

Dear Reader,

EUROCONTROL and Safety have always been very close partners. Through the different functions and mandates allocated to the Organisation during the last 50+ years, safety has consistently held first place in the priorities of EUROCONTROL and its membership. Together with the Organisation the appreciation and understanding of the member States of aviation safety has matured and expanded. Safety regulation became also subject of EU competencies; safety implementation and oversight have been enhanced with the safety management systems concept, in Europe as well as globally.

The position of the different parties that may be held responsible in the aviation safety domain and in particular their civil and criminal civil liabilities has become much more prominent in today's society, in which corporatisation and privatisation of service provision and air transport are commonly accepted. EUROCONTROL has been very much part of that development through numerous activities varying from developing and refining new safety concepts to support and facilitating their implementation for member States, Service Providers and other stakeholders.

The EUROCONTROL Network Manager Directorate now embodies the vision of the EUROCONTROL member States, the EU and stakeholders on the future of ATM and is responsible for a number of key activities for ensuring an optimised and efficient ATM domain at the pan-European level. Safety is and remains a priority. Almost a decade ago, the above developments, together with a number of serious ATM related accidents resulted in a number of EUROCONTROL initiatives to better interact with and understand the processes related to the protection of safety data reporting and of the reporters themselves.

Recognising the importance of incident reporting to improving safety, **EUROCONTROL set up a Safety Data Reporting & Data Flow (SAFREP)** Task Force in 2005 to address the shortcomings in this area. The notion of and the need for a Just Culture in aviation was recognised. The EUROCONTROL Just Culture Task Force was created few years later in 2009 and the rest is history, as the saying goes. Safety and Just Culture are now one of the key responsibilities of the Network Manager Directorate and its Safety unit.

The initiative of HindSight magazine to devote a special edition to the theme "Justice and Safety" is a very timely one as it addresses the essence of Just Culture concept. What it offers the reader is a broad and colourful picture of well-written and important views from professionals that point you to different directions and solutions. That is not surprising in view of all the interests involved. I see it as an encouragement to concentrate on common and practical goals.

Just Culture appeals to me as another important and certainly ambitious example of the necessity of good networking and recognition of two key functions of any civil society: respect for safety as well as for the administration of justice. **S**



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He graduated with an Engineering Degree from the University of Malta in 1975 and joined the Air Traffic Services Unit in Malta in the same year. He obtained ATCO Licences in Aerodrome, Radar and Area Control and was a Watch Supervisor for four years.

In 1982, he was appointed Head of Air Traffic Services in the Maltese Department of Civil Aviation. He became Director of the Network Manager in 2013.