

**Report of the Liaison Officer to SESAR and EASA (LOES)**

Presented by Marc Baumgartner

**SUMMARY**

**EASA** and **SESAR** are the safety rulemaking body and the research pillar of the European Single European Sky program. IFATCA has been active in both bodies with a group of representatives.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report covers the period from 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. It includes links to some of the projects, plans, publications, videos and legislation mentioned in the report.
- 1.2. According to the Terms of Reference: Under the Direction of the Executive Board the Liaison Officer to SESAR and EASA shall:
  - a. Establish and maintain contact with the SESAR Joint Undertaking and SESAR deployment manager based in Brussels
  - b. Establish and maintain contact with EASA, based in Cologne and Brussels, Represent IFATCA whenever specifically asked to attend any international meetings hosted or sponsored by SESAR and EASA, which are directly relevant to Air Traffic Control.
  - c. Make any necessary arrangements for IFATCA representatives' participation to SESAR and EASA work and ensure that they are properly briefed on items of protocol, and properly introduced to relevant persons within SESAR and EASA.
  - d. Liaise with the Liaison Officer to the European Union and EVP Europe any other relevant coordination with European Agencies and offices with a view to promoting and maintaining the aims and objectives of IFATCA.
  - e. Together with EVP Europe, administrate the SESAR contract and provide the EB with annual SESAR and EASA budget.
  - f. Provide written reports to the Executive Board on all meetings attended on behalf of the Federation, within SESAR and EASA.
  - g. Undertake other duties deemed advisable by the Executive Board.
  - h. Relay to the Executive Board immediately any items of special or significant interest as they arise.

## 2. Discussion

### 2.1. EASA update

#### 2.1.1. EPAS

The part of the European Aviation Safety Programme (EASP) which is under the lead of EASA is the so-called [European Aviation Safety Plan \(EPAS\)](#). The EPAS flows from and works in support of the European aviation strategy. The relationship of the EPAS with rulemaking and the EU Aviation Strategy is shown in figure 2.1:



Figure 2.1: EPAS & the European Aviation Strategy. Source: EASA

The EPAS becomes the primary mechanism by which safety is managed and monitored, The EPAS sets out the risk landscape for European aviation, identifies priorities and actions – be they rulemaking, safety promotion, safety action – to be undertaken.

#### 2.1.2. IFATCA's representation

IFATCA representatives have been able to participate in various activities within the EASA organisation of rulemaking and strategic outlook for safety. EASA exclusively meet via remote webex.

Andrea Poti from the Italian MA, represents IFATCA in the Stakeholder advisory Body (SAB), Marc Baumgartner (LOEASA) is the alternate.

Panagiotis Psaros represents IFATCA in the Air Traffic Management /Air Navigation Services Technical Committee (ATM/ANS.TEC).

In the domain specific Collaborative Analysis Group (CAG) IFATCA is represented by:

Commercial air transport –Mladen Kotsov  
Human Factors – Anthony Smoker  
ATM –Thorsten Raue

2.1.3. Rulemaking activities:

ATCO licensing Rule – regular update - Mladen Kotsov  
Technical requirements for Remote tower operations – Katariina Syväs  
Follow-up on SERA - Thorsten Raue  
Datalink – Christoph Gilgen  
Drone –Eugenio Diotalevi

I would like to thank them on behalf of IFATCA for their willingness to work in these important tasks.

2.1.4. Easy Access

EASA publishes for each of the Implementation Regulation a so-called [EASY Access](#). This guidance material has become a powerful repository and provides many answers to questions ATCOs, ANSPs and Regulators might have regarding the various EU Implementation Regulations.

2.1.5. Various

- EASA has launched a Research [study](#) on the Impact Analysis, Prevention and Management of ATCOs Fatigue in the EU. The study will be handed over to EASA at the end of February 2024.
- In preparation for the Single European Sky (SES) ATM performance scheme, Dr. Anthony Smoker was invited to represent IFATCA in the Safety Key Performance Indicator Group for RP4. A set of SKPI's have been proposed to the European Commission for the Reference Period 4. The SKPI have entered the consultation phase and are open for public comments.
- Eugenio Diotalevi has continued to work on drones. A bi-lateral meeting on Digital Flight Rules will take place in June. IFATCA has presented its first ideas on these new category of Flight rules to EASA.
- EASA Coordinator has been invited to join the EASA Steering Group on ATCO Training & Licensing. The Steering Group shall aim to:
  - Develop a shared vision on the outcomes of the European ATCO training and licensing scheme and the necessary enablers for a safe and effective development of the scheme, considering both the envisaged evolution of the European ATM network under the SES initiative and the social and human perspective;
  - Provide high-level advice to support the implementation of the European ATCO training and licensing scheme, paying particular attention to the sector's future developments and the related regulatory developments;
  - Advise EASA on the means to communicate and consult with all interested stakeholders about the identified enablers and related actions, with the aim of achieving the widest consensus and acceptance; and
  - Provide strategic guidance for the successful incorporation of the EASA ATCO Fatigue Research Study into the European ATCO Training and Licensing Scheme.

