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IFATSEA
International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations

# AIR NAVIGATION WORLD

## COMMUNICATIONS, NAVIGATION, SURVEILLANCE, AND SPECTRUM

# CNSS 2026

12 - 15 October | Kotor, Montenegro

Session 13

# Voice of ATSEPs

# Mr. Carlos Aguirre




Carlos Aguirre is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS). He was first elected in October 2018 and is now serving his third term as Secretary-Treasurer. Prior to being elected, Aguirre served as Region I Assistant for five years. He has also represented PASS in various capacities, including regional director for the Americas for IFATSEA, lead negotiator for the PASS 2017 Air Traffic Organization contract team, Region II representative on the PASS National Legislative Committee.

He began his career at the FAA as a mechanical engineer in 1987 and became an airway transportation systems specialist in 1997, working at various facilities, including the Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center Environmental and System Operations Units and the FAA's National Operations Control Center in Warrenton, Va.

# Mr. Costas Christoforou




Mr. Christoforou is a highly respected ATSEP professional with more than 35 years of active involvement in IFATSEA and has served as IFATSEA Director Europe since 2014. Throughout his career, he has played a pivotal role in advancing the interests of ATSEP professionals and strengthening IFATSEA's presence at both European and global levels. He has established strong relationships with key aviation stakeholders, including the European Commission, EASA, SESAR JU and EUROCONTROL, and for the past three years has chaired the European Commission's Expert Group on Human Dimension (CEGHD).

Costas is widely recognised for his unwavering support to IFATSEA member associations and for transforming the annual IFATSEA Euro-Conference into a leading platform for dialogue between operational professionals, European institutions and industry.

# Mr. Michel Gaulin



**IFATSEA Regional Director Americas**

More than 35 years in the field of Air Safety Electronics and more than 15 years of involvements in IFATSEA. Currently the Director of the Americas.

# Mr. Umesh Kumar




Mr. Umesh Kumar is a distinguished aviation and CNS expert serving with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA). With over two decades of experience in civil aviation, he has played a pivotal role in advancing the interests of ATSEPs and elevating their voice at the global level.

As the IFATSEA Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific (APAC) Region, Mr. Kumar has been actively engaged in promoting ATSEP professional development, strengthening international cooperation, and contributing to initiatives that enhance aviation safety and efficiency.

Combining deep technical expertise with strategic leadership, Mr. Kumar is widely recognized for driving innovation, safety, and capacity-building within the aviation community. Mr. Kumar holds graduate qualifications in Electronics and telecommunication Engineering and remains a respected advocate for technical excellence and professional development in aviation.

# Mr. Sam Mahlangu




Mr. Mahlangu serves as the IFATSEA Regional Director for Africa and brings more than 20 years of experience in the aviation industry, including 13 years dedicated to aviation training and development. He serves on the Industry Advisory Boards of the Departments of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at several universities, contributing his industry expertise to the advancement of engineering education and the development of future aviation professionals. In his professional capacity, Mr Mahlangu leads a strategic portfolio encompassing the formulation, planning, implementation, and governance of aviation training delivery and management of aviation training infrastructure at the ATNS Aviation Training Academy in South Africa, ensuring the delivery of world-class aviation training and the effective management of critical training technologies. Through his leadership and extensive industry experience,

# Mr. Gauthier Sturtzer




Gauthier Sturtzer is a Tower and Approach Air Traffic Controller currently serving in Lille within the French Air Navigation Service, DSNA. With 24 years operational experience in air traffic management, including 13 as a tower supervisor, he contributes directly to the safe, efficient, and sustainable management of air traffic. He is chair of the air traffic management committee at the European Transport workers Federation, ETF, since 4 years and has represented ETF in various bodies like EASA Stakeholder advisory board or in the SESAR Governing Board. At global level, he is involved with the International Transport workers' Federation, ITF since 2010 in various roles initially focusing on remote tower developments.