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**MEETING OF THE VATSIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**QUARTER 1 – 2015**  
**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 20:00Z**  
**LOCATION: ONLINE (TEAMSPEAK)**

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**PRESENT:**

- Amir Paz (AP) – RD VATSIM Africa Middle East
- Anastasios Stefopoulos (AS) – RD VATSIM Asia (present from 20:22)
- Apostolos Damkalis (AD) – RD VATSIM Europe
- Nicola Felini (NF) – RD VATSIM North America (left at 20:50)
- Mark Richards (MR, Chair) – RD VATSIM Oceania

**1. WELCOME**

Meeting Opened at 20:02 hours.

**2. APOLOGIES**

- Federico Navarro (FN) – RD VATSIM South America
- Steven Cullen (SC) – VATSIM President – attending the BoG Meeting being held at the same time
- Peter Nielsen (PN) – Vice President Regions – attending the BoG Meeting being held at the same time

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

*Motion: Minutes from the previous meeting be taken as read and accepted.*

*Moved: NF. Seconded: MR. MOTION CARRIED.*

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. TRANSFER & VISITING CONTROLLER POLICY (NF)

The BoG have completed their review of VATSIM CoR 1.01A so NF will look at some proposed changes to the T&VC policy to recommend to the EC.

Any updates to the GRP might affect any changes to the T&VC policy so NF will consider these as well.

**ACTION: NF to circulate recommendations for proposed changes to the T&VC policy via the EC Mailing List.**

b. UPDATE ON AFRICA DIVISIONS (AP)

AP advised the Africa has a new staff team and have started working on an updated Webpage and Facebook page. There are six people on the staff who are showing real promise in reigniting Africa on VATSIM.

South Africa will remain a separate Division that will work closely with the new Division that covers the remaining African countries.

The new Staff team have already updated the FSS Sector File.

The new ATC Training Director is establishing a team so that they can get controllers online quickly and efficiently.

Dani Manusis is to be appointed as the Division Director for the combined Africa Division it is launched.

AP shall keep the EC updated on progress via the EC mailing list.

The plan is to close this agenda item at the next meeting.

c. GRP REVIEW (ALL)

All Region Directors present advised that they had conducted meetings with their Division Directors (DDs) and Training Directors (TDs). MR had circulated the minutes of the Oceania meeting and AD provided the notes from Europe at the commencement of the EC meeting. MR requested that all RDs shared the notes from their meetings with the EC members.

**ACTION: AP, AS, FN and NF to circulate the notes from the meetings held with their DDs and TDs via the EC Mailing List in order to provide recommendations to better manage the Major Airports and Special Centres in the GRP.**

MR had discussions with Kieran Hardern (KH) as VP Web Services to introduce a system in the updated CERT to better track the speed that it takes Divisions (and associated ARTCCs, vACCs etc.) to process controller promotions so that VATSIM could properly gauge timeframes and then work with Divisions where delays are identified to decrease training time. KH had already planned for this as he is reviewing the way in which CERT tracks ratings to improve the process. It is likely that this system will work in conjunction with Conflict Resolution/Supervisor aspects of CERT. This will also ensure that there is better governance and statistics available for controller promotions. MR noted that this system would better allow the EC to establish standards for expected processing time and work with Divisions to better address the needs of the Division to cope with demand. There is no ETA for this system though it is high on KH's work list to achieve with the many competing demands for his time and efforts. MR advised he will keep the EC informed of progress. In the meantime, RDs are to continue to work with the Divisions to ensure that they are no single points of failure in their promotion system at a Division/vACC/ARTCC level to guarantee progression.

NF advised that following the North America meeting, it was agreed that there was a need to reduce the number of Major Airports and Special Centres within the Region.

Europe has suggested changing the names from Major Airport to 'Protected Airport' and Special Centre to 'Protected Airspace'. It was the feeling of the meeting that the term 'protected' had unnecessary connotations of being overly elitist but that changing Special Centre to 'Special

Airspace' better described the role as it could include approved Overland FSS and Oceanic FSS airspace. Europe also suggested that the term 'Major Airport' should relate to DEL, GND and TWR positions and that 'Special Airspace' should relate to APP, DEP,CTR and FSS positions. This was supported.

As a result of the feedback from both the Oceania and Europe meetings, it was agreed that all Major Airports and Special Airspace should be approved for a pre-defined period of time to ensure regular review of controller restrictions. Oceania recommended two years and Europe recommended one. It was agreed by the EC that two years was an appropriate length for approval.

Following the meetings, it was agreed that the criteria for approval as a Major Airport and Special Airspace needed to be better defined and to match the requirements of VATSIM, not that of the real world. For a Major Airport or Special Airspace to be designated, there should have to be special ATC competencies over those required in the GRP all of which must be listed on a relevant official website for all VATSIM members to see.

It is important the RDs should be able to justify the reasons why a Major Airport or Special Airspace should be approved in the GRP. Divisions need to justify these reasons to their RD to arm them with the evidence.

MR shall coordinate a small working group of the EC members, Division Directors, Division Training Directors and Division Airspace Directors to establish the list of requirements that need to be met for the designation of a Major Airport or Special Centre. vACCs and ARTCCs can send their comments via their Division representatives. This working group should to have completed this work by 30 June 2015.

**ACTION: All RDs to provide MR with the names and VATSIM IDs of the Division staff that are to be part of the working group.**

**ACTION: MR to arrange with VP Web Services for a forum to be established with access restricted to relevant members.**

Until all the GRP changes have been determined, all other updates to the GRP as announced in the Q3-2014 EC minutes are have been placed on hold.

d. *GLOBAL CHART PROJECT (MR)*

MR advised that he, Kyle Ramsey and Kieran Hardern had met with Daniel Rechberger on TeamSpeak and that as a result of the meeting, VATSIM did not support the proposal as Daniel outlined. **ITEM CLOSED.**

e. *REGION NOTAMS (MR)*

MR advised that he was working with Kieran Hardern to look at options for a Region NOTAM facility but it would likely be an 'opt-in' mailing list as the previous NOTAM system was too susceptible to seeing the VATSIM domain added to email blacklists. This item will be ongoing while a robust system is considered.

f. *SOCIAL MEDIA AND CODE OF CONDUCT CHANGES (MR)*

MR had raised the concerns of the EC with the BoG and the BoG determined that the current Code of Conduct adequately addressed any inappropriate breaches by use of Social Media and that the Code of Conduct covered use of 'official' VATSIM services, servers and pages. **ITEM CLOSED.**

5. **BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT (PN)**

- a. As PN was attending the BoG meeting being held at the same time, he was unable to provide a BoG report.

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. *VATSIM EUROPE DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR*

AD advised the meeting that Stephan Reitingger has stepped down as Europe Deputy Regional Director (DRD) due to real world commitments. AD will be advertising for a replacement DRD shortly.

b. *CERT ACCESS*

AD questioned the reasons why members of the EC had restricted access to CERT compared to the BoG members and why members could not check their own CERT.

MR advised that this was to ensure correct and proper governance over CERT and that no member can check their own CERT.

MR advised that he believes that CERT access needs to be relevant to the role that a person holds and should not relate to rating held by an individual.

**ACTION: MR to write to VP Membership to establish the background and rationale to CERT access for EC members.**

c. *ASRC RADAR CLIENT AS APPROVED SOFTWARE*

AP questioned whether ASRC is to remain as on the list of approved controller clients. One of his Divisions understood that support was being withdrawn. MR advised that Mike Evans, the developer, was still active although not updating the software.

**ACTION: MR to write to VP Network Services to establish whether ASRC is to remain on the list of approved Controller Clients.**

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***There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:26z.  
Next Meeting Saturday 18 July 2015 at 20:00z***

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