



**International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations**

**IFATSEA Region Europe**

**The Global Voice of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

**IFATSEA region Europe Calls for Stronger Investment in ATSEP Training and Maintenance Strategy** following major Air Traffic disruption in Northern Italy.

The **International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA\*)** region Europe expresses its deep concern over the recent technical failure that severely disrupted Air Traffic Operations in Northern Italy on 29 June 2025.

The incident affecting the Milan Area Control Centre (ACC) led to a near-total suspension of air traffic services across a large portion of Italian airspace. Based on the information currently available, the disruption was caused by a loss of both radar and communication services, leaving controllers unable to safely manage traffic within Milan ACC's area of responsibility.

Although the core incident lasted around two hours, its impact was far-reaching, with delays and cancellations continuing well after the systems were restored, due to the inevitable domino effect across the European network.

Moreover, as we continue to experience frequent disruptions across the **European network**, some of which are linked to staffing shortages in several countries, this is an issue that **EASA, European Commission and possibly Eurocontrol** should address more methodically.

We must not overlook the fact that capacity is significantly impacted during CNS/ATM system degradation, this should prompt us to take proactive measures that empower ATSEP professionals to effectively address and resolve such issues.

### **A Call for Coordinated and Forward-Looking Action**

While investigations are still underway to determine the exact root causes of this incident, **IFATSEA** region Europe believes it is vital to highlight the broader implications.

This event underscores the increasing complexity and interdependence of modern Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems, where uninterrupted data flow, robust communications, and reliable surveillance infrastructure are critical to operational safety.

**IFATSEA** region Europe is calling on national authorities, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), and European institutions to take immediate steps to:

1. **Invest in the upskilling and continuous development of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEP)** — the technical experts who ensure the safety, performance, availability and integrity of ATM systems.



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2. **Strengthen system maintenance strategies and operational readiness**, by adopting more resilient infrastructure designs, reliable redundancy mechanisms, and proactive fault response capabilities.
3. **Acknowledge and support the evolving role of ATSEP professionals** as the frontline guardians of aviation technology — particularly as ATM systems become increasingly reliant on automation, digitalization, and artificial intelligence.

**"This is not just a technical glitch, it's a wake-up call,"** said **Costas Christoforou**, Executive Board Member of **IFATSEA** and Director Europe.

"As Europe moves toward the full implementation of the **Single European Sky** and embraces emerging technologies such as **virtual centers and AI-driven systems**, we must adapt how we train, staff, and support those who maintain the infrastructure. **ATSEP professionals are at the core element of aviation safety** and must be empowered accordingly."

**IFATSEA** region Europe will continue to follow the situation closely and remains available to offer its technical expertise and support. We urge all stakeholders to treat **engineering competence and maintenance integrity as a strategic safety priority, not as an afterthought.**

**IFATSEA** Region Europe remains fully available for any consultations on these critical safety matters, in support of **flight safety** across the **European network.**

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**\*About IFATSEA ([www.ifatsea.org](http://www.ifatsea.org))**

The **International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations** represents ATSEP professionals worldwide, advocating for excellence, safety, and professionalism in aviation technical services.