

EUROCONTROL celebrates Bosnia and Herzegovina Civil Aviation Directorate at 20

At Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina, on 12 September Frank Brenner, Director General of EUROCONTROL, joined distinguished guests from European Air Traffic Management (ATM) to celebrate 20 years of the Directorate of Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHDCA).

Brenner noted that in that time, Bosnia and Herzegovina had joined EUROCONTROL to become its 32nd member in 2004, playing a key role in European ATM within an organisation that now counts on 41 Member States as well as two Comprehensive Agreement States in the shape of Israel and Morocco.

Looking back on a highly successful partnership Brenner congratulated BHDCA for its tireless work in developing a regulatory and safety framework, and for its achievement in creating FABCE, a Functional Airspace Block Central Europe, aimed at jointly improving performance, which has seen the successful introduction of Free Route Airspace above flight level 310 (31,000ft).

DG Brenner said: *‘There are over 300,000 flights a year in the skies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that figure is set to increase to close to 400,000 over the next seven years.*

‘The south east axis is vitally important to the European network, and it is essential that each country provides the capacity required for the region as a whole. EUROCONTROL and Bosnia Herzegovina are partners in this with very real success.

‘We at EUROCONTROL, are proud to have supported Bosnia & Herzegovina in implementing European Single Sky Regulations that separate oversight of the DGCA with operations in the newly founded Bosnia and Herzegovina Air Navigation Service Agency (BHANSA).

‘Staff of EUROCONTROL Directorate Pan-European Single Sky and the Network Manager provide support on a wide range of areas, from training to detailed planning for the implementation of the new ATM arrangements for the country. It is an effective and productive partnership, as demonstrated by the fact that 48 airspace design improvement packages were implemented between 2009 and 2017.’

Dorđe Ratkovića, BHDCA Director General, said: *‘BHDCA would not have been able to realise such a complex project, implemented in the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, without the enormous assistance we received from the international aviation institutions: ICAO, EUROCONTROL, CEATS Strategy Planning and Development Unit and their experts and also from the EU delegation to Bosnia i Hercegovina (BiH) and the EBRD Office in BiH. Therefore, our heartfelt thanks go to all of them as well as to each individual participant in the implementation of the BHATM project.’*

The ceremony was opened by HE Dr Branko Dokić, special representative of Dr Mladen Ivanić, Member of the BH Presidency and former BH minister of communication and transport, with key speeches delivered by HE Dr Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the ICAO Council; Frank Brenner, Director General of EUROCONTROL, Salvatore Sciacchitano, ECAC Executive Secretary; and Victor Aguado, former EUROCONTROL Director General.

Picture caption

From left: Frank Brenner, Director General EUROCONTROL, and Dorđe Ratkovića, Director General BHDCA.

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