



## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

360 St. Jacques, Suite 2002, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1P5 CANADA  
Tel.: +1.514.866.7040, Fax: +1.514.866.7612, Email: [office@ifatca.org](mailto:office@ifatca.org)

31 March 2025

**TO:**

Ms. Željka Cvijanović, Chairwoman of the Presidency of BiH  
Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Borjana Krišto, Chairwoman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Denis Zvizdić, Chairman of the House of Representatives  
Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Nikola Špirić, Chairman of the House of Peoples  
Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Edin Forto, Minister  
Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Srđan Amidžić, Minister  
Ministry of Finance and Treasury of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Subject: Urgent Need for Resolution to Prevent the Collapse of Air Navigation  
Services in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir:

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA), representing professional Air Traffic Controllers' Associations in 131 countries, including 41 in Europe, wishes to express its profound concern regarding the imminent risk to air navigation services in, out of, and over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The enforcement order issued to EUROCONTROL on 21 March 2025 has triggered an immediate financial crisis for the Bosnia and Herzegovina Air Navigation Services Agency (BHANSa) by mandating the complete suspension of all route charge payments. Given that these payments constitute 90% of BHANSa's funding and are directly linked to the ICSID arbitration case (Viaduct d.o.o. Portorož v. Bosnia and Herzegovina), the agency is now on the verge of operational collapse.

Our intent is not to sound unnecessary alarm or to reiterate arguments that other organizations may have already presented, but rather to urgently draw attention to the human dimensions and potential safety consequences, and the urgent need for viable (negotiated) solutions.

Without an immediate and coordinated national resolution engaging all responsible stakeholders, the suspension of air navigation services will become unavoidable. Such an outcome would result in the complete shutdown of air traffic control operations within Bosnia and Herzegovina's airspace, leading to the closure of international airports in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, and Tuzla. This would have far-reaching effects, including the disruption of military, humanitarian, and medical flights, notably those related to the EUFOR Althea mission.

Moreover, all future investments essential for accommodating air traffic growth along the South-East Axis (SE Axis) would be halted indefinitely, placing immense strain on the European aviation network.

Beyond the operational and logistical challenges, this situation is placing significant pressure on BHANSA's Air Traffic Controllers and their colleagues. If a sustainable solution is not reached soon to maintain current conditions and future agreements, these professionals may face financial uncertainty and increased stress. Such circumstances could impact air traffic safety, which relies on the ability of human operators to perform effectively in a demanding environment. Ensuring a stable and secure working environment is essential to maintaining safety standards. Trust is a key. Rising stress levels within BHANSA are already having a negative effect, with potential long-term consequences not only at the local level but also across the region and the broader European network.

A suspension of operations would also necessitate the rerouting of flights, exacerbating congestion in neighbouring airspaces, many of which are already under considerable strain due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, which has reduced the available route network to only 80%. The resulting restrictions would lead to significant operational disruptions, causing extensive delays for airlines and passengers across Europe.

Immediate and clear agreements must be established to alleviate the stress on BHANSA personnel and to restore confidence in the stability of air navigation services. The decisions made in the coming days will be critical in shaping Bosnia and Herzegovina's reputation within the international aviation community. This crisis requires unprecedented and decisive actions, and under no circumstances should air traffic controllers and BHANSA personnel bear the consequences of an unrelated financial dispute.

We respectfully call upon EU institutions, EUROCONTROL, and the international community to take swift action to resolve this matter before it escalates into a full-scale aviation crisis. Immediate measures must be taken to review the current blockage of route charge funds mechanism, when the continued suspension poses a severe risk to air navigation services. Furthermore, we urge the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect BHANSA personnel from any financial repercussions—both immediate and long-term—to ensure the uninterrupted provision of safe, stable, and efficient air navigation services at the high standards expected by the international community and the passengers.

Your urgent attention and intervention in this matter are not only necessary but imperative for the safety and stability of European air traffic as the summer airline schedule season is about to start.

Yours Sincerely,



Frederic Deleau  
IFATCA, Executive Vice-President Europe

**CC:**

Mr. Christian Schmidt  
Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina  
srd@ohr.int

Ms. Nives JUKIĆ  
Ms. Jasminka Džumhur  
Mr. Nevenko vranješ  
The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH  
sa.ombudsmen@ombudsmen.gov.ba

Ms. Elissavet Vozemberg  
Member of European Parliament  
Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism  
elissavet.vozemberg@europarl.europa.eu

Mr. Gert Jan KOOPMAN  
Director-General Directorate-General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations  
Gert-Jan.Koopman@ec.europa.eu

Ms Valentina SUPERTI  
Director Near.D  
Valentina.Superti@ec.europa.eu

Mr. Filip CORNELIS  
Deputy Director-General — Coordination of Directorates C, D, E  
Filip.Cornelis@ec.europa.eu

Ms. Flor DIAZ-PULIDO  
European Commission  
Head of Unit Single European Sky (MOVE.DDG2.E.3)  
flor.Diaz-Pulido@ec.europa.eu

Mr. Florian GUILLERMET  
EASA Executive Director  
florian.guillermet@easa.europa.eu