

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT PROFESSIONAL

Presented by Peter van Rooyen (EVP P)

SUMMARY

This report covers the activities of the Executive Vice President Professional (EVP P) from the Conference in Jamaica until the Executive Board Meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2024. It is structured in sections about Meetings Attended, Professional and Legal Committee (PLC), IFATCA Mental Wellbeing Task Force (MWTF), ICAO Mental Health Task Force, ICAO Safety Management Panel (SMP), ICAO Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP), IFATCA Training Task Force (TTF) and Workshops, Budget Spend 23/24 and Other Activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report covers the professional and legal domain of the federation from the end of the Jamaican conference to the Executive Board Meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2024 of the Executive Vice President Professional (EVP P). Information about any subsequent activity will be provided during the presentation of this report at the conference.
- 1.2. My responsibilities as Executive Vice President Professional (EVP P) include oversight of and cooperation with the Professional and Legal Committee (PLC), IFATCA Mental Wellbeing Task Force (MWTF) including the ICAO Mental Health WG, EUROCAE NGAP WG-125, ICAO Safety Management Panel (SMP) and ICAO Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP), and IFATCA Training Task Force and Workshops. Any other Professional or Legal activity deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
- 1.3. This report is intended to be a summary of the current situation of the professional domain of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Association (IFATCA) than a detailed account of every meeting or event attended.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Meetings Attended

- Most of the weekly EB Zoom meetings, Tuesdays at 15:00 UTC.
- IFATCA Annual Conference in Jamaica, 8 - 12 May 2023.
- IFATCS TTF Meeting, 6 June 2023 (Zoom).

- PLC – TOC Management meeting, 7 June 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA TTF Meeting, 19 June 2023 (Zoom).
- PLC Monthly Catch-up Meetings, 26 June 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA TTF Meeting 19 July 2023 (Zoom).
- PLC Monthly Catch-up Meeting, 24 July 2023 (Zoom),
- IFATCA TTF ATM Meeting, 7 August 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA 2030+ Meeting, 16 August 2023 (Zoom).
- PLC Monthly Catch-up Meeting, 21 August 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA TTF SP Meeting 31 August 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA EB Meeting, UAE 26 – 28 September 2023.
- IFATCA PLC Meeting, Melbourne 3 – 5 October 2023.
- PLC Monthly Catch-up Meeting, 13 November 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA TTF Language Proficiency, 17 November 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA TTF Meeting, 3 December 2023 (Zoom).
- IFATCA MWTF Meeting, 7 December 2023 (Zoom).
- Dr Bill Hoffman ATC wellbeing Meeting, 8 December 2023 (Zoom).
- PLC Monthly Catch-up Meeting, 11 December 2023 (Zoom).
- PLC Chair Meeting, 8 January 2024 (Zoom).
- IFATCA PLC Meeting, Sofia 17 – 19 January 2024.
- IFATCA MWTF Meeting, 23 January 2024 (Zoom).
- Just Culture Meeting 1 ACI, IFALPA, CANSO, 21 January 2024 (Zoom).
- IFATCA MWTF Meeting, 12 March 2024 (Zoom).

