



*"[air navigation control, [...] is a task involving the exercise of public authority and is not of an economic nature, since that activity constitutes a service in the public interest which is intended to protect both the users of air transport and the populations affected by aircraft flying over them". (Extract of decision C.364/92 of the European Court of Justice).*

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Brussels, December 04<sup>th</sup> 2010**

## **SPAIN: A STRANGE VISION OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

ATCEUC is revolted by the present situation that Spain is living and condemns the conduct of the Spanish government unworthy of a democratic European country: in its fight against its controllers, it now seems ready to put Safety at risk.

How can anyone expect a controller to work safely while guarded like a prisoner by army soldiers and police ? Has the Spanish Minister of Transport lost his mind? The Spanish government as a whole shall be held responsible for all the consequences of their actions.

To militarize, to legislate new working conditions solely and differently for controllers, not taking into account any fundamental rights..... Are the Spanish controllers still Spanish citizens?

In a democratic Europe with the new Single European Sky II regulations promoting the Human Factor pillar and the social dialogue and making those mandatory, we cannot understand the way the Spanish Kingdom is acting.

Nothing could justify the level of violence and the shameful methods that are being used at present.

The present situation is really sad. But it is worse when one realises it was totally predictable, hence avoidable. There has been enough time to solve the situation.

What started like a political will, a hidden privatization of the company, rather than an operational decision has ended up in a real mess.

Have not been the Spanish Air Navigation Service Provider and the Spanish Air Traffic Controllers Union negotiating for the last few months?

Where are the results?

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Are the controllers the only ones responsible for the situation? The trade union and its members are condemned by the government and are punished without any form of trial.

Why are the controllers the only ones declared guilty without any form of trial ?  
Are there any political responsibilities behind or the Spanish Government is only going to hide what they are doing under naïve and lame excuses such as the big salaries of the controllers?

ATCEUC represent 28 independent European Air Traffic Controllers trade unions.  
It represent 13.000 operational Air Traffic Controllers.