



VIA EMAIL

March 20, 2021

To

All IFATSEA Affiliates

Subject: IFATSEA Developments at ICAO

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter I would like to inform you about the latest developments of IFATSEA at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). We are making big steps ahead in highlighting the importance of the ATSEP profession in Civil Aviation at ICAO and within this on the global political level.

Executive Summary

IFATSEA is now, with these improvements, absolutely recognized as an official Observer in ICAO. We start contributing to ICAO on the highest level of Commissions, Panels and Working Groups. Progress like this does not fall from the sky, many IFATSEA Representatives from several Member Associations and Associated Associations have expended time and financial resources to make IFATSEA visible in ICAO. This evolves from our engagement in NGAP, in developing the PANS-TRG Doc 9868, the Doc 10057 Manual on ATSEP Competency-based Training and Assessment and our involvement in continuously updating the Documents, the presence of IFATSEA Representatives at ICAO Assembly's, Air Navigation Conferences and Events and contribution to activities in ICAO Regional Offices. The expertise of IFATSEA Representatives is welcome and appreciated. We are strengthening our global network to address objectives in the interest of the profession of ATSEP.

ICAO Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP)

The IFATSEA Executive Board noted the ICAO State Letter Ref.: SP 76/1- 20/87, dated 18 August 2020, about the establishment of the ICAO Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP). In this State Letter, ICAO announced that the Air Navigation Commission approved the nominations for membership on the PTLP from the following Member States and international organizations: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Nigeria, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Central American Aviation Safety Agency (ACSA), European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations (IAOPA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) and International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA).

The President and the Executive Secretary of IFATSEA acted immediately, drafting and sending a letter to ICAO on the 31st August 2020. Based on the great support of IFATSEA Representatives with timely and financial resources in the creation of the ICAO PANS-TRG, Doc 9868, Part IV-Chapter 3, and the ICAO Manual on ATSEP Competency Based Training and Assessment, Doc 10057, IFATSEA asked for consideration in the composition of the PTLP. On 29 October 2020, the President of the Air Navigation Commission approved that IFATSEA is welcome to have an Observer status in the PTLP. Ongoing, in this process, IFATSEA received a letter from Secretary General of ICAO dated 15 January 2021. We noted the information that the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) has determined the composition of the members to the PTLP to its maximum capacity and, that unfortunately, no additional members can be accepted at this time. However, ICAO granted to IFATSEA an Observer status, in consideration of the nature and scope of work of the PTLP.

The IFATSEA Executive Board believes in the importance for IFATSEA to be involved in training and licensing in ICAO. The IFATSEA Executive Board identified the opportunity to expand the network within ICAO and to achieve the goal of becoming an Observer in the ICAO Air Navigation Commission. The Executive Board decided unanimously that IFATSEA nominated me, as the President, for the seat as Observer in the ICAO PTLP. Following a letter dated 28 January 2021, I received a letter from ICAO by Gerda Pardatscher, Secretary Personnel Training and Licensing Panel, to participate at the first meeting scheduled 1 to 10 February 2021 (PTLP/1). According to ICAO Doc 7984/5 - Directives for Panels of the Air Navigation Commission, I am empowered as an Observer to nominate Advisors to support me in the work of this Panel. Under this time pressure I nominated several Advisors to represent IFATSEA in the PTLP and contribute to four Working Groups which has been established during the first Meeting. All colleagues are well experienced in the implementation of



Competence-based Training and Assessment (CBTA). It will be the focus of the PTLP to implement CBTA for all professions listed in the ICAO PANS-TRG Doc 9868. I will continuously update you about the next developments.

ICAO Air Navigation Commission (ANC)

For an exceedingly long time, IFATSEA intended to become an Observer in the ICAO Air Navigation Commission (ANC).

The Air Navigation Commission (ANC) considers and recommends Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) for adoption or approval by the ICAO Council. The Commission is composed of nineteen members who have "suitable qualifications and experience in the science and practice of aeronautics", as outlined in the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). Although ANC Commissioners are nominated by specific ICAO Member States, and appointed by the Council, they do not represent the interest of any State or Region. Rather, they act independently and utilize their expertise in the interest of the entire international civil aviation community. Additionally, a number of persons from States and industry participate in the ANC as observers.

The ANC is tasked by the Council to manage the technical work programme of ICAO and, since its establishment, the Commission has considered and recommended SARPs comprising 17 out of the 19 Annexes to the Chicago Convention – including the most recent introduction of the new Annex 19 on Safety Management. Details on how SARPs and PANS are developed (the standards-making process), as well as the associated air navigation work programme, are provided below. Under the approval of the Council, the ANC typically convenes for three sessions, each year, to address matters within its work programme. The key challenges faced by the ANC include maintaining and improving aviation safety and air navigation efficiency, while integrating increased traffic into the current aviation infrastructure, introducing advanced systems, as well as, proactively identifying risks and devising mitigation measures in accordance with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP). The types and roles of participants in the ANC are defined in Doc 8229 – Rules of Procedure for the Air Navigation Commission.

