



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate E – Aviation
The Director

Brussels
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Mr Piotr SAMSON
Director of the Civil Aviation Authority
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Sent by e-mail:
psamson@ulc.gov.pl

Subject: ATCO.B.030 Language proficiency endorsement

Dear Piotr,

I refer to the situation caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the consequent closure of the Ukrainian airspace. As a result, many flights need to divert from their usual routes. Also, the Ukrainian professional Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) are unable to maintain their skills over time.

Clearly, it would be beneficial if Ukrainian ATCOs could be deployed in EU Member States such as Poland to help manage traffic. Removing the national language requirement for ATCOs in Poland for en-route services (i.e. only overflight and not approach or take-off) would provide the possibility to increasingly use Ukrainian ATCOs, when needed. This would be an asset for Poland and for the European network but certainly also for the Ukrainian ATCOs, who otherwise would risk losing their licence and thus would no longer be operational in Ukraine once their airspace will reopen.

In terms of safety, having a national language requirement is entirely the prerogative of Member States, as stated in Annex 1 of Regulation (EU) 2015/340, and for this reason it would also be possible for Poland to abandon its current requirement without endangering compliance with EU safety rules:

ATCO.B.030 Language proficiency endorsement

(a) Air traffic controllers and student air traffic controllers shall not exercise the privileges of their licences unless they have a valid language proficiency endorsement in English and, if applicable, in the language(s) imposed by the Member State for reasons of safety at the ATC unit as published in the Aeronautical Information Publications. The language proficiency endorsement shall indicate the language(s), the level(s) of proficiency and the expiry date(s).

Therefore, we very much support the proposal of Poland in this regard, and would encourage that it is being adopted and implemented as soon as possible. This would be a strong act of solidarity with the Ukrainian colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

Filip CORNELIS
(e-signed)

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