



On the initiative of BGATC, EGATS and TUEM, operational staff from BELGOCONTROL and EUROCONTROL Maastricht UAC sat together recently in an informal setting to discuss operational related tensions, as well as problems associated to the development of FABEC.

With regards to operational issue gridlocks, we believe a lot of them stem from a lack of mutual understanding and knowledge of each other's procedures and airspace.

The abolishment of familiarisation visits and of the dedicated inter-centre working group has had a detrimental effect on the relations between controllers in the two ATC centres.

We urge operational managers to reconsider these decisions as it is clear that this could indeed have a positive effect on safety.

On the FABEC issues, and in full accordance with the Operational Driven Concept as laid down in the Single European Sky legislation (SES II), TUEM, EGATS and BGATC want to make clear that progresses on the operational issues is paramount.

Our common area of interest concentrates the full perimeter of challenges FABEC will face in the near future!

Sadly enough, we must observe that current lack of political direction for FABEC, with the natural trend for ANSPs to take conservative, defensive and/or non-transparent positions, has provoked heavy tensions, percolating down to the level of operational experts in FABEC groups.

Political mandates shall not take precedent in Operational Working Groups!

Our three organizations have warned several times that these phenomena's could hamper not only the whole FABEC process but also safety at front end actors level in the most complex ATC environment in Europe.

As members of the MOSAIC ATM Regional Coordination group (MARC), we urge both our Management organizations to re-construct their relationship through appropriate actions, not in a context of "competition and positioning" but solely in the context of "getting resources in common to address the complexity of our area of interest".

To this end, we are also eagerly looking forward to the start of a real social dialogue at FABEC level, and are indeed ready to actively take part in it.

Ive Van Weddingen
President EGATS

Olivier Nicolay
President BGATC

Volker Dick
President TUEM