

Your Excellency,

Since the Belgian as well as International media continue to grossly misrepresent what is currently happening within Belgocontrol, DATCA would like to highlight certain facts about the proceedings regarding Belgian airspace.

- Belgian Air Traffic Controllers did not attend, call for or encourage any strike action. A circulating letter, which states that BGATC called for such actions is slander, which is misleading the media and the general public.
- The way Belgocontrol management deliberately chose to force a collective agreement for the Belgocontrol staff without proper regard for social dialogue and given the sensitivity of these unilateral measures and the impact they would have on the individual Air Traffic Controllers at Belgocontrol, the detrimental impact this would have on their ability to provide a safe and efficient service was entirely predictable.
- For Belgocontrol management to ignore basic European workers regulation and basing their entire operation on voluntary overtime, is a reckless act which can only lead to fatigue, stress and personal despair for the operational staff involved.
- To those who are droning on about the effects this situation has on the image of Belgocontrol, Brussels Airport and Belgium: maybe they should try to imagine what the effect an accident would be on that image, especially if it was the result of an Air Traffic Controller unable to perform properly due to the impact of this political decision on his/her work environment, career and personal life.
- The issues at Belgocontrol are many, and by far exceed the problems of retirement age and career: lack of investments resulting in serious technical outages, structural staff shortages resulting in people working up to 12 consecutive shifts or more, complete lack of vision and long-term outlook for the company and its staff, and we could go on.
- Air Traffic Controllers, like other safety critical personnel, are OBLIGED to report unfit for duty if they judge they are physically and/or mentally unfit to perform their duties. A Union or Association advising their members not to adhere to this would be breaking the law and endangering the general public.
- We call upon all involved parties to resolve these issues once and for all. We hope that you will be able to reach a solution that would allow Air Traffic Controllers to focus on service delivery and Safety, rather than having to deal with political agendas.

On behalf of DATCA



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Addressed to:

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