

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

20 OCTOBER –

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS**



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HISTORY OF IFATCA

Air traffic control is one of the world's youngest professions. Like many modern professions, it has developed from the humblest beginnings into a highly sophisticated and technology-dependant occupation. Even today, many people are not aware of air traffic control and few comprehend just what is involved in "keeping aircraft apart" and, sometimes, getting them (closer) together.

The idea of a world body for controllers was actually first proposed in 1956 by Mr. Jacob Wachtel, founder and first chairman of the Israel Air Traffic Controllers' Association. Over the next few years he wrote to associations in many countries and received a positive feedback. A working group was formed to prepare the foundation of the European Federation of Air Traffic Controllers Associations (EFATCA).

The venue and timing for the foundation meeting of the European Federation was decided upon for 19th and 20th October, 1961 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. However, during the course of the conference it was made known that at least twenty other national organisations also had expressed an interest in joining such a federation. And that is how the representative body of air traffic controllers was founded by twelve European countries. It has since grown to 132 Member Associations and represents more than fifty thousand air traffic controllers world-wide.

Today the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) is well represented in international forums involving International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Eurocontrol, the European Union and others.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF IFATCA

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations is an independent, non-government, non-political professional organisation, and its main objectives are:

- To promote safety, efficiency, and regularity in international air navigation;
- To assist and advise in the development of safe and orderly systems of air traffic control (ATC);
- To promote and uphold a high standard of knowledge and professional efficiency among air traffic controllers;

- To protect and safeguard the interests of the air traffic control profession;
- To make mutually beneficial affiliations with other international organisations;
- To strive for a worldwide federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations.

In order to achieve and follow these aims, the Federation will closely co-operate with national and international aviation authorities, and other institutions, corporations or persons concerned with air navigation. The Federation shall assist wherever possible in the development of new procedures and facilities necessary and useful for the safety of international air traffic. It shall collect and distribute information on professional problems and developments across the world, and shall seek to support and sponsor the passage of legislation and regulations, which will increase and protect the safety of air navigation, through the development of appropriate working conditions in air traffic control.

The Federation is a voluntary body with one permanent administration staff. The management of the Federation is the responsibility of the Executive Board comprising nine elected officers and an

appointed Secretary/Conference Executive. With the exception of the administrative staff, all officers perform their tasks and projects on an honorary basis, which is representative of the members' dedication to their profession.

The changing nature of present Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems involves many facets ranging from the status of the Air Traffic Services (ATS) providers to the reduction of separation standards. However, there is one constant in the process and that is **safety**. There is a need to establish a



common baseline from which standards can be applied. At the same time, the application of safety standards must be transparent to all parties.

It is essential that the responsibility for safety regulation be totally divorced from the provision of ATS. The commercial elements of ATS are not necessarily compatible with safety requirements, which should be mandated by an independent state authority.

IFATCA believes that sufficient resources should be directed towards establishing robust and independent safety regulation at national, regional and global levels to encompass ATM equipment, procedures and personnel.

CONTROLLER MAGAZINE



The official publication of IFATCA is “The Controller” magazine, which is published quarterly.

The journal addresses all aspects of air traffic control, with an emphasis on human factors and new technology. Developments in avionics, control techniques new airborne and ground-based equipment also strongly figure.

The magazine has its own website: www.the-controller.net

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE CONTROLLER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER



On October 20, 2007, air traffic controllers around the world will observe the International Day of the Controller. IFATCA, the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations, which was formed on this day forty-six years earlier in The Netherlands, has designated this "Day of the Controller" in recognition of the air traffic control profession and its considerable contribution to the development of the air transport industry. Worldwide

celebrations will be held on this day to recognise air traffic controllers; of whom more than 50,000 make up the IFATCA membership.

For the theme of this year's celebrations IFATCA has chosen the theme: [Worldwide Collaboration for Safety and Efficiency](#).

In today's aviation world, unprecedented security and safety delays are an ever-present cause of concern for the traveling public. However amid this confusion there is a constant presence - a reassuring element working behind the scenes to maintain the highest levels of safety assurance and efficiency to the flying public. This is the **Air Traffic Controller**.

In our statement on the future of global ATM published this year, we state the view that more than anything else a comprehensive solution for air traffic management requires a high level of cooperation among the members of the ATM community. Air traffic control represents this cooperation. In every country, Air Traffic Controllers are on the job twenty-four/seven working tirelessly behind the scenes to enable airlines to meet passenger requirements, to minimise delays and to ensure a safe and uneventful flight for all passengers.

On this "**Day of the Controller**" The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations reiterates our pledge to continue to do our part to ensure that international aviation is as safe and efficient as it can be. October 20 celebrations will enhance the sense of pride in controllers everywhere, and acknowledge accomplishments of the past, challenges of the future, and the increasingly important role controllers continue to play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Baumgartner'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Marc Baumgartner
IFATCA President