



**12<sup>th</sup> of NOVEMBER - ATSEP DAY**

**November 12** every year marks, the International Day of the Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEP). On this day, every one of us can be proud of the global recognition of our profession in contributing to a safe and efficient ATM/ANS.

**Covid-19** demonstrated that aviation is a critical infrastructure and service, providing essential connectivity, promoting socio-economic cohesion and timely supply of goods, notwithstanding serving medical or disaster emergencies, thus serving our societies, while ATSEP are an integral part of it.

The current ongoing second wave of COVID-19 affected heavily all domains of Aviation. The numbers of passengers travelling by air, fell rapidly compare to the ones last year. Consequently ANSPs came under extensive economic pressure and challenged their financial resilience. Despite all these problems, ATSEP together with other front-line actors, remain at the forefront in full operational availability, providing uninterruptedly their services.

ATSEP are committed that the ATM/ANS systems in the ACCs, airports or at the mountain tops, are properly functioning so as to provide accurate and precise information to ATCOs and pilots directly, ensuring Safety and efficiency. Moreover, the ATSEP critical role is shown more clearly when service was quickly restored in times of critical outages or natural disasters.

**November 12** also reminds us to reflect on how the profession is rapidly changing in Europe. Space-based CNS provision, Virtual Centers, ADSPs, Remote Towers and Cybersecurity of the highly interconnected ATM/ANS services, will have a profound impact on our work. Probably, some of us will be required to maintain ATM/ANS system and more us will be required to take on new skills and acquire specific knowledge in systems new SESAR solutions deployment integration.

*For some time now we have noticed the upcoming changes in concepts and technologies and the associated changes in systems and procedures. Thus, we tried, in our region, to proactively be part of the planning and decision-making bodies such as ICB, EASA, EGHD and SESAR, so as to identify the new ATSEP Roles, reflect and include them in the documentation and regulation produced. IFATSEA Europe has actively produced several position papers and documents last year, which you can find uploaded at [www.atsep.eu](http://www.atsep.eu)*

I wish you all a happy International **Day of the ATSEP** and encourage you to share with your friends and family the ATSEP critical contribution to the aviation world.

*Warm regards to all of you*

**Costas Christoforou**

**IFATSEA Director Europe**

[europa@ifatsea.org](mailto:europa@ifatsea.org)

[0035799610287](tel:0035799610287) [0035722702801](tel:0035722702801) [www.atsep.eu](http://www.atsep.eu) , [www.ifatsea.org](http://www.ifatsea.org)