## ESAR Update

### 2.1.6. SESAR 3

SESAR 3 was been created in September 2021 to replace SESAR 2020. Due to financial and administrative regulations of the European Union, no finances will be available for the SESAR work until Quarter 2 2023.

At the October 2023 SESAR Conference, SESAR Coordinator was invited to a high-level panel on the results and success of SESAR so far.

The ATM Masterplan campaign has started in November 2023 and will last until mid-April 2024. IFATCA is involved in the Drones and the Human in the ATM Working Group system.

IFATCA represents the PSO in the Governing Body. An agreement has been found among the five organisations with regard to the representation modus.

A contract with the SJU was signed which allows IFATCA to be tasked with different work directly for the SJU or as an IFATCA research project. Items which will be elaborated for the SJU cover Remote Tower work, Joint Cognitive Human Machine System and others.

### 2.1.7. SESAR Exploratory and Industrial Research calls, Wave 1

IFATCA is currently participating to [CODA](#) (Controller adaptive digital assistant). Work is followed by the SESAR coordinator, Dr. Stathis Malakis and Dr. Anthony Smoker.

### 2.1.8. SESAR Exploratory and Industrial Research calls, Wave 2

IFATCA has been asked to join 6 consortia for 6 different calls. All consortia were able to submit their offer to SESAR on time. Selection of the winning bids will be published by the end of February. The successful calls will start work in June 2024.

### 2.1.9. SESAR Scientific Committee

Dr. Stathis Malakis (ATCO from Rhodes, GR) continues the work in the scientific committee.

## 2.2. Other activities coordinated by SESAR/EASA coordinator

### 2.2.1. Prosecutor Expert Courses

The courses took place in June and November 2023. Courses planned for May and November 2024 still have a few places left for ATCOs. As the November course will be held in Maastricht and priority was provided to the EGATS ATCOs, the May course has been advertised in February as a refresher course. A Just Culture Conference took place in Vienna in September.

SESAR coordinator participated to the Just Conference in Spain, co-organised by the Judiciary, the Professional ATCO Association and Eurocontrol.

#### 2.2.2. Joint Cognitive Human Machine System Group

38 meetings of the JCHMS Group have taken place. A separate information paper will be presented to Conference 24 with the Guidance Material elaborated by this group. Dedicated communication, educational and explanation activities are being prepared. The 4<sup>th</sup> Digitalisation Conference will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024 in Geneva. The outcome will be provided in form of a report.

#### 2.2.3. Eurocae

IFATCA has signed a memorandum of understanding which provides access to all the work of Eurocae.

All of this work has been carried out via remote platforms in the last year.

The following representatives are representing IFATCA in the Eurocae Working Groups (WG):

<b>WG</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Representative</b>
WG 51	ADS-B Asterix	Christoph Gilgen
WG 59	Flight Object interoperability	Thorsten Raue
WG 75	ACAS X	Christoph Gilgen
WG 82	LDACS	Marco Riccato
WG 100	Remote Tower	Katariina Syväys
WG 105	UAS	Eugenio Diotalevi
WG 111a	A-CDM	Olivia May
WG 114	AI	Mauro Barduani
WG 114 SG 5	AI – ODD	Marc Baumgartner
WG 115	C-drones	Christoph Gilgen / Eugenio Diotalevi
WG 122	Virtual Centres	Eugenio Diotalevi / Oliver Wessolek

#### 2.2.4. Environment

Following the publication of the PSO paper for SESAR on the sustainability of aviation and the staff approach to it, the EB approved the creation of a special task force which will focus on the environment. The group has met five times and started to produce some guidance. EASA has created a high-level Group on Climate. IFATCA is represented in this group by Tim Rees and the SESAR coordinator as his replacement.

#### 2.2.5. Remote Tower Task Force (RTTF)

The ROSC (Remote Operations Standing Committee) was established during the Conference of Toronto 2017 under the name Remotely Operated Tower Working Group as a specialized team tasked with the drafting of a position paper on Remote Towers Operations. The group had more than 40 people from all Regions and was coordinated through email and Basecamp.

For one year, the group developed its task and presented the position paper to committee B+C during the Accra Conference in 2018. The directors decided to change the status of the group to a standing committee.

21 meetings of the RTTF took place and a separate working paper for Conference 2024 is presented. The RTTF has participated to the work of the TOC by attending remotely to the Sofia meeting.

### 3. Conclusions

IFATCA has many representatives to EASA, Eurocae and SESAR willing and able to assist to ensure that the voice of the controller is heard in the various rulemaking, certification and research work.

A big thanks to all the IFATCA representatives that have spent some of their free time to give input to the work carried out in these various groups.