCA member has, I am certain that IFATCA will continue to place the individual ATCO first and ensure our security and safety when others do not.
- 2.14. We are in a time where our ATCO expertise is scarce yet traffic and demand are increasing, a staffing crisis in fewer words. With training times taking many years and the inevitable bottlenecks that occur, our invisible safety margins will be increasingly challenged. Fatigue will remain a significant concern, and IFATCA must actively monitor this. We are already seeing this in action, with three working papers this year examining ways to allow ATCOs to return to live operations following simulation, as well as System-based and Low-Capacity Endorsements. Without stopping the traffic, the only way to increase throughput

with fewer ATCOs is to place greater demands on the current workforce. IFATCA will need to be ready.

2.15. Before I finish, I would like to thank all of the IFATCA Executive Board for allowing me the privilege to be PLC chair for the past two years. A huge thanks to Jaymi Steinberg for always being there and being so incredibly organised and on top of everything. Peter Van Rooyen for your guidance over the many years we have known each other, David Perks, for your knowledge assistance and confidence in me, and lastly to the whole PLC Team, who have made the role as Chair so enjoyable over the last two years.

2.16. I will not be nominating for the next term of PLC Chair as I have intentions to leave the profession. I have been an Air Traffic Controller from the age of 20 and now I wish to see what it is like from the other side of the screen. I have no doubt that PLC will flourish under its new leadership and I will be watching, and reading with interest.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. The PLC has successfully completed the working program for 2024 – 2025.

3.2. I will not be standing for the reelection of PLC Chair and will be leaving the ATC profession altogether.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. This paper be accepted as information.

5. REFERENCES

NONE

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