An "Observer" is a person from a non-contracting State or international organization who, having been invited by the ANC with approval from the Council, participates in one or more meetings of the ANC and may participate in the discussions of the Commission (without the right to vote), introduce motions or second motions (Rule 19, Doc 8229). Together with IFATSEA representatives, I participated at an ICAO

Competence-based Training Workshop at the end of June 2016. In this Workshop, I met Ebenezer Makanjuola, former President of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AIR TRAFFIC ENGINEERS, the IFATSEA Affiliate from Nigeria. At that time, the President of the ICAO Council, the highest Board in ICAO between the ICAO Assemblies, was also from Nigeria. Ebenezer could organize, on short notice, a meeting with the ICAO President in his Office. When we raised the issue of the seat as an Observer at the ICAO ANC, he gave advice to submit to him a letter with this request. In my position, as IFATSEA Executive Secretary, together with the then President of IFATSEA, Daniel Boulet, we responded and sent a letter to the President of ICAO. A letter from ICAO dated 16th August 2016 by the Director of Air Navigation Bureau (ANB), who is the Secretariat for the ANC informed us that ICAO recognizes and values the contribution that IFATSEA has made in the development of provisions related to the competencies of ATSEP and their training and assessment and that the process to become an Observer in the ANC will require extensive internal consultation within ICAO. For a long time, again, IFATSEA received no update on our request.

Subsequently, I became the President of IFATSEA. As such, I wrote a letter during May 2019 to ICAO, asking for the status of our request, which was still pending. Beyond the 40th ICAO Assembly Session in 2019 I met the Director of the ANB at a Reception. We agreed to coordinate a meeting, to discuss the IFATSEA request for an Observer status in the ANC and several items on our agenda. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic. Travelling was and is still not possible and, again, I expected a long time without progress. Surprise, surprise – in the beginning of February 2021, I received the positive signal that the discussion in the ICAO Council of the IFATSEA request was reaching a conclusion with a positive outcome for IFATSEA, confirmed on the 16th of February 2021, upon receipt of a letter from the ICAO President, Salvatore Sciacchitano. IFATSEA noted that on 2nd February 2021, the President of the Air Navigation Commission, on behalf of the Commission, communicated their views on the request, and the ICAO President is pleased to extend an invitation to IFATSEA to participate in meetings of the ANC as an Observer on a standing basis. ICAO assures to IFATSEA that the ANC looks forward to a closer partnership and welcomes the valuable input from IFATSEA. At the end of this letter IFATSEA was requested to notify to the ICAO President the name of the person who will be representing IFATSEA as Observer to the Air Navigation Commission.

The IFATSEA Executive Board unanimously decided to nominate me in my capacity of the President of IFATSEA. From the point of view of the Executive Board this nomination shall underline the importance for IFATSEA to be involved in high level discussions and decisions in ICAO. The ICAO President, expressed in a letter dated 26th of February 2021 his pleasure and informed me that, in accordance with the Rules

of Procedure for the Air Navigation Commission (Doc 8229), I may participate in the work of the Air Navigation Commission as Observer. I started my participation in the running ANC 216th Session scheduled from 11 January to 12 March 2021. Typically, the meetings are on Tuesday and Thursday, 10h00 to 13h00 (Montreal time) and Wednesday 14h30 to 17h30 (also Montreal time). As I am living in Europe I had beyond of my full-time job for the German Air Navigation Provider DFS, long and very long working days. Other meetings such as Commission Groups (CG) and Ad-Hoc Working Groups (AHWG) are organized at various times.

Due to my activities in former ICAO activities (e.g., NGAP) I already have access to the ICAO Secure Portal and the bundle of internal rules and procedures, and tabled Papers are online for me available. All over a big workload and I need to read a lot. The ANC Sessions are typically 9 weeks, composed of 3 weeks ANC, 3 weeks recess where meetings of the CG, the AHWG and Working Group on AN Work Programme Deliverables Production (WG/PDP) take place. After these another 3 weeks of meetings of the ANC where Working Papers will be finally discussed and resolved. As an Observer I will attend all meetings of the ANC and Working Group of the Whole for Strategic Review and Planning (WG/SRP). In consideration that, there are far too many meetings to attend them all, I choose those of higher interest and attention for IFATSEA and ATSEP concerns. At my first attendance, the President of the ANC, Mr. Nabil Naoumi greeted me warmly. Also, I received a warm welcome from other Members and Observers at the ANC.

Sincerely yours,



Thorsten Wehe
IFATSEA President