2.2. Professional and Legal Committee

- 2.2.1. PLC produced well-researched papers on various topics for Singapore. We had all our meetings well within budget and the working papers were submitted to the office 45 days before conference as requested.
- 2.2.2. The topics that will be up for discussion at the IFATCA Annual Conference are:
- Confusion with leased aircraft – Kurt – Jamaica.
 - Deactivation of safety tools – Michelle – USA.
 - Definition of an ATCO – Naoto – Japan.
 - Reviewing of the policy on operating in unsafe airspace and airspace closure – Liraz – Israel.
 - Training Policy Review –Jonne– The Netherlands.
 - Work and Rest scheme – Olga – Greece.
 - Review of the Automation Policy – Combined with TOC – Zhan – Bulgaria.
 - System-based Licensing – Combines with TOC - Mark – Slovenia.
 - VFR Workload and Capacity – Combined with TOC - Lycra – Romania.
 - RPAS DAA RWC Latency – Combined with TOC - Donna – Australia.
- 2.2.3. Although the PLC group is still very inexperienced, both commenting periods went very well, and the maturity of the papers compared to other years is evident. PLC consisted of the following Members: Donna (Australia), Zhan (Bulgaria), Olga (Greece), Liraz (Israel), Andrea (Italy), Kurt (Jamaica), Naoto (Japan), Rosie (Kenya), Lycra (Romania), Mark (Slovenia), Jonne (The Netherlands) and Michelle (USA). I believe the amount of work put into the extra Zoom meetings paid off here and the fact that the group has gained experience from last year.

2.2.4. A big thank you to David Perks (Australia) who was a special advisor to PLC during the year, his input was invaluable and as always of a very high standard at all times.

2.2.5. The PLC Chair Adam Exley has done a fantastic job in pulling the group together and leading the group, he has also submitted a detailed report to conference.

2.3. **IFATCA Mental Wellbeing Task Force (MWTF)**

2.3.1. A new Task Force (TF) has been established to investigate specifically the complex subject of Mental Health and Wellbeing. The TF consists of Jaco (Chair – South Africa), Bron (Australia), Marc (Switzerland) and Andrew (USA). Jaco also submitted a comprehensive report to conference.

2.3.2. The TF kicked off with a bang and did the planning for the mental wellbeing panel in Singapore including determining what the expected outcome should be for the panel. The Terms of Reference (ToR) was developed and completed and is now available on the IFATCA Website.

2.3.3. The MWTF developed a questionnaire on mental wellbeing for the IFATCA conference to establish where IFATCA and our Member Association are when it comes to Mental Wellbeing. This information will be analysed by the TF and a strategy will be determined for future work.

2.4. **ICAO Mental Health Work Group**

2.4.1. The ICAO Mental Health WG is progressing strong and IFATCA has received an invitation by the International Pilot Peer Assist Coalition (IPPAC) to join a panel of experts in Colone.

2.4.2. IPPAC has been doing a lot of work since the Germanwings accident in bringing together all the possible expertise in Pilot Peer Support both in Europe and internationally to share experiences and ideas to improve our various pilot Peer Support Programmes around the world.

2.4.3. Last year's IPPAC conference in London was particularly successful and caught the eye of ICAO, Johann Wiem, he has suggested that IPPAC to widen the scope of the organisation from pilots to include all safety-critical personnel which ICAO is responsible for: specifically, Flight Attendants, ATCOs and Licenced Mechanics.

2.4.4. The vision is to rebrand IPPAC as IPAAC: the International Peer Assist Aviation Coalition and connect all the ICAO disciplines together in one broad coalition whilst retaining the unique characteristics of each branch. The overall aim is to make IPAAC the focal point for all things Peer Support in aviation and have all the experts together in one place every year to share their learning.

2.4.5. With that in mind, IPPAC invited IFATCA to make a short presentation in Cologne at the IPPAC conference in November (6-8th) 2023. This was done by Jaco van der Westhuizen and a good result has been achieved. We believe that IFATCA is the correct organisation to represent ATCOs at IPAAC. IFATCA has been invited to attend the next IPAAC conference in Japan from 5 - 7 November 2024.

2.5. **EUROCAE NGAP WG-125**

2.5.1. I have not received any feedback about this meeting since the Jamaica conference.

2.6. **ICAO Safety Management Panel (SMP)**

2.6.1. IFATCA is represented by Andy Belshaw from the United Kingdom. Everything is going smoothly at the Safety Management Panel, there is nothing to report from my side and Andy did provide a comprehensive report to conference on the SMP.

2.7. **ICAO Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP)**

2.7.1. IFATCA is represented by Ausra Straume from Latvia. Everything is going smoothly at the Personnel Training and Licensing Panel, there is nothing to report from my side and Ausra did provide a comprehensive report to conference on the PTLP.

2.8. **IFATCA Training Task Force (TTF)**

2.8.1. The Training Task Force, as it stands now, has been joined by 29 members from 20 IFATCA Member Associations, covering all four IFATCA regions: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Latvia, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States. The Chair of the TTF is Jean Francois Lepage (Canada) and he also submitted a detailed report to conference on the TTF.

2.8.2. It has been busy at the IFATCA TTF, there have been a few meetings, and the group was divided into 4 Champion Groups (CG). The CGs are:

- Safety Matters (SM)
- Air Traffic Management (ATM)
- Aerodrome (AERO)
- Professional Matters (PM)

2.8.3. The rapporteurs are busy producing the very first small training lessons that will be available on the IFATCA Academy website.

2.8.4. Ben Kings has been identified to take over from Jean Francois Lepage as Chair, he has already started doing lots of extra work to prepare for this role. The IFATCA Academy Website is ready to start hosting the first courses and the TTF is using Open Projects to track all the training courses that are being developed by the various champion groups.

2.9. **Workshops**

2.9.1. The Dominican Republic Member Association (ADCA) hosted a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) peer debriefer training course from 2 - 5 October 2023. The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) Instructor Tom Morin was assisted by NATCA CISM team lead Sarah Grampp in the week-long training at the Academia Superior de Ciencias Aeronauticas (ASCA) in Santo Domingo. Seven ATCOs from ADCA participated and were certified

as peer debriefers. Additionally, the Bahamas sent an attendee who was certified and will be a strong advocate for setting up a program in that country.

- 2.9.2. The Prosecutor Experts 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.

2.10. **Joint Cognitive Human Machine System Group (JCHMS)**

- 2.10.1. The JCHMS group has been extremely busy, they had 38 meetings in total developing guidance material for IFATCA. A separate information paper will be presented at the IFATCA Conference 2024 with the Guidance Material developed by this group. Dedicated communication, educational and explanation activities are being prepared by the group. On the 22nd of March 2024, the 4th Digitalisation Conference was hosted in Geneva by the IFATCA JCHMS group.

2.11. **Speak English Programme (SEP)**

- 2.11.1. The IFATCA Speak English Programme is running smoothly, this programme is arguably the best and most successful programme IFATCA has to offer and it's all due to the dedication of the secretariat and instructors of the programme.

2.12. **Professional Financial Situation**

- 2.12.1. The professional budget is looking good at this stage and every possible precaution is taken to minimise the expenditure.
- 2.12.2. Although we have managed to keep the meetings well below the allocated budget, it is purely because of the generous sponsorship from our MAs. PLC as a committee is highly appreciative of the generosity of our respective host MAs and the friendships that were formed during our meetings.

2.13. **General**

- 2.13.1. A Just Culture Conference took place in Vienna in September. The SESAR coordinator participated in the Just Conference in Spain, co-organised by the Judiciary, the Professional ATCO Association and Eurocontrol.
- 2.13.2. I would like to thank my Family, my home association (GATCSA) and my employer ATNS for their support and all the IFATCA Board Members serving on the Executive Board for their help when called upon. I believe as a board we have moved forward and not only achieved quite a significant number of goals but also developed a lasting friendship.

3. **CONCLUSION**

- 3.1. It has been quite a challenging year for the Professional domain again but with the dedication of all the hard-working volunteers all the goals were achieved and IFATCA as a Professional Organisation representing Air Traffic Controllers all over the world has made its voice clear, we have influenced the debate where possible and gave valuable opinions where necessary.

3.2. Thank you very much to all the dedicated volunteers spending their free time to serve the Federation, giving up valuable time mostly away from your family to better the profession we all love so dearly.

4. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. It is recommended that this paper be accepted as information.

--END--