

# IFISA



**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INFORMATION SERVICE ASSOCIATION**

## *Issue 1 – Spring 2016 Newsletter*

Welcome to the first IFISA Newsletter!

A lot has happened since our first meeting and formation at Entry Point North in Malmö Sweden, September 1st last year! So hopefully we will cover the edited highlights in this newsletter! For those that would like a copy of future newsletters direct into your email inbox, please subscribe on the IFISA website!

We start with both ICAO and EASA recognising the importance of an international association to represent the FISO service.

We had a letter from Dr Fang Liu, Secretary General ICAO wishing IFISA well for the future and from Ricardo Génova Galván - Flight Standards Director EASA:

*“Being a pilot I very much appreciate the work done by AFIS/FIS operators and recognise that the support they provide, especially to GA pilots, is not always properly appreciated, I am sure that the role of IFISA will help to make their job more visible and recognised.”*

### **Membership**

In the time since our first meeting, we have had the following bodies & Nations join IFISA so far:

Full members	
<i>Austria</i>	Austrian Air Traffic Controllers Association

<i>Canada</i>	Air Traffic Specialists Association of Canada
<i>Chile</i>	Técnico en servicios de vuelo DGAC Chile
<i>Denmark</i>	Union of Danish Flight Controller Assistants
<i>Germany</i>	Gewerkschaft der Flugsicherung e.V.
<i>Greece</i>	PanHellenic Union of Licensed Aeronautical Telecommunication Officers
<i>Greenland</i>	Radiotelegrafistforeningen af 1917
<i>Indonesia</i>	Indonesia Aeronautical Communication Association (IACA)
<i>Norway</i>	NTL Luftarten
<i>Poland</i>	Polish Flight Information Service Trade Union
<i>Switzerland</i>	AFIS Engadin Airport
<i>United Kingdom</i>	Association of UK Flight Information Service Officers

### **Associate Members**

<i>Greece</i>	Hellenic CAA
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### **Corporate Members**

<i>Germany</i>	Deutsche Flugsicherung
<i>Poland</i>	Polish Air Navigation Services Agency

### **Honorary Members**

<i>Sweden</i>	Entry Point North
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## News update

So, what has happened since the 1st meeting?

Quite a lot in the background... As some of you may be aware, IFISA was born out of the annual FISO seminar held in Malmö. Due to EPN moving into different markets, it was originally decided to rest the annual seminar, which would have lost the impetus that the annual event had raised. It was decided within the IFISA executive committee that this could not happen, and that IFISA would take over the running of the event from EPN. This was agreed and IFISA is now the custodian of the event.

To give the event a slight 'tweak', it was felt to make the event 'mobile' rather than remain in Sweden.

So the 7th annual International FISO seminar will be held in Manchester, UK this September.



We have heard someone state "oh you have a UK President, now event is in the UK, this is now a UK association". This is completely untrue, especially as the host nation and dates for 2017 have already been set – so going on the above, next year the association will be Polish! (Warsaw is the 2017 venue).

The taking on of the seminar has slightly distracted the executive committee in the plans for the first year, but hopefully you will agree, ensuring the event continued was a major distraction that was worth the attention it has received!

The final issue which has caused us some problems is the bank account! In these days of international finance using the internet, the seemingly simple process of opening an account for a not for profit organisation, easy, yes – NO! Because the executive committee are spread across Europe and North America and not all from one nation, the hoops we are having to jump through to prove that this is

not a money making scam is quite frankly ridiculous! After a sterling effort from the Secretary and Treasurer, 'hopefully' the end is in site! Who would have thought something so simple could end up being so difficult and annoying.

## International regulation!

It would appear that all of a sudden, AFIS is jumped onto the radar for both ICAO and EASA!

Our Secretary recently attended a meeting at EASA headquarters for a meeting which will see the start of the process to bring AFIS into European law. There will be a public consultation process which will last for 5 months this summer. Although this is only the start of the process – it is VERY welcome!

At the same time over in Canada, ICAO are also now looking at bringing AFIS up to date! The ATM working group have been discussing the feasibility of scraping the old Circular 211 from 1988 and replacing with a new Manual (circulars cannot be updated in ICAO, manuals can!).

The basis for the manual has been proposed as the current Eurocontrol AFIS manual from 2010, but brought up to date.

This work is due to 'hopefully' commence from the October meeting of this working group.

Updates on both of these processes will be part of the Seminar programme. In addition, the phraseology working groups that will make up the first afternoon of the seminar will have the collated results submitted to ICAO as part of this work. Documents to look at and consider will be emailed out very soon to all members of IFISA.

## 2016 FISO Seminar

Details on how to register to attend the seminar can be found on the IFISA website. (though spaces are filling VERY quickly!)

For those delegates arriving on (or before) the 6th, there will be an optional afternoon by coach to visit Manchester City Airport (Barton), which will allow a visit for the first

time at a seminar to an AFIS unit. Staying at Barton, there will be an informal B-B-Q in the early evening, with a chance to chat to the airports AFIS staff before return transport to the hotel/conference facility.

A presentation on how the ICAO process on the upcoming work on AFIS regulation is included in the schedule. In addition to this, phraseology workshops for both Aerodrome and Area FIS will be monitored and observed closely by ICAO and the results from the two groups. The completed work will be issued to ICAO as part of the upcoming project to replace the old circular 211 with a new ICAO AFIS manual.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) will also be present at the seminar and will also be giving a presentation on the project to bring AFIS into European Union regulation, which IFISA is also involved with.

### ***International FISO Day!***

Our cousin association for air traffic IFATCA has held an annual day for ATC for the last few years, and a few member organisations have asked, why can we not have one! Well, we are!

1st September 2016 will be "International FISO day". This date was chosen as it was the birthdate for IFISA and also, no other major aviation event is being celebrated that day!

In June, an official logo for the day will be sent out to members and hopefully we can entice as many FISO's to help celebrate the work we all do on a daily basis, world-wide.

We will welcome photos to be submitted to our social media pages and for this newsletter in the future!

### ***Your IFISA Executive committee***

For those unaware of who are looking after IFISA, we will introduce them to you over the coming issues...

#### ***President***

Paul Brown  
United Kingdom

#### ***Vice-president***

John Baldwin  
Canada

#### ***Secretary***

Sofi Wadsjö  
Sweden

#### ***Treasurer***

Jonas Nordmo Myhre  
Norway

#### ***Spare Board Member***

Magdalena Reksć-Kopyłowicz  
Poland

### ***...and finally!***

IFATCA has a very catchy slogan/motto of "one sky, one voice" which we all know technically is not really correct!

IFISA needs it's own slogan – which is where you come in!

We are looking for something short, snappy and to the point which we can use on future material to make a similar statement about what we all do – alas there is no prize for the winning entry, but the winning author will receive some merchandise in the future with the slogan on!

Well, that's about it from me for now (thank goodness I hear you say!)

We welcome submissions for the next newsletter, and hopefully we will set a schedule for publication!

Please encourage as many members to visit both the IFISA website <http://www.ifisa.info> and to sign up for the IFISA newsletter (<http://ifisa.info/news/>), plus liking and taking part on the FaceBook page.

WE are as strong as our members – and any leads to other national associations/ unions/ trade unions which represent FISO's are gratefully received. We know more exist, but Google is not overly helpful in finding them!

## ***The Back Page!***

And you thought you had trawled through the last ramblings from me – hard luck, a little more to go yet!

This is the section of the newsletter we are going to focus on you the member organisations! Unfortunately, as this is the first issue, you are stuck with me for this bit as well – sorry!

## ***AUKFISO - United Kingdom***



The idea behind forming AUKFISO happened on a wet and windy afternoon (must have been summer!) in the tower at my unit of Kemble – EGBP.

It was one of those “I wonder if other FISO units in the United Kingdom have similar operational issues that we have?”

At that time, our regulatory documentation from our regulator was 11 years out of date, and requests for information/clarification on issues was very difficult to obtain.

Might as well strike whilst the iron was hot, so after a spot of research, I rang all of the senior FISO's in the UK, and it was agreed that a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming an association was worthwhile so a date was set and the first meeting was held at Kemble in March 2011.

It quickly became apparent that we all did share common problems and with the CAA's attendance at the meeting, an undertaking to review and update our regulatory paperwork was set in motion.



***Above:*** The attendees at the first meeting in 2011

Since the initial meeting, the AUKFISO meetings have been held every 6 months all across the UK at member units, with the host airfield kindly supplying a free buffet lunch and a venue to use.

The total expenditure spent by the association over the years is precisely nothing! All expenditure has been covered by member units, but it's surprising what you can achieve for nothing if you put your mind to it!

in 2013, the Civil Aviation Authority realised that the association was a very worthy asset with which it had a direct line of access to all the FISO units and at a time when funding for more working groups and meetings was tight, the CAA asked and if they could adopt the AUKFISO meetings as the official working group for all FISO issues in the future. This alone has made introduction of new procedures, phraseology and the upkeep of regulatory documentation a lot easier.

The association website has information about all the member units: <http://www.aukfiso.com> and we also have a closed forum for all UK FISO's only which is where requests for information and advice can be freely sought.

I hope the above gives you a quick snapshot into how the UK association works – we all look forward to hearing about you in future issues.

That really is all for now – till the next time!

Paul Brown President – IFISA