

International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations



IFATSEA

The Global Voice of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel

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To: **IFATSEA AFFILIATES**

(Via E-Mail)

Press Release: Statement on Athens FIR Disruption, January 4, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 8, 2026

The International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA) acknowledges the unprecedented communications failure within the Athens Flight Information Region (FIR), which resulted to a multi-hour airspace closure. We recognize and regret the significant disruption, delays, and uncertainty experienced by thousands of passengers.

While safety remained uncompromised, thanks to the efficient implementation of contingency procedures by Greek ATSEP professionals who reacted promptly and competently under immense pressure. **IFATSEA** shares the public's frustration and we assure the traveling public that maintaining safe and reliable air travel remains our highest priority.

Ongoing Investigation – Commitment to Facts

No definitive cause for the outage has been identified, and formal investigations are currently underway. IFATSEA fully supports a transparent, "Just Culture" examination to determine the root causes of this incident. We emphasize that premature speculation is counterproductive. The concurrent investigations by the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA) and the Hellenic Air Navigation Service Provider (HASP) ensure that a comprehensive technical truth will be established.

Commending Aviation Professionals

According to reports from HASP, ATSEP teams were immediately dispatched to mountainous relay stations and worked expeditiously with the ATSEP team at ACC to analyse the occurred system malfunctions and failures and the service degradation.

IFATSEA commends the dedication of all aviation personnel who worked tirelessly to restore operations. Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEP), Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs), and support staff operated around the clock under challenging conditions to re-establish critical links. Their expertise was instrumental in safeguarding flight safety and managing the gradual resumption of services.

Lessons learned from this event must lead to strengthened infrastructure, robust contingency planning, and increased investment in technology, staffing, and training.

Commitment to Safety and Cooperation

Recalling our 2023 communication to the Hellenic Ministry of Transport regarding RTS and state of the art technologies, our Federation stands ready to support our Greek Member Association,



ANSPs, and all ATM community partners. **IFATSEA** remains committed to collaborating with regulators and service providers to uphold the highest standards of safety and system reliability.

About IFATSEA

The International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA) represents air traffic safety electronics personnel worldwide. IFATSEA promotes the highest standards of aviation safety through professional excellence, technical expertise, and international cooperation. Our members are dedicated to ensuring safe, efficient air navigation and working collaboratively with the global aviation community to prevent incidents and protect the flying public.



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