



"[air navigation control, [...] is a task involving the exercise of public authority and is not of an economic nature, since that activity constitutes a service in the public interest which is intended to protect both the users of air transport and the populations affected by aircraft flying over them".
(Extract of decision C.364/92 of the European Court of Justice).

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APPEAL: PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR IS NOT A CRIME!

Brussels, 18th April 2021

This week three Air Traffic Controllers, Flora Ndreca, Armando Fezga and Muhin Mezini, will be on trial in an Albanian Court.

They have been arbitrarily arrested and charged with "Abuse of power" for the crime of professional behaviour having declared themselves "*temporarily unfit*", in accordance with the strict rules laid out in the Albanian Competence Scheme for Air Traffic Controllers and in EU Regulation 2015/340.

They are not criminals, they were not involved in a Coup d'Etat as some Albanian Govt. Ministers have accused them. They were only acting as the highly skilled professionals they are and their only goal was, as always, to provide an excellent and safe service to the planes flying to, from and over Albania.

Is this a crime? In Albania it seems it is.

The only criminal act here is that of the Albanian Govt. forcing unfit people to work in a safety critical environment!

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ATCEUC is asking for an independent and impartial court which should accept that the three only followed the Legal and Professional Rules that they are bound by in the interest of the flying and the overflown public and asks that all Institutions and Organizations responsible for Human Rights should send Observers.

It is essential to avoid an unfair trial and ensure that there is no deep political bias in a process that could send three innocent people to prison.

END OF THE APPEAL

Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination (ATCEUC) was created in 1989 and is currently composed of 32 professional and autonomous trade unions representing more than 14000 Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) and Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEPs) throughout Europe. ATCEUC is part of the "European Union Sectoral Social Dialogue - Civil Aviation" in the air traffic management field and it is recognised as a full member of the ICB. ATCEUC with its experts participates in every work group where the voice of its Members can and have to be expressed: SESAR JU, TSG, EGHD, EASA STeB, EASC, ASPReT, ATM Partners and other workshops or programmes within the framework of EUROCONTROL and the European Commission.