



63rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE
15-19 April 2024, Singapore

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS**

Agenda Item: P.4.2

INFORMATION PAPER

**WP No: 02
IFATCA'24**

**Report of the Deputy President,
Presented by Helena Sjöström**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Another fantastic year working for IFATCA, serving our members, and assisting in the work of forwarding our proud profession, has come to an end.
- 1.2. This report will be highlighting the work of the Deputy President during the year.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Conference work

- 2.1.1 The Deputy President is responsible for the organization of IFATCA's Annual Conference.
- 2.1.2 After the conference in Jamaica 2023, work on evaluating the conference started immediately. A survey was sent out to all delegates, and we also collected feedback from the Conference Committee (A, B and C) chairs and co-chairs. Based on this, we strive to continuously improve our annual conference, which is the one chance we have to meet across all four regions and country borders and is extremely important to the federation.
- 2.1.3 Our Conference Coordinator Jez Pigden, UK, is working tirelessly and he and I are in contact several times every week, constantly working to organize future conferences and improving the conference format. An updated edition of the Conference organizational requirements, which outlines the organization of annual conference is available on the IFATCA web page
Thank you, Jez!

2.2 Committees and Task Forces

- 2.2.1 As Deputy President I have the overseeing responsibility of the Constitutional and Administrative Committee, CAC; the Equity and Diversity Task Force, EDITF and the IFATCA2030+ Task Force. I also oversee IFATCA Communications.

- 2.2.2 These working groups have all been working very hard this year and you will see parts of this work boiled down to working papers which will be presented at conference in Singapore.
- 2.2.3 I keep regular contact with the chairs and I think I can safely say that they feel they are more than welcome to contact me anytime, to raise issues, ask questions or just have a chat.
- 2.2.4 As I hope all our members will have recognized, our communications section has greatly improved IFATCAs presence, both in social media and in the global aviation community.
- 2.2.5 I am equally proud of every last member of these groups and I am grateful for their work this year. I wish to especially mention the chairs: Rob Mason, Australia (CAC); Sverre Elsbak, Norway (EDITF); Julian Ogilvie, Switzerland (2030+) and Nicola Ni Riada, Ireland (Comms). Thank you all!
- 2.2.6 As DP I also oversee the Office in Montreal. Canada is far away from Sweden and this year I have not been able to visit the office in person. Our office manager Tatiana lavorskaia runs the work there quite independently and is a great asset to the federation.
- 2.2.7 The IFATCA web page has recently been updated and a fresh version is now online. Thank you, Philip Marien, EGATS, for your work on that and many other things.

3. MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Icelandic association invited me to the Nordic Meeting in Reykjavik Sept 13-15. As always it was a very well-organized meeting of the five Nordic MAs, lined with the warmest hospitality and friendship. The meeting held interesting presentation and discussions. Especially worth mentioning is that all Nordic countries suffer from staffing problems, which are expected to increase over the next years.
- 3.2 The Executive Board had its first in person meeting of the working year Sept 27 – 29 in Abu Dhabi, organized by PCX Duncan Auld. The meeting was efficient and productive and we all worked well together in good cooperation. We were hosted by the UAE General Aviation Authority and the arrangements were excellent.
- 3.3 While in Abu Dhabi, I also took the opportunity to have a meeting with the future OC of Conference 2025, where we discussed the format and proceedings of next year's conference.
- 3.4 I was invited to attend the European Regional Meeting in Riga, Latvia on October 17-19. A very high level meeting which speeches and a panel by executives from EASA, EUROCONTROL, the European Commission, AirBaltic, the Latvian Air Force, Latvijas Gaisa Satiksme (ANSP) and the Latvian Civil Aviation Agency. It was very rewarding to, during breaks and evenings, interact with members from most of our Europeans MAs.

- 3.5 The Norwegian MA NATCA invited me to their Höstsamling (Autumn Gathering) on November 25-26. I gave a presentation on IFATCA in general and also shared my thoughts on the way forward for our volunteer organizations and on recruiting the next generations of ATCOs. I greatly appreciate the hospitality and generosity of NATCA Norway and am also very grateful for their support of our EDI chair Sverre Elsbak in his work with equality issues for IFATCA.
- 3.6 The Constitutional and Administrative Committee, CAC and the Finance Committee, FIC had a combined meeting in Ft Lauderdale, Florida November 28-30. The meeting was generously hosted by NATCA USA and organized by FIC member Andrew LeBovidge. We worked thru all the working papers being produced by CAC and FIC and the meeting was very efficient and valuable.
- 3.7 The plan was that I would be representing the Executive Board at the Africa Middle East Regional Meeting in Alger 19-21 November, but when the meeting on short notice (and due to reasons beyond the Algerian MA's control) had to be re-scheduled to Nigeria in December, it was not possible for me to attend due to my roster at Stockholm ATCC. This was a big disappointment to me and I do hope that I will be able to attend a regional meeting in Africa Middle East soon. I however participated in the meeting online and gave a presentation on my work as DP and on conference matters.
- 3.8 On February 19-22, the EB had its second in person meeting of the working year in Amsterdam. The meeting was fruitful and we achieved what needed to be done. Some EB members could not attend or could not attend the full meeting, which always is a pity, but since we all have other duties this is sometimes the case. The meeting was very well organized by EVPT Benjamin van der Sanden and was sponsored by the Netherlands MA. A big thank you to them!
- 3.9 CANSO has invited me as a speaker and panelist at Airspace World in Geneva March 19-21. The panel in question has the title: **Strategies for talent attraction, are we doing it right?** My co-panelists are high level executives at EUROCAE, FAA, CANSO and Aviation for All. It is a great honor and an excellent opportunity to promote IFATCA's work to the world's largest and most influential aviation event. At the time of writing this (due to the deadline for working papers to conference) the event is still in the future but I will do my very best and will give a verbal update at conference in Singapore.
- 3.10 Besides the live meetings, I have participated in almost all of the EB's weekly zoom meetings (Tuesdays at 13.00 UTC). The EB also has literally hundreds of communications via phone, text and WhatsApp every week.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In Jamaica and after the Conference, I got and I still have a very good feeling about the federation and it's future. People are positive, supportive, engaged, committed and generally energetic. There is still room for improvement in e.g. organization and coordination and I hope I will be able to contribute towards that in the years to come.
- 4.2 I have received better support from my employer, the Swedish ANSP LFV, in the year since last conference. In Sept-Oct-Nov and Feb-March, I received three working days per month for meetings. This helps a lot and I thank LFV for this. LFV also chose to highlight International Women's Day March 8th by interviewing me about my work as Deputy President of IFATCA, and particularly about our work on equality issues. The interview was filmed and published on all of LFV's internal and external media channels.
- 4.3 I also want to thank my home association, SATCA for their continued financial support for my IFATCA work as well as their unwavering friendship.
- 4.4 As always, it has been a group effort and I warmly thank my fellow EB members. We do it together, as a team!
- 4.5 Last but certainly not least, I want to thank my fiancée and soon-to-be husband for his patience, his understanding and his love and support. Thank you, Pierre.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That this report is accepted